

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling – 30 Credit Hours

In these times of rapid cultural and economic change, effective Christian leaders must be able to maintain focus on the mission, mobilize people in pursuit of that vision, and facilitate the execution of strategies that accomplish the mission. It's a tall order. It requires extraordinary leadership. The Christian Leadership program uses a dynamic integrated learning framework to equip leaders for real-time faith-driven skill development to meet that challenge in any organization and leadership role.

The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling equips students with a profound understanding of human nature through the lens of Scripture. The program is designed for those passionate about applying biblical truths to foster emotional and spiritual well-being, and prepares graduates to offer wise, faith-driven counsel in various settings, both within and beyond the church.

Aligned with NBCU's integrated learning approach, students will leverage their real-life ministry contexts throughout their studies, ensuring immediate application and impact. The program is tailored to add impact to ministry leadership roles or for lay counseling roles and do not lead to professional counseling licensure.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the **MA Biblical Counseling** program, students will be equipped to apply biblical truth with wisdom and compassion, guiding individuals toward spiritual growth, emotional healing, and Christ-centered transformation in a variety of ministry and counseling contexts. Success will be demonstrated in the exercise of the following competencies:

1. **Integrate Biblical Principles in Counseling:** Develop a counseling philosophy and methodology rooted in a comprehensive biblical worldview.
2. **Understand Human Development:** Analyze the stages of healthy human growth from a scriptural perspective.
3. **Enhance Communication:** Promote healthy and effective communication patterns in relationships.
4. **Address Human Suffering:** Recognize and respond to diverse patterns of suffering in our broken world with biblical wisdom.
5. **Assess Individual Callings:** Assist individuals in evaluating their gifts, talents, and divine calling.
6. **Develop Counseling Skills:** Acquire essential counseling skills for effective ministry and leadership roles.

Core Curriculum (21 credits)

1. BC 501 – Foundations of Biblical Counseling (3 credits)

An introduction to the theological and philosophical foundations of biblical counseling. Topics include the sufficiency of Scripture, the nature of sin and suffering, and the role of the church in the counseling process.

2. BC 511 – Theology for Counseling (3 credits)

Explores key doctrines (e.g., God, humanity, sin, redemption, sanctification) from a biblical perspective and how they shape the counselor's worldview, approach, and practice.

3. BC 520 – Counseling Methods and Techniques (3 credits)

Presents the skills and structure of biblical counseling sessions, including data gathering, interpreting life situations biblically, and assigning appropriate homework and accountability.

4. BC 530 – Marriage and Family Counseling (3 credits)

Equips students to counsel individuals, couples, and families biblically in areas such as communication, conflict, parenting, roles, and sexuality.

5. BC 540 – Counseling Issues and Strategies I: Anxiety, Depression, and Grief (3 credits)

Addresses how to counsel individuals struggling with emotional suffering. Students will learn biblical responses to fear, despair, and loss with gospel-centered care and hope.

6. BC 550 – Counseling Issues and Strategies II: Addictions, Abuse, and Trauma (3 credits)

Focuses on more complex counseling issues from a biblical lens. Topics include addiction, trauma recovery, and counseling those affected by abuse while prioritizing safety and spiritual restoration.

7. BC 560 – Practicum in Biblical Counseling (3 credits)

Supervised practical experience in counseling, including observation, case documentation, and feedback. Emphasis on developing counselor competency and applying biblical truth in real-world situations.

Electives or Special Topics (Choose 3 credits)

BC 575 – Counseling Adolescents and Young Adults (3 credits)

Explores the unique spiritual, emotional, and developmental challenges facing teens and young adults, including identity, peer pressure, mental health, and cultural influences.

BC 576 – Biblical Counseling in the Local Church (3 credits)

Provides strategies for building a counseling ministry within a church context. Focus on equipping lay counselors, confidentiality, accountability, and pastoral integration.

Capstone Course (Required, 3 credits)

BC 599 – Biblical Counseling and Discipleship Integration (3 credits)

A culminating course that synthesizes counseling theory, theology, and practical application. Students complete a ministry project or case study demonstrating their ability to counsel biblically and disciple others within the church or parachurch context.



Program Summary

Course Type	Credits
Core Curriculum	21
Electives	3
Capstone	3
Practicum	3
Total	30