

## MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

This degree prepares graduates for the specialized ministry of clinical mental health counseling within the context of the church, church-related agencies, or other professional settings. Students learn how to integrate effective models and theories of counseling with a sound biblical and theological perspective and a sensitivity to the operation of the Holy Spirit. Helping hurting people is an essential element of the Gospel, and this program equips students to help clients realize wholeness in every area of life.

### THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ARE TO:

- Engage students in theological reflection on the challenges and complexities of the counseling process in an attempt to invite them to examine their assumptions and cohesively integrate their beliefs into an overall philosophy of counseling.
- Train students in the art and science of assessment and diagnosis that includes both clinical (DSM-V) and theoretical components.
- Expose students to social and cultural diversity with an emphasis on the ethical principles conducive for respectful dialogue with those who are different.
- Introduce student to various counseling theories and Empirically Supported Treatments (EST).
- Instruct students in basic research skills and methodologies that enable them to critique counseling research findings and to appraise EST's.
- Enable students to understand the unfolding of human development and impact of crisis events and addictive behaviors on that process.
- Emphasize the ethical principles undergirding professional conduct and the process of ethical decision-making.
- Provide guided internship opportunities for the application of theory and practice in a professional setting.
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of persons, change and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Assist students in discerning and articulating their ministry/professional calling.

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I chose to attend the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry at ORU because of the whole person focus. I appreciate the diversity and the fact that our professors are easily accessible. I am also here because I truly value the emphasis placed on the Holy Spirit and His role in the believer's life. As I prepare to graduate, I am confident that the education I have received, and the relationships I have formed with my professors and peers, will enable me to pursue the call God has on my life to enrich the lives of others. (T.J.) ”



## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from regionally accredited college or university or a college recognized by The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)
- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 or higher
- An official entrance exam score is required (waived for those who hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution): Miller Analogies Test (minimum score of 396) or the Graduate Record Exam (minimum combined score of 300 for verbal and quantitative sections)
- For those whose language of instruction was not English, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): score of 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based, 79-80 internet-based or the IELTS (minimum band score of 7.0), and submit a score within the past two years

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (68.5 CREDIT HOURS)

- ORU Distinctive Courses (1.5 credit hours)
- Professional Counselor Applications (57 credit hours)
- Assessments (1 credit hour)
- Biblical and Theological Foundations (9 credit hours)

## ACCREDITATION

- Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS)
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools

Detailed information is available at [gradtheology.oru.edu](http://gradtheology.oru.edu)

