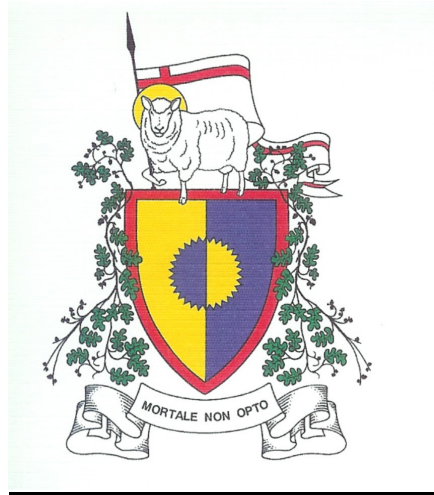


NCI University & Theological Seminary



Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling

DISTANCE LEARNING DEGREE PROGRAM

This is a PRINT-ON-DEMAND document
and, is accurate at the time of printing.

NCI University & Theological Seminary,
7255 South Military Trail,
Lake Worth,
Florida 33463
USA.

COPYRIGHT © 2001- 2010

All rights reserved. No part of this text may be reproduced in any manner without written permission. Permission is not required for brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

As a global church we have come through some extraordinary times of change in every sphere of society in the last two millennia, but we are still called to the same mission with the same mandate –

"To Reach the Whole World with the Life Changing Power of the Resurrected Christ who Lives in Us through the Person of the Holy Spirit "

This means that as The Living Body of Christ, we need to be trained and equipped to utilize our head, our heart, and our hands in representing Him.

In other words, we must become "God With Skin On" to the world where we live!

NCIU seeks to train and equip men and women everywhere with relevant and culturally appropriate education to embrace these three areas.

Our specialty is the field of distance education through one-on-one mentored degree study programs to "polish the fine cutting edge" of those who see themselves as instruments in the hands of God.

"Learning without doing will hopefully increase your knowledge level - but learning that requires knowledge being applied, will translate into a vocational skill resource that can be more easily replicated again and again through faithful learners."

All rights reserved.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS

CONTACT

*The Administrative Officer
New Covenant International University & Theological Seminary
7255 South Military Trail,
Lake Worth,
Florida 33463, USA.
Email: nciu.admin@newcovenant.edu*

Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling

M.A. (CPC) - Distance-Learning Degree Program

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) PURPOSE

We live in a world of massive confusion bombarded by a cacophony of competing voices, somewhat like noisy birds all crying to be heard. Uncertainty prevails at every point, and seemingly few are able to point the way clearly forward with confidence based upon unshakeable authority.

The lack of clarity becomes more pronounced when it comes to helping the emotionally and spiritually wounded, and those with bruised or broken hearts in our midst as a gathered church body. Seemingly it has become more complicated as the church has become a representation of the global multicultural society.

The Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling has been specifically designed to develop the counseling knowledge and skills needed for those who desire to bring healing and hope to hurting people as counselors in churches, as well as Christian ministries serving both inside and outside the local church, and other related Kingdom-focused organizations.

This program has been designed to prepare you for church counseling, hospital chaplaincy, crisis pregnancy centers, family case management, or other counseling positions that do not require professional licensure, but do require you to be functionally competent in helping such wounded and needy people .

Note: Licensure and Recognition of Graduate counseling award:

In today's litigious society, almost all States within the USA require licensure and certification of all professional counselors and family therapists. It is nigh on impossible to secure acceptable third-part insurance without holding at least a graduate degree or some similar recognized professional counseling association membership to ensure the protection of both practitioner and client.

Normally, Christian Counselors employed in agency settings do not have to be licensed in order to practice, but every jurisdiction has particular requirements that must be adhered to if you wish to avoid severe punitive litigation.

It is recommended that every candidate for this award program conduct their own due diligence as to the requirements for the State or jurisdiction in which they live and seek to serve as a Christian counselor.

NCIU does not in any way accept liability for non-acceptance of the award within the student's jurisdiction.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Our goal is to help you as a Christian counseling student and practitioner, working in conjunction with a local church or associated ministry:

- Grow spiritually and psychologically so that you will be more competent as a counselor and Christian worker, and spiritually alert in your service to others.
- To create a concern for the spiritual and psychological needs of others, and an appreciation for the differences between people and cultures.
- To give you understanding of the methods and conclusions of counseling which are biblically relevant and culturally applicable to demonstrating God's compassion through the helping and healing ministry of His Kingdom.
- To enhance your counseling skills, sharpen your spiritual gifts, and facilitate the enrichment of interpersonal relationships.
- To acquaint you with the areas of tension and harmony between Scripture and contemporary psychologies, and to suggest approaches for the resolution of differences.

We believe this can best be accomplished through the attainment of the following objectives and outcomes. To prepare graduate students for biblical and psychological counseling competency dealing with the emotional, social, and spiritual needs both within the Christian community and the non-churched world interact with the local Christian community.

Graduates of this Counseling program will be required -

- § to demonstrate their ability to articulate a philosophy of counseling ministry based upon the integration of biblical, empirical, historical and social science research
- § to demonstrate their understanding of the most widely practiced counseling methods and principles
- § to design and implement assessment strategies of ministry outcomes and processes that are consistent with the ultimate biblical ends of ministry, and
- § to demonstrate they know the dynamics of psychological and spiritual wholeness.

Graduates will be expected –

- § to demonstrate increased attentiveness to their personal spiritual formation
- § to demonstrate an understanding of biblical and theological foundations for counseling
- § to demonstrate a knowledge of the value and practice of prayer, and of the major doctrines of scripture,
- § to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the counseling process, and the biblical principles and practices of confession, forgiveness, and restitution
- § to be functionally operational in spiritual warfare and intercession.

Graduates will be expected-

- § to know how to be proactive in preventing problems from developing within the family structure
- § to understand the principles and practice of small group peer counseling and support networks for emotional stasis and personal restoration
- § to understand the causes of family dysfunction, and understand the paths for help, healing and functional wholeness
- § to know how to establish objectives and goals for each individual counselee, and
- § to be able administer basic psychological tests and interpret measurement outcomes to the counselees.

Graduates will be expected -

- § to know the importance of confidentiality
- § to know the value of record keeping

- § to know the legal issues involved with a counseling ministry
- § to know when to refer a counselee for more intense therapy, as well as specialist professional help, and
- § to follow standardized procedures in assessing their own counseling performance.

Assessment of achievement in these areas are measured by a variety of tools including but not restricted to interaction between the mentor and the mentoree, satisfactory submission of academic papers and assignments, and case studies.

Students will also be assessed on their participation in supervised training and field project/internships, personal interviews, completion of an ethical standards and revision examination, as well as accumulated material in the ministry portfolio, and the written ministry and research project.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program is composed of five modules, as listed below. The student must complete all modules and units to earn 48 semester credits through the program.

- Module One (12 crs): Biblical Foundations, World Religions and Cross-cultural understanding
- Module Two (12 crs): Theory and Principles of Counseling and Psychotherapies
- Module Three (12 crs): Special focus areas of Pastoral Counseling, and Social Services Ministry Practicum
- Module Four (4 crs): Ethical Standards and Revision Examination (under proctor)
- Module Five (8crs): Thesis/field project (mutually agreed subject & research field, may also include appropriate internship)

Students can usually complete this degree in 24-30 months of full-time study, or they can pace the program over a longer period of part-time study depending upon their vocational and family demands.

There is a measure of flexibility within the program to accommodate most vocational ministries, but this must be resolved with the Adjunct Tutor/Professor assigned as mentor to each student.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Florida State legislation requires that all students enrolling in Arts Degree programs must complete or have earned 25% of the program in general education subjects. The required credit hours may be transferred into the program by RPL (Recognized Prior Learning) credit units from an approved alternate institute or accredited program.

- 1) Applicants should normally hold a GED or High School Diploma, or approved alternative recognition in general education equivalents
- 2) All students should hold either a Bachelor degree award (124-136 semester credit hours) or equivalent academic credits by composite diplomas and/or RPL units from accredited or recognized institutions.

- 3) All students must complete the NCIU Degree Application Form, which requires the standard resume information concerning the student's academic history and background in ministry, as well as their goals and dreams for the future. This information is vital to enable the faculty to build a picture of the student and their particular ministry focus, which of course is paramount to "customizing" the most suitable pathway to achieve the desired ministry objectives.
- 4) Provision is also made for mature students who do not have the prior academic qualifications to gain acceptance through "knowledge content" examinations, and/or alternative assessment based upon the validation of life-experience equivalency units.
- 5) Standard testamentary evidences including transcript documentation are required for verification of credit hours and admission as Advanced Standing status student. Full details of verification details are listed in the NCIU Degree Application Information forms.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) TRANSFER AND RPL CREDITS

Students enrolling in the NCIU graduate degree level programs may be allowed to transfer up to 24 semester credit hours total (including RPL units and validated life-experience etc). All graduate level courses in Biblical Studies, Missiology or Theology from accredited or recognized institutions will be evaluated in the assessment process.

Due however to the professional nature and standards required for this program, as well as general requirements for external certification or licensure, RPL [Recognized Prior Learning] or Transfer credit hours are not normally allowed for transfer into this degree program unless they are identical modules and components, or approved alternative courses evaluated by NCIU.

Please note:

- (a) Transfer credit in the State of Florida is solely at the prerogative of the receiving institution (NCI University & Theological Seminary).
- (b) Transfer credit is based upon evaluation of official transcripts and other documentary evidences.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolled in this program and wishing to graduate are required to

- Satisfactorily complete a total of 48 semester units as outlined in the curriculum beyond the Bachelor award level.
- Complete at least 24 semester credit units taken at this institution.
- Obtain a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale with no grade below "C+" in all courses to be credited toward graduation.
- Complete the entire program with this institution within four years from commencement, unless special circumstances are approved in writing by the institution upon application.
- Successfully pass all written assignments for each study unit as detailed in the Unit Study Guide as supplied, and or complete any additional position papers assigned by the institution as replacement unit assignments.
- Comply with all academic demands for rectification: Students, who are placed on probation after the first 15 credits, are granted one semester in which to bring their academic work up to the required level for continuance in the program. A student cannot graduate while on probation.

- Complete all practical field work and internship assignments as required, and successfully pass all written assignments for each study unit as detailed in the Unit Study Guide as supplied, and or complete any additional position papers assigned by the institution as replacement unit assignments.
- Have all financial and academic requirements satisfied 30 days before desired graduation event and release of academic transcript documentation.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) PROGRAM PATHWAY

The program is composed of five modules, as listed below, which must be completed sequentially.

All five modules must be completed with a satisfactory pass grade for the student to be granted the counseling award.

- Module 1 – General education subjects, Foundations in Bible & Theology, World Religions and Cross-cultural understanding - 12 semester credit hours (4 x 3 credit units)
- Module 2 – Core Competencies in Theory and Principles of Counseling and Psychotherapies - 12 semester credit hours (4 x 3 credit units)
- Module 3 – Special focus areas of Pastoral Counseling, and Social Services Ministry Practicum -12 semester credit hours (4 x 3 credit units)
- Module 4 – Ethical Standards and Revision Examination (under proctor) – 1 x 4 credit units
- Module 5 - Ministry Praxis and Dissertation track – (1 x 8 credits units) on mutually agreed subject and research area

MODULES 1, 2, 3 Studies & Concentration Tracks (12 credit hours each)

Modules 1, 2 & 3 - Each module earns 12 semester credit hours. Each of these modules has three individual component study and training units, as follows:

- Unit 1: Specified textual study assignment based on designated text nominated by the institution, with written assignment (2 x 3 credit units). A study guide is supplied by NCI University & Theological Seminary.
- Unit 2: Guided research and specified reading assignments. The institution will provide a recommended reading list relative to the nominated concentration. Students will normally read a total of 1,200 - 1,500 pages for 3 credit units, and are required to submit the NCIU "Reading report Form for Research Texts," upon completion of the assignment.
- Unit 3: A one- or two-week intensive seminar of classroom interaction, (either NCIU or an alternative institute) including faculty presentation and peer discussion; or a course project which applies the reading and class work to the ministry setting. Generally the project is 15-25 pages for 3 credit units.
- Note: In some locations students may not be able to attend a recognized seminar or special classroom interaction program due to a variety of factors. Where this is the case, and dialog has taken place between the student and adjunct professor, NCI University & Theological Seminary may give consent for a variation to the above being agreed to in writing. Each case must be evaluated upon its own merits. The overall

credit hour requirement will not however be reduced but must be maintained through the approved replacement module.

MODULE 4

Ethical Standards & Revision Examination Track - (4 credit hours)

Module 4 – Ethical Standards and Revision Examination (4 semester credit hours)

Each student will be required to read specified texts on the subject of Christian Ethics, and complete either a revision examination or a series of position papers to earn the prerequisite credit hour requirements.

If the student takes the option of completing a revision examination, a proctor must be appointed for the task of overseeing the student during the course of the examination.

In some situations due to location, distance or political and other security factors, this option may not be employed. In such circumstances the student will be required to complete the “ethical position paper” response.

MODULE 5

Ministry Praxis and Dissertation Track - (8 credit hours)

Module 5 – Ministry Praxis and Dissertation track (8 semester credit hours)

The fifth and final component of the Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling degree program is the ministry intervention praxis (field project) and a dissertation on the praxis.

The Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling praxis and dissertation normally requires six months of advanced preparation and another three-six months following approval to complete the module project.

Students at NCI University & Theological Seminary have carried out a wide range of ministry praxes, including training church members to provide pastoral care for those needing social care, early-child care and education development programs involving children with emotional and physical disabilities.

Graduates have also produced training and development programs for those needing spiritual healing and wholeness, as well as creating structures for the ongoing discipleship programs associated with restoration from addictive behavioral problems.

Some graduates have been able to incorporate an internship program working in conjunction with specialized ministry focus agencies, and have developed their dissertation from the intern program case analysis to assist other counselors.

Students are encouraged to begin to explore ideas and to consult with their adjunct-tutor about ideas and proposals for ministry praxis early in their degree study program.

Obviously, in choosing their ministry praxis, students would be wise to recognize their own particular gifting and skills abilities, as well as the needs of the target group to whom they will minister.

M. A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) GRADING & ASSESSMENT

Methods of Assessment

Assessment methods of Unit Assignments are shown in the individual unit guides. The accepted methods of assessment generally employed by NCIU are:

- Essays
- Examination papers
- Structured practical assessments
- Feasibility studies
- Report on projects
- Dissertation

All NCIU Unit Study Guides come complete with Written Assignment questions for the student.

In some cases, a practical project of applied theology is required due to the nature of the textual study text and special allowances are made to incorporate these into the overall grading and evaluation undertaken.

Grading Allocation

Full details of the NCIU Standardized Grading Allocation policy are detailed in the Student Handbook.

The Grading Allocation List shows the grade point percentages that can be allocated by the grader for each of the specific categories NCIU considers important in making adequate assessment of the submitted work.

Students, who fail to attain the minimum passing grade, will be asked to resubmit either the entire course, or the portion of the course needing remedy.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) DISTANCE LEARNING

This program, like all of the graduate level programs offered by NCI University & Theological Seminary is designed to be completed totally by Distance-Learning. It is not a campus-based program, although some study modules and field internships may be completed at approved alternative learning centers recognized by NCIU.

Modern Distance-learning includes a wide spectrum of learning tools such as correspondence courses, online courses, directed study courses, supervised field projects, and the writing project.

In some special study units, students may be required to attend a campus-based program for partial studies at a recognized and/or approved institution, with a credits earned being part of the total NCI program. These details are clearly stipulated in the NCIU Letter of Assessment & Offer.

Time Limits

In order to ensure that a degree, when granted, represents education that is current and reasonably focused (not acquired a little at a time over an unreasonably long period), all credit applied to the degree must be earned within the allocated time frame.

- For the Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling degree at NCI University & Theological Seminary, this period has been set at five years, without formal written extension.
- This does not include credit earned elsewhere and applied to the degree, as transfer (RPL units) credits.

- The time limit for the writing and research project is one year.
- Written extension is normally provided when there are extenuating circumstances such as prolonged illness, family death, ministry disruption or financial disaster. The program does require concentrated discipline and application.
- If a student drops out or discontinues without written notification and agreement, they will be subject to an assessment revision for readmission, with subsequent increase in fees based on fee structure at that time, not original enrolment date.

M.A. (Christian Pastoral Counseling) CONCLUSION

The proven design features incorporated into this curriculum should allow students to continue their present ministry functions while pursuing this external Master of Arts in Christian Pastoral Counseling degree program without major disruption to their vocation.

As a Distance learning degree program, the M. A. (CPC) degree study pathway can be completed entirely at the domicile location of the student.

All studies and interaction with the mentor can be conducted through electronic means and email connections.

Where necessary, the student can view special ministry class sessions via internet facilities or other electronic media.

We welcome your inquiries into this exciting opportunity to further develop your potential through the expanding of your ministry function and vision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS

CONTACT: The Administrative Officer,
New Covenant International University & Theological Seminary,
7255 South Military Trail,
Lake Worth,
Florida 33463, USA.
Email: nciu.admin@newcovenant.edu

Or go direct to our website: www.newcovenant.edu

[Click on here for PDF Distance learning Degree Application forms - \[US Letter Size\]](#)

[Click on here for PDF Distance learning Degree Application forms - \[Metric version\]](#)