



Doctor of Pastoral Counseling



Upon completion of the Doctor of Pastoral Counseling the graduate should be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced integration of biblical theology, pastoral care, counseling theory, and clinical practice to address complex spiritual, emotional, relational, and behavioral concerns within diverse ministry and counseling settings.
2. Apply culturally responsive, ethically grounded, and biblically informed counseling strategies in individual, family, organizational, and community contexts.
3. Exhibit advanced competencies in assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, conflict management, and pastoral intervention while maintaining professional boundaries and ethical standards.
4. Exercise transformational leadership through personal and collective spiritual formation, administrative competence, and cross-cultural intelligence in pastoral and counseling ministries.
5. Design, conduct, and defend original doctoral-level research that contributes to the field of pastoral counseling and advances effective, Christ-centered care practices.
6. Critically evaluate personal, spiritual, and professional development and articulate a lifelong commitment to reflective practice, supervision, and continued learning.

The Doctor of Pastoral Counseling (DPC) is a terminal professional degree designed for clergy, chaplains, counselors, and ministry leaders seeking advanced training in spiritually integrated counseling. The program combines biblical foundations with counseling theory, clinical practice, leadership formation, and research. Through coursework, practicum, internship, and dissertation research, students are equipped to provide competent, compassionate, and ethically grounded pastoral care in diverse ministry and counseling contexts.

The Doctor of Pastoral Counseling (DPC) offers two specialization tracks that allow students to focus their doctoral studies on specific areas of pastoral and clinical practice:

Marriage and Family Counseling

This specialization prepares students to provide biblically grounded and clinically informed counseling to couples and families. Emphasis is placed on assessment, treatment planning, conflict resolution, trauma-informed care, and relational restoration. Graduates are equipped to serve in church-based counseling ministries, private practice settings, nonprofit agencies, and family-focused ministries, integrating Christian faith with effective therapeutic interventions.

Chaplaincy

This specialization equips students for professional chaplaincy in diverse institutional settings, including healthcare, military, correctional facilities, education, and community organizations. Emphasis is placed on pastoral care, ethics, crisis intervention, cultural and religious diversity, and spiritual assessment. Graduates are prepared to serve individuals and communities with compassion, integrity, and professional excellence across faith traditions and life circumstances.

Prerequisite: Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling, Counseling, Psychology, Social Work, Theology, Ministry, or a related field from an accredited or approved institution. Foundational coursework in theology or ministry. Relevant ministry or counseling experience (preferred).

Virtual Learning 

Life Experience Credit 

Self-Study Courses 

Degree Completion Timeline

Doctor of Pastoral Counseling – DPC

18 classes

54 Credit hours

- If the student takes 1 course each quarter = 18 quarters an average of 4 years and 2 quarters to fulfill
- If the student takes 2 courses each quarter = 9 quarters an average of 2 years & 1 quarter to fulfill
- If the student takes 3 courses each quarter = 6 quarters an average of 1 ½ years to fulfill
- If the student takes 4 courses each quarter = 5 quarters an average of 1 year & 1 quarter to fulfill

CREDITS	COURSES
CORE CURRICULUM	
3.00	MIN 7100 Personal and Collective Spiritual Formation
3.00	MIN 7300 Cross Cultural Leadership
3.00	MIN 7400 Administration and Management
3.00	MIN 8200 The Missional Pastor
3.00	BCO 8330 Conflict Management and Resolution
3.00	BCO 8222 Treatment planning: Assessment and Diagnosis

3.00	BCO 8680 Practicum
3.00	BCO 8685 Internship
9.00	BCO 9050 Dissertation Proposal and Research
3.00	BCO 9100 Oral Defense
6.00	Electives
42	Credits
12 Credit Hours	SPECIALIZATION COURSES
	MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING PROGRAM
3.00	BCO 8005 Motivational Interviewing
3.00	BCO 8420 Pre-Marital counseling
3.00	BCO 8441 Marriage Counseling
3.00	BCO 8560 Family Crises, Emergencies and Interventions
	CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM
3.00	MIN 6640 Chaplaincy: Conduct and Ethics
3.00	CHPL 8505 Chaplaincy in Healthcare Settings
3.00	CHPL 8680 Chaplaincy in Military
3.00	CHPL 8681 Correctional Prison Chaplaincy
54 Credit	Hours Total