

# MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

The Master of Arts in Counseling is designed to develop basic skills in biblical and theological interpretation, competency in the foundational theories and skills essential to the practice of counseling and the academic base for professional licensure in the State of Michigan. The Master of Arts in Counseling is a 69 semester hour degree program consisting of an 18 hour core in Bible and theology, a 42 hour core in counseling, and a 9 hour counseling specialization (i.e., Addictions Counseling, Trauma Counseling, Multi-State Licensure, Interdisciplinary Studies, or Thesis Track). The counseling core includes counseling philosophy and theory, techniques and skill development and participatory learning through a practicum and two internships. A thesis is also optional for the individual intending to pursue advanced study at the doctoral level. Applicants for this degree should possess a minimum 2.5 cumulative undergraduate grade point average from an accredited baccalaureate institution. For students planning to enroll full-time the table below provides a detailed and specific curricular path. Those intending to enroll part-time will find valuable insights from this information for planning your ideal course sequencing.

	FALL SEMESTER			J-TERM/SPRING SEMESTER			SUMMER SEMESTER		
	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.	NO.	COURSE	CR.
<b>YEAR ONE</b>	BBL-501	Biblical Hermeneutics	3	BBL-508	Biblical Theology	3		Bible Elective	3
	COU-500	Counseling Philosophy	3	MIN-500	Christian Spiritual Formation	3	COU-610	Counseling Techniques	3
	COU-502	Counseling Ethics and Issues	3	COU-501	Counseling Theories	3		Specialization Course	3
				COU-525	Multicultural Counseling	3			
	<b>Total</b> .....			<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b> .....		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>YEAR TWO</b>	THE-550	Theology for Counseling I	3	THE-551	Theology for Counseling II	3	COU-612	Group Techniques	3
	COU-510	Consulting	3	COU-662	Human Growth & Development	3	COU-784	Internship I: Counseling	3
	COU-601	Testing Procedures	3	COU-700	Research Methodology	3		Specialization Course	3
		Specialization Course	3	COU-782	Practicum: Counseling	3			
	<b>Total</b> .....		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b> .....		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b> .....		<b>9</b>
<b>YEAR THREE</b>	COU-611	Career Development	3						
	COU-785	Internship II: Counseling	3						
	<b>Total</b> .....		<b>6</b>						
<b>TOTAL HOURS: 69</b>									

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING SPECIALIZATIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

### **Addictions Counseling**

- COU-651 Clinical Diagnostic Assessment of Addictions (Online)  
 COU-652 Sociology of Addictions (Online)  
 COU-653 Addictions Counseling: Treatment and Intervention (Online)

Note: The Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC) credential from the Michigan Certification Board for Addictions Professionals (MCBAP) requires the three addictions specialization courses listed above, along with one internship counseling people with addictive and compulsive conditions (i.e., COU-784 Internship I or COU-785 Internship II) and one counseling ethics course (i.e., COU-502 Counseling Ethics and Issues). The additional requirements for the Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor can be found at the following website: [www.mcbap.com](http://www.mcbap.com)

### **Trauma Counseling**

- COU-642 Sociology of Trauma (Online)  
 COU-643 Trauma Informed Advocacy & Crisis Intervention (Online)  
 COU-644 Trauma Counseling & Recovery (Online)

### **Multi-State Licensure**

- COU-660 Abnormal Psychology (Online)  
 COU-670 Diagnostic and Clinical Assessment of Mental Disorders (Online)  
 COU-653 Addictions Counseling: Treatment and Intervention (Online)  
 COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling

### **Interdisciplinary Studies**

- COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling  
 COU Elective  
 General Elective

### **M.A. Thesis Track**

Two course cluster which includes a three credit thesis readings course (COU-584) and a six credit M.A. thesis course (COU-792).

\*The State of Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Office requires that 48 graduate credits are completed in the counseling field (COU classes) for professional licensure.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in Counseling degree is conferred when the following conditions are met:

1. Completion of 69 semester hours with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. Included are an 18 semester hour Bible and theology core, 42 semester hour counseling core, and a 9 semester hour specialization.
2. A minimum of 36 semester hours must be achieved at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary by transfer students.
3. Advanced standing credit is limited to ¼ of the degree program requirements (18 hours), and excludes COU courses given State of Michigan licensure requirements.
4. Credits achieved online and/or by distance education are limited to a maximum of eight courses (24 hours) within the degree program.
5. Evidence of personal commitment to Jesus Christ and a life pattern of moral character and conduct.

6. Completion of all assessments, including entrance, mid-point and exit assessments.
7. Successful completion of the practicum and internship requirements.
8. The meeting of all financial obligations.
9. GRTS limits the use of credits towards the completion of a degree to those credits (i.e. transfer credits, advanced standing credits, or credits earned at GRTS) achieved within 10 years prior to degree completion.
10. Participation in commencement.
11. Graduates of this degree program will have the option of receiving a Cornerstone University or Grand Rapids Theological Seminary diploma.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts in Counseling curriculum is designed to enable the student to:

### **Core Curriculum**

1. Conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
2. State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, values and practices essential to personal spiritual formation.

### **Counseling Major**

1. State a personal philosophy of counseling that reflects awareness of personal beliefs, foundational theories, and worldview integration.
2. Facilitate the counseling process for individuals, groups and/or families by providing consultations that foster awareness, growth and restoration that is based on established client centered goals and a sound systemic framework.
3. Articulate and apply effective counseling strategies reflecting practical techniques and multicultural applications.
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the use of testing instruments and research interpretation in appraisal and diagnosis.
5. Demonstrate theoretical understanding and basic competency in career development counseling.
6. Exhibit understanding and compliance with the legal requirements and ethical codes of the counseling profession.