School of Behavioral Sciences

Administration

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice Provost
Founding Dean, School of Behavioral Sciences
Professor of Counseling and Practical Theology

Steve E. Warren, B.S., M.A.
Associate Dean, School of Behavioral Sciences
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Mark Myers, B.S., M.A.R., M.R.E., Ph.D.
Chair, Center for Counseling and Family Studies
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Allen Meyer, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Chair, Center for Counseling and Family Studies
Associate Professor of Counseling

Steve G. Johnson, B.A., Th.M., Ph.D.
Chair, Center for Counseling and Family Studies
Associate Professor of Counseling

Patricia A. Hinkley, B.S., M.A., Ed.D.
Chair, Center for Counseling and Family Studies
Associate Professor of Counseling and Psychology

Kevin Van Wymsberg, M.A.
Chair, Center for Counseling and Family Studies
Assistant Professor of Counseling

FACULTY
All faculty are listed at the end of this catalog in the Faculty Roster. There are separate rosters for Full-Time and Part-Time faculty. The entire roster can also be viewed online at http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?action=faculty&PID=19959&CatID=21 where faculty can be searched for by Department.

PURPOSE
The School of Behavioral Sciences exists to promote an integrated understanding of science, practice, and faith. Programs prepare future graduates dedicated to impacting the fields of Psychology, Counseling, and Social Work within the context of a commitment to scientific competence and the demonstration of best practices supported by a Christian Worldview.
Center for Counseling and Family Studies

Tim Clinton, B.S., M.A., Ed.S., Ed.D., LPC  
Executive Director, Center for Counseling and Family Studies  
Professor of Counseling and Practical Theology

Mark J. Myers, B.S., M.A.R., M.R.E., Ph.D.  
Chair, Center for Counseling and Family Studies  
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Mary M. Deacon, B.S., M.A., Ph.D., LPC, NCC, CCMHC, ACS  
Director, MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Elias S. L. Moitinho, B.S., M.R.E., M.A., Ph.D., LPC, LPC-S, LMFT, BCPCC  
Director, MA Counseling Licensure Program  
Director, Clinical Training  
Associate Professor of Counseling

Laurel Shaler, B.S., M.S.W., Ph.D., NCC, LCSW, LISW-CP  
Director, Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling  
Assistant Professor of Counseling

Gary Sibcy, B.S., M.A., Ph.D., LP, LPC, LMFT  
Director, Ph.D. Program in Counseling  
Director, Center for Research and Evaluation  
Professor of Counseling

Lisa S. Sosin, B.S., M.A., Ph.D., LLP, LPC  
Associate Director, Ph.D. Program in Counseling  
Associate Professor of Counseling

Melvin E Pride, PhD, LPC, LCPC, NCC  
Director of Clinical Training, Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Associate Professor of Counseling

PURPOSE
The Center for Counseling and Family Studies aims to promote the education and training of future graduates for service and practice in diverse behavioral and mental health professions. The Graduate Counseling Program is committed to training professionals for the practice of counseling who demonstrate scientific competence, clinical excellence and best practices undergirded by a Christian worldview. Graduates will be trained for career opportunities in mental health agencies, hospital programs, higher educational institutions, government, business and industrial settings, and both faith-based counseling centers and public and private practice facilities. Doctoral studies will prepare students to seek leadership careers as counselor educators, administrators, supervisors, advanced clinical practitioners, and researchers.

ACCREDITATION
The M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program (Residential) is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.A.)

PURPOSE
The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is a 60-hour graduate level residential program designed to meet the Virginia requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor (LPC). The faculty provide quality professional training of clinical mental health counselors from a faith based perspective. Our mission is to produce ethically and spiritually aware mental health counselors who possess the knowledge, values, skills, and personal disposition to promote the mental health and holistic wellness of clients across diverse populations. Our mission is achieved, in significant measure, through offering rigorous academic programs, dynamic interaction with mentors, faculty, and carefully structured practica and internships.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge in all core curricular areas of counseling in preparation for taking licensure and certification exams, and in procuring employment in the mental health field.
2. Demonstrate appropriate research and report writing skills including the use of APA format and computer technology.
3. Incorporate ethical and legal standards in the counseling arena.
4. Integrate biblical principles and secular theories in a responsibly eclectic manner.
5. Assess, diagnose and treat clients with a broad array of presenting problems and mental disorders using multiple counseling skills in established best practices.
6. The student will be able to evaluate diverse individual, group and family populations in order to effectively determine a treatment for client(s).

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION PROCEDURES
In addition to the General Admission Procedures outlined in this Catalog, Master's applicants to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program must have:

1. An earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.);
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale).
3. Successfully completed a minimum of six semester hours of coursework in psychology or a closely related field of study (e.g., sociology, human services) and three hours of statistics.
4. Students with an undergraduate GPA less than 3.25 must submit one of the following tests with a minimum score:
   • GRE: Verbal 150, Quantitative 150, Analytical Writing 3.5 (Former GRE: 1000 Total)
   • MAT: Total score 350, GRE Analytical Writing 3.5
5. Two Letters of Recommendation from professional sources (i.e., not family/friends). All should be obtained from individuals qualified to address the applicant’s ability to complete graduate level work, disposition and ability to become a counselor, maturity, motivation, and ethics.

6. Personal statement addressing past helping experiences, future goals in the field of professional counseling, and personal qualities that will enable the individual to be an effective counselor. The statement should be 3-5 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced.

7. Letter of intent describing what you hope to gain from graduate study, your professional goals, and how your interests and goals match the goals and mission of the department. The university and departmental mission statements are available online.

Applicants must submit each of the items listed in the General Admissions Procedures to the Office of Graduate Admissions before being considered for acceptance to the program.

Applicants who have not successfully completed six hours of psychology or related studies and three hours of statistics for the Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling may be admitted with the provision that they must complete the undergraduate coursework within the first two semesters of study.

The applicant’s personal and professional disposition, integrity, and general fitness to practice counseling may be considered in the admission process. In addition, limited resources may indicate a need for limited enrollments, requiring the Center for Counseling and Family Studies to restrict admissions and to grant special admissions only under exceptional circumstances.

To enable our students to be successful, the Center for Counseling and Family Studies have implemented admissions protocol for students wanting to enter the licensure track programs, but have less than the minimum 3.00 GPA.

NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION
Admission decisions normally are made within a few weeks following the receipt of all of the student’s documentation and faculty review of the application packet. Official notification of admission, and of any conditions attached to that admission, is sent by letter to the applicant by the Office of Graduate Admissions. Correspondence or notification from other sources does not constitute official notice of admission. The term for which the applicant is admitted is stated in the official admission letter from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT
Students may transfer up to 15 hours of coursework into the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. For a transferred course to replace a Liberty University course, the following requirements must be met:

1. The school at which the course was taken must be appropriately accredited.
2. The course credit must be at least three semester hours or five quarter hours.
3. The student must have earned a grade of B- or better in the course.
4. The course must overlap one of Liberty’s courses by at least 80%.

Courses related to counseling that meet all but the last criterion may be transferred in as elective courses. Course work must have been completed within the previous seven (7) years. Transfer credits will not be accepted for the
following courses: CMHC 500, 501, 505, 506, 512, 598, 667, and 699. Courses from an earned degree will not be accepted for transfer credit. Credit will not be awarded for life experience or continuing education workshops.

**LICENSURE**

Liberty University’s Center for Counseling and Family Studies 60-hour Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is designed to provide academic course work in all areas required by the Virginia Board of Counseling for licensure as a LPC in Virginia. Students interested in seeking licensure in another state after graduation are required to contact the licensing boards of those states to obtain copies of their licensing laws and regulations. These will help students ensure they take all courses necessary for licensure in those states.

**EVALUATION AND RETENTION**

Students are responsible for meeting the academic and professional standards of Liberty University and the counseling profession. The following requirements apply to all students:

1. Students are expected to use the American Counseling Association “Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice,” this Catalog, the Graduate Student Honor Code, and the *Liberty Way* as guides for their behavior throughout their program. Students will undergo periodic evaluation by the Counseling faculty for suitability as students and prospective counselors.

2. Students must remain in good academic standing, are required to maintain high ethical standards, and must demonstrate evidence of functional competency in fulfilling the professional roles required by the discipline.

3. Students must pass a comprehensive examination that requires the ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate the core curricular content within the counseling discipline.

Consult specific program sections of this catalog for additional requirements.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The *M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program (60 Hour)* consists of a minimum of 60 hours of counseling courses that provide students with a thorough curricular experience in the areas of integration of faith and spirituality into practice; individual and group counseling theories and skills; clinical practice; ethical, professional, and legal issues in counseling; social and cultural factors in counseling; human development across the lifespan; career counseling and development theories and interventions; appraisal and assessment issues in counseling; and the application of research methodology and statistics to understand mental health issues. These degrees prepare individuals for licensure and national certification and careers in mental health agencies, hospital programs, private practices, faith based counseling centers, and other public and private facilities.

Detailed information, policies, and procedures regarding the various programs offered are provided in the Student Handbook. Students should familiarize themselves with the Student Handbook before they begin their studies and before they register for classes every semester.

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

Students enrolled in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program must take a
comprehensive examination. The examination should be taken after the student has completed at least 42 hours of graduate coursework, including all of the CMHC 500-level core coursework and CMHC 667. The study guide for the comprehensive exam is available online at the departmental website. Students will be given three attempts to successfully complete the exam. Students who have failed the CPCE® twice are required to complete a CPCE® Third Attempt Plan (CTAP) form and prepare for an additional minimum of one semester before registering for their final attempt. If after three attempts, a student has not been able to pass the comprehensive examination, the student will not qualify for a master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. At that point, students may choose to apply to the Human Services Counseling program for possible conferral of the MA in Human Services Counseling degree.

This examination is offered periodically throughout the year. To register for the Comprehensive Exam, please contact the Comprehensive Exam Coordinator at least 30 days prior to the exam date. The Comprehensive Exam is offered the third Saturday of February, July, and October. (See the Counseling Comprehensive Examination website for scheduling information).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
To graduate, students in the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program must:

1. Pass the Comprehensive Exam.
2. Complete 45 credit hours through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty.
3. No more than 15 hours of transfer credits, including credits from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree.
4. Complete their required curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 3.00.
5. No more than two grades of C (includes grades of C+ & C-) may be applied to the degrees.
6. No grades of D (includes grades of D+ & D-) may be applied to the degrees.
7. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
8. Liberty course work that is more than seven (7) years old must be repeated.
9. The degrees must be completed within seven (7) years.
10. Submit a Graduation Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

Programs of Study

Master of Arts in Professional Counseling (M.A.)

FORMAT
This program is delivered online (with some required intensive courses on campus).

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (M.A.)
FORMAT
This program is delivered both residentially and online (with some required intensive courses on campus).

Students wishing to pursue professional counseling licensure should contact the appropriate state licensing board for more information about specific licensure rules and regulations. The Professional Counseling and/or Marriage and Family Therapy licensure program(s) at Liberty University/Liberty University Online may not fulfill licensure requirements for the states of Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and New Hampshire. Students should verify their states' requirements before beginning a program of study.

The states of California, Mississippi, and Louisiana do not accept the Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy degree earned through Liberty University Online for licensure purposes. Additional information on states that have unique state board requirements can be found at: http://www.nbcc.org/Directory

PURPOSE
The Professional Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy degrees are designed to lead to professional licensure as outlined by most state boards of counseling and marriage and family therapy. The 60 hour M.A. in Professional Counseling and M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy are designed to meet the Virginia Board of Counseling requirements for licensure as LPC and LMFT respectively. The faculty provide quality professional training from a faith-based perspective. The purpose of the programs is to produce ethically and spiritually aware professional counselors and marriage and family therapists who possess the knowledge, values, skills, and personal disposition to promote the mental health and holistic wellness of clients across diverse populations. This purpose is achieved, in significant measure, through offering rigorous academic programs, dynamic online interaction with faculty, and carefully structured practica and internships.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge in all core curricular areas of counseling in preparation for taking licensure or certification exams and in procuring employment in the mental health field.
2. Demonstrate appropriate research and report writing skills including the use of APA format and computer technology.
3. Incorporate ethical and legal standards in the counseling arena.
4. Integrate biblical principles and Counseling theories in a responsibly eclectic manner.
5. Assess, diagnose and treat clients with a broad array of presenting problems and mental disorders using multiple counseling skills in established best practices.
6. Evaluate diverse individual, group and family populations in order to effectively determine a treatment for client(s).
7. Additionally, Marriage and Family Therapy students will be able to evaluate child, adolescent, and marriage and family clients in order to effectively determine a treatment.

Marriage and Family Therapy
The same above-mentioned program learning outcomes with the addition of,

The student will be able to evaluate child, adolescent, and marriage and family clients in order to effectively determine a treatment.

**PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION PROCEDURES**

In addition to the General Admission Procedures outlined in this Catalog, Master’s applicants to any of our Counseling programs must have *(variations in italics)*:

1. An earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.);
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale);
3. Successfully completed a minimum of six semester hours of coursework in psychology or a closely related field of study (e.g., sociology, human services) and three hours of statistics.

Applicants must submit each of the items listed in the General Admissions Procedures to the Office of Graduate Admissions *before being considered for acceptance to the program*.

Applicants who have not successfully completed six hours of psychology or related studies and three hours of statistics for the Master’s in Professional Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy may be admitted with the provision that they must complete the undergraduate coursework within the first two semesters of study. Applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement may be considered for admission on Academic Caution status.

The applicant’s character, integrity, and general fitness to practice counseling may also be considered in the admission process. In addition, limited resources may indicate a need for limited enrollments, requiring the Center for Counseling and Family Studies to restrict admissions and to entertain special admissions only under exceptional circumstances.

To enable our students to be successful, the Center for Counseling and Family Studies have implemented admissions protocol for students wanting to enter the licensure track programs, but have less than the minimum 3.00 GPA.

**NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION**

Admission decisions normally are made within a few weeks following the receipt of *all* of the student’s documentation. Official notification of admission, and of any conditions attached to that admission, is sent by letter to the applicant by the Office of Graduate Admissions. Correspondence or notification from other sources does not constitute official notice of admission. The term for which the applicant is admitted is stated in the official admission letter from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

**TRANSFER OF CREDIT**

Students may transfer up to 12 hours of coursework into the 48-hour Professional Counseling program, and up to 15 hours of coursework into the 60-hour Professional Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy programs. For a transferred course to replace a Liberty University course, the following requirements must be met:
1. The school at which the course was taken must be appropriately accredited.
2. The course credit must be at least three semester hours or five quarter hours.
3. The student must have earned a grade of B- or better in the course.
4. The course must overlap one of Liberty’s courses by at least 80%.

Courses related to psychology and counseling that meet all but the last criterion may be transferred in as elective courses. Course work must have been completed within the previous eight years. Transfer credits will not be accepted for the following courses: COUN 500, 501, 505, 506, 507, 512, 598, 667, and 699. Courses from an earned degree will not be accepted for transfer credit. Credit will not be awarded for life experience or continuing education workshops.

Students in the 48- and 60-hour Professional Counseling program are required to take COUN 505, 512, and 667 in residence (on campus). Students in the 60-hour Marriage and Family Therapy program are required to take COUN 505, 512, 610, and 667 in residence (on campus).

Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits. Liberty University course work that is more than seven (7) years old must be repeated.

**Licensure**
Liberty University’s Center for Counseling and Family Studies provides academic course work in all areas required by the Virginia Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists for licensure. The 60-hour M.A. degree program has been designed to meet licensure requirements established by the Virginia Board of Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapists for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) in Virginia. With 12 additional hours of coursework, Liberty University’s M.A. degree (48-hour degree program) is acceptable to meet academic education and degree requirements in some states. Students interested in licensure in states other than Virginia are required to contact the licensing boards of those states to obtain copies of their licensing laws and regulations. These will help students ensure they take all courses necessary for licensure in those states.

The 30-hour Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling does not meet the requirements for state licensure in any state.

**EVALUATION AND RETENTION**
Students are responsible for meeting the academic and professional standards of Liberty University and the counseling profession. The following requirements apply to all students:

1. Students are expected to use the American Counseling Association “Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice,” the American Association of Christian Counselors “Code of Ethics,” this Catalog, the Graduate Student Honor Code, and the Liberty Way as guides for their behavior throughout their program. Each of these documents is available for reading and downloading from the respective organizational web sites. Students will undergo periodic evaluation by the Counseling faculty for suitability as students and prospective counselors.
2. Students must remain in good academic standing, are required to maintain
high ethical standards, and must demonstrate evidence of functional competency in fulfilling the professional roles required by the discipline.

3. Students (other than non-licensure 30-hour M.A. students) must pass a comprehensive examination that requires an ability to deal with more than individual course content. Satisfactory completion of comprehensive examination requires analysis, synthesis, and integration of the content within the counseling discipline.

4. Doctoral students must also develop, complete, and defend an acceptable dissertation following guidelines developed by the Graduate Administrative Council and approved by the Graduate Senate.

Consult specific program sections of this catalog for additional requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The two **M.A. in Professional Counseling** programs consist of a minimum of 48 and 60 hours of counseling courses that provide students with a thorough background in the areas of integration of faith and practice; individual and group counseling theories and skills; clinical practice; ethical, professional, and legal issues in counseling; social and cultural factors in counseling; human development across the lifespan; work, leisure, and career development theories and interventions; appraisal and assessment issues in counseling; and the application of research methodology and statistics to understand mental health issues. These degrees prepare individuals for licensure and national certification and careers in mental health agencies, hospital programs, private practices, ministry-related counseling centers, and other public and private facilities.

The **M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy** consists of a minimum of 60 hours; 48 hours of course work from the Professional Counseling program, plus four additional courses: COUN 602, *Marriage and Family Counseling II* or COUN 611, *Counseling Children and Their Families*; COUN 603, *Pre-Marital and Marital Counseling*; COUN 610, *Human Sexuality*; and COUN 620, *Counseling Adolescents and Their Families*. **Students’ internship experiences must consist of work with couples, families, and individuals from a systems perspective, with the majority of the direct service clock hours occurring with couples and family units.** These courses and internship experiences are appropriate for those seeking licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT).

Detailed information, policies, and procedures regarding the various programs offered are provided in the Student Handbook. Students should familiarize themselves with the Student Handbook before they begin their studies and before they register for classes every semester.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
Students enrolled in the 48- or 60-hour program must take a comprehensive examination. The examination should be taken after the student has completed at least 42 hours of graduate coursework, including all of the 500-level core coursework and COUN 667. Students will be given three attempts to successfully complete the exam. Students who have failed the CPCE® twice are required to complete a CPCE® Third Attempt Plan (CTAP) form and prepare an additional minimum of one semester before registering for their final attempt. If after three attempts, a student has not been able to pass the comprehensive examination, the student will not qualify for a master’s degree in Professional Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy. At that point, students may choose to apply to the
Human Services Counseling program for possible conferral of the MA in Human Services Counseling degree.

This examination is offered periodically throughout the year. (See the Study Guide for the Counseling Comprehensive Examination for scheduling). The study guide is available online on the Comprehensive Exam website at http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=24247. To register for the Comprehensive Exam, please contact the Comprehensive Exam Coordinator 30 days prior to the exam date (See the Counseling Comprehensive Examination website for specific scheduling information) The Comprehensive Exam is offered the third Saturday of February, July, and October.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
To graduate, students in Master of Arts in Professional Counseling and Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy programs must:

1. Pass the Comprehensive Exam.
2. Complete the following minimum number of credit hours through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty:
   a. Master of Arts in Professional Counseling/48-hour track – 36 hours
   b. Master of Arts in Professional Counseling/60-hour track – 45 hours
   c. Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy – 45 hours
3. The following maximum number of transfer credits, including credits from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degrees:
   a. Master of Arts in Professional Counseling/48-hour track – 12 hours
   b. Master of Arts in Professional Counseling/60-hour track – 15 hours
   c. Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy – 15 hours
4. Have completed their required curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 3.00.
5. No more than two grades of C (includes grades of C+ & C-) may be applied to the degrees.
6. No grades of D (includes grades of D+ & D-) may be applied to the degrees.
7. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
8. Liberty course work that is more than seven (7) years old must be repeated.
9. The degrees must be completed within seven (7) years.
10. Submit a Graduation Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

Programs of Study

Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling (M.A.)

FORMAT
This program is delivered both on campus residential and online.

PURPOSE
The Center for Counseling and Family Studies (CCFS) Masters of Arts in Human Services Counseling provides students with an academic program designed to educate students in the study of human behavior and application of helping skills. Students will master course work considered essential to the master’s level
professional preparation of human service counseling workers who seek to offer services in areas such as leadership, families, and recovery, consistent with a Biblical worldview. Though students are encouraged to evaluate their own specific needs and to take advantage of available resources for personal and professional development, several learning outcomes are applicable to all students as they seek a degree relevant to the vast field of human services.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge in all core curricular areas of human services in preparation for certification and employment.
2. Conduct research and generate reports appropriate to the discipline.
3. Integrate Biblical principles with professional human service's methods in a variety of contexts.
4. Identify and incorporate ethical and legal standards in the human services arena.
5. Evaluate basic mental health issues within the scope of competence for human services and appropriately refer clients.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION PROCEDURES
In addition to the General Admission Procedures outlined in this Catalog, applicants to the non-licensure Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling must have:

1. An earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.);
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale).
3. Applicants for the non-licensure 30-hour M.A. in Human Services Counseling are not required to complete prerequisite work.

Applicants must submit each of the items listed in the General Admissions Procedures to the Office of Graduate Admissions before being considered for acceptance to the program.

NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION
Admission decisions normally are made within a few weeks following the receipt of all of the student’s documentation. Official notification of admission, and of any conditions attached to that admission, is sent by letter to the applicant by the Office of Graduate Admissions. Correspondence or notification from other sources does not constitute official notice of admission. The term for which the applicant is admitted is stated in the official admission letter from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT
Students may transfer up to 6 semester hours of coursework into the non-licensure 30-hour Human Services Counseling program. For a transferred course to replace a Liberty University course, the following requirements must be met:

1. The school at which the course was taken must be appropriately accredited.
2. The course credit must be at least three semester hours or five quarter hours.
3. The student must have earned a grade of B or better in the course.
4. The course must overlap one of Liberty’s courses by at least 80%.

Courses related to psychology and counseling that meet all but the last criterion may be transferred in as elective courses. Course work must have been completed within the previous eight years. Transfer credits will not be accepted for the following courses: COUN 501 and 506. Courses from an earned degree will not be accepted for transfer credit. Credit will not be awarded for life experience or continuing education workshops.

Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits. Liberty University course work that is more than seven (7) years old must be repeated.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The Center for Counseling and Family Studies offers four master’s-level degree programs. The non-licensure M.A. in Human Services Counseling is designed for professionals from all walks of life dedicated not only to career advancement, but impacting tomorrow’s world and the well-being of others in the spirit of Christian services. While there are some courses that can be done residentially, the program was designed to be done completely online, so all courses are in that format for the students’ convenience. The degree is grounded in a core of courses developed through the Center for Counseling and Family Studies; a core reflective of the University’s mission statement and designed to provide the values, knowledge, and skills needed for effective work in the vast field of human services. This degree consists of 18 hours of human services counseling courses and a 12 hour online cognate from such graduate level academic disciplines as Marriage and Family; Crisis Response and Trauma; Addictions and Recovery; Military Resilience and varied human services fields.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
To graduate, students in the non-licensure M.A. in Human Services Counseling programs must:

1. Complete minimum of 24 credit hours through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty.
2. A maximum of six (6) hours of transfer credits, including credits from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree.
3. Have completed their required curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or better
4. No grades of D (includes grades of D+ & D-) may be applied to the Human Services Counseling degree.
5. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
6. Liberty course work that is more than seven (7) years old must be repeated.
7. The degree must be completed within five (5) years.
8. Submit a Graduation Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

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Program of Study
Cognates

The non-licensure Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling program is available with a Cognate in Children, Families, and the Law. This cognate is open only to currently enrolled Liberty University School of Law J.D. students or Liberty University School of Law Alumni. For more information on this cognate please see the Liberty University School of Law section of this Catalog.

DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS (DCP)
The Degree Completion Plans for programs offered by the Center for Counseling and Family Studies are available online at http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=27639.

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling (Ph.D.)

FORMAT
This program is delivered in 16-week courses which includes one week intensive courses on campus with pre- and post-class online course work.

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Ph.D. in Counseling is to prepare counselors to serve as highly skilled clinicians, educators, administrators, researchers, supervisors, and consultants who demonstrate the highest level of clinical competence and scholarship. Programmatic emphasis on ethical, evidence-based, and biblically grounded clinical practice offers an innovative approach to understanding the experience and behavior of persons in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

1. Synthesize and apply a wide array of counseling theories from within an integrated Christian worldview.
2. Evaluate and incorporate ethical and legal standards in the counseling field.
3. Assess, diagnose, and treat clients with a broad array of presenting problems and mental disorders using multiple counseling skills.
4. Appraise theories in all core curricular areas of counseling utilizing a biblical worldview and an awareness of industry best practices.
5. Design, conduct and critically evaluate scientific research studies and translate them to clinical and applied settings.
6. Evaluate child, adolescent and marriage and family clients in order to effectively determine a treatment in accordance with a distinctly biblical worldview and established best practices.
7. Evaluate diverse individual, group and family populations within a developmental systems context in order to effectively determine appropriate treatments.

Advanced Clinical Counseling Concentration:
The student will be able to synthesize an evidence-based approach to clinical
practice.

**Counselor Education and Supervision Concentration:**
The student will be able to synthesize an evidence-based approach to teaching and supervision.

**PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION PROCEDURES**
In addition to the General Admission Procedures outlined in this catalog, doctoral applicants to the Counseling program must have:

1. An earned master’s degree or its equivalent from an appropriately accredited seminary or graduate school in counseling or a related field.
2. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 or above (on a 4.00 scale) in all previous graduate course work.
3. GRE or MAT scores: GRE: Total verbal and quantitative score of 900, as well as a 4.0 or better on the analytical writing section (for tests taken before August 2011) or a total verbal and quantitative score of 300, as well as a 4.0 or better on the analytical writing section (for tests taken after August 2011). MAT: Total score of 400 or better (for tests taken in or after October 2004) or a total score of 50 or better (for tests taken before October 2004).
4. Applicants whose native language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and earn a score of 80 on the Internet-based exam for graduate program admission, or 80 on the Internet-based exam for admission. An official TOEFL score report must be submitted to the University before an admission decision can be made. TOEFL Services; The Educational Testing Service; P.O. Box 6151; Princeton, NJ 08541; or online at http://www.toefl.org.
5. Two Letters of Recommendation: One should be from a pastor and one from a professor or a clinical supervisor. All should be obtained from individuals qualified to address the applicant’s ability to complete doctoral work, maturity, motivation, and ethics.
6. A 300-word Letter of Intent specifying the applicant’s purpose and goals for entering the Ph.D. Program.
7. A Professional Vita including degrees earned, ministry and/or counseling experience, and career goals.
8. Demonstration of Writing Competency in proper APA format (latest edition). Applicants must respond to a case study describing the manner in which they would handle the case. The case study (vignette) is available online.
9. A Graduate Status Record (available online).

The above are minimum academic requirements for admission to the Ph.D. in Counseling. The applicant’s character, integrity, and general fitness to practice a particular profession will also be considered in the admission process.

**TRANSFER OF CREDIT**
Students may transfer up to 15 semester hours of Ph.D. coursework. For a transferred course to replace a Liberty University Ph.D. course, the following requirements must be met:

1. The school at which the course was taken must be appropriately accredited.
2. The course credit must be at least three semester hours or five quarter hours.
3. The student must have earned a grade of B- or better in the course.
4. The course must overlap one of Liberty’s courses by at least 80%.
5. Transfer credits must have been completed as post-master’s course work (700-900 level) within the previous five years to be accepted.
6. Coursework cannot be transferred from a completed degree.
7. Courses with a recorded grade of C or below will not be accepted.
8. Correspondence studies or life experiences will not be accepted for transfer credit.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The Ph.D. requires completion of a minimum of 63 hours of post-master's Ph.D. level coursework including 12 hours of qualifying coursework, Qualifying Examination, post Qualifying Examination core courses and electives, Practicum, Internship, Candidacy Examination, and Dissertation related coursework and research.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
1. Pass the Qualifying Exam.
2. Complete a minimum of 63 hours, with at least 48 hours completed through Liberty University.
3. Complete the degree within 10 years.
4. Complete required curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better. Any coursework taken toward fulfilling the requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy degree or required by the student’s advisor or committee with a recorded grade below B (includes grades of B+ & B-) will not count toward the degree and may result in dismissal from the program.
5. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
6. Pass the Candidacy Examination.
7. Successfully write and defend Dissertation research.
8. Submit a Graduation Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

Programs of Study

DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS (DCP) AND COURSE DOCUMENTS
The Degree Completion Plans for the Ph.D. programs in Counseling are available online at http://www.liberty.edu/dcps and the Ph.D. documents and other important information are available online at http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=673.

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDIES
Liberty University offers the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies to those students who complete a course of study not linked to the pursuit of a degree and consisting of a coherent set of courses addressing a specific theme. Students will be awarded a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies if they choose not to complete their dissertation or have failed their second attempt on the Qualifying Examination. Students awarded a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Counseling must have: (a) been admitted to the Ph.D. program; (b) completed the Foundational Competencies and Core Courses; and (c) earned a GPA of 3.00 or better. The awarding of a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies will result in an appropriate notation on the student’s academic record.
School of Behavioral Sciences - Graduate Certificates

The School of Behavioral Sciences offers graduate certificates in several areas of study through Liberty University Online.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

1. 9 total hours.
2. All courses must be completed through Liberty University.
3. 2.0 GPA.
4. No grade of D (includes grades of D+ & D-) may be applied to the certificate.
5. Certificate must be completed within 3 years.
6. Submit a Certificate Completion Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

Graduate Certificate in Military Resilience

PURPOSE
The Certification in Military Resilience is designed to train and assist those who wish to work with the active military family or veterans or those who already work in this area. The course work addresses unique issues that military families and individuals face. This certification will enhance various degrees, such as M.R.E., M.Div., or even an undergraduate degree such as psychology. This certification will not lead to licensure.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the impacts of military and civilian culture on families.
2. Create ethical and legal treatment plans consistent with a sound theoretical orientation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. 18 total hours.
2. All courses must be completed through Liberty University.
3. Maintain 2.00 GPA.
4. No grade of D (includes grades of D+ & D-) may be applied to the certificate.
5. Certificate must be completed within 3 years.
6. Submit a Certificate Completion Application to the Registrar's Office at the beginning of the final semester.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION PLANS
Certificate Completion Plans (CCP) can be accessed online at http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=27907.