ORU
ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Theology & Ministry

MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY CONCENTRATION (MFT)

The Master of Arts in Professional Counseling program (MAPC) is designed to prepare students for state licensure as Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) by qualifying them for the specialized ministry of counseling in the contexts of clinical settings, the local church or church-related agencies. The program enables students to thoughtfully integrate and ethically implement the most effective models and theories of counseling with a coherent Biblical/theological perspective and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's activities. Since helping hurting people is an essential element of the Gospel, this program equips students to respond therapeutically to the opportunities of global diversity in facilitating healing and wholeness in every area of life.

> "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.)"

The objectives of the Master of Arts in Professional Counseling are to:

- Present an overview of the philosophy, history and trends of the counseling profession, emphasizing its legal and ethical dimensions.
- Expose students to social, cultural and religious diversity with an emphasis on the competencies conducive for effective counseling with diverse populations.
- Enable students to understand the various dimensions of human development and the impact of crisis events and addictive behaviors on that process.
- Assist students in developing their vocation and in acquiring the necessary skills to assist clients in making career decisions.
- Help students gain the necessary competencies for developing therapeutic relationships and facilitating the counseling process.
- Equip students with the knowledge and skills of group dynamics in order to facilitate group counseling.
- Train students in the art and science of assessment and diagnosis, including both theoretical and clinical (DSM-5) aspects.
- Instruct students in basic research skills and methodologies that enable them to conduct program evaluations, critique counseling research findings and to appraise Empirically Supported Treatments (EST).
- Immerse students in systems theory and introduce them to various models of marriage, couple and family counseling.
- Provide guided internship opportunities for the application of theory and practice in a professional setting.

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- Engage students in discussing, integrating and synthesizing their theological, theoretical and clinical orientations in light of current research into an overall philosophy of counseling.
- Create guided opportunities for students to engage in theological reflection on both their personal and professional experiences.
- Promote a biblical/theological understanding of the person, work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Enable students to articulate clearly their ministry/professional callings.

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 3.0 or higher.
- An interview with a counseling faculty member either in person or via technology, e.g. Skype, FaceTime, or ZOOM. This interview will give the prospective student has an opportunity to ask questions about ORU's counseling program and the faculty member has an opportunity to ask about the student's goals and readiness for graduate studies.
- 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 (62.5 CREDIT HOURS)

- ORU Distinctive Courses (1.5 credit hours)
- Assessments (1 credit hour)
- Professional Counselor Applications (60 credit hours)
- Biblical and Theological Foundations (8 credit hours prerequisites*)

ACCREDITATION

- Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS)
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Accreditation with the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) is currently being pursued.

*Some or all of these prerequisites may be waived for students who have had similar courses in Bible and/or theology during their undergraduate studies.

Detailed information is available at **gradtheology.oru.edu**.