



MA in Biblical Counseling (MABC)

Locations: ● Dallas ● Houston ● DC ● Extensions ● Online

Hours: 90 Languages: English

PURPOSE:

The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling degree program provides a graduate-level, biblically and theologically focused education for men and women who desire to enter into Christian counseling practice. The training prepares men and women to engage in church, institutional, or private counseling practices.

Goals

In addition to the goals common to all professional degree programs at the seminary (please refer to the Professional Master of Arts Degrees section of this catalog), students in this program will be able to:

- understand and explain the issues and problems that people face in life from a thoroughly biblical point of view;
- understand and evaluate secular and Christian psychological theories and practices from a sound biblical and theological point of view in order to develop professional competence within a thoroughly biblical framework focused on ministry;
- develop deep levels of biblical and spiritual integrity in their own personal life, relationships, and ministry;
- possess the personal and spiritual maturity, discernment, and wisdom needed to help people resolve spiritual, relational, and behavioral issues and problems; and
- engage in effective biblically based counseling in the context of a local church, private practice, or mental health institution.

Licensure

Meeting the MABC program course requirements enables a graduate to apply for licensure as a Professional Counselor (LPC) and/or a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) with the appropriate state licensing board of many states. It is important to note that the seminary only grants the degree; a state board grants the license. Earning the MABC degree does not, in itself, guarantee licensure in a particular state. Each state board makes an independent decision based on its state regulations and its determination of the applicant's completion of those requirements. Students desiring to pursue a license as a Professional Counselor (LPC) and/or a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) in a particular state should consult DTS's licensure disclosure statement online (dts.edu/mabc) for a list of states in which DTS has made a determination concerning the MABC program's qualifications for licensure. Contact information for state licensing boards is also listed on the MABC webpage in order to provide additional assistance for students interested in pursuing professional licensure. Minor program modifications, with the approval of the MABC department, may be made to satisfy some state licensing board requirements. All additional questions concerning the MABC program and qualifications for professional licensure should be directed to the Department of Biblical Counseling.

Admission Requirements

Those applying to the MA in Biblical Counseling program will need to demonstrate appropriate academic and practical preparation broadly related to the field of counseling. Admitted students are designated as MABC Stage 1.

Course Requirements

The MA program in Biblical Counseling is three years in length, with 90 credit hours of coursework required as a minimum for graduation. Students in the MABC program complete core 3-hour Bible Exposition, Systematic Theology, and Pastoral Ministries courses for 2 credit hours. The reduction in credit hours corresponds to reduced coursework requirements in each of these classes. Of the 90 credit hours required, 16 are in prescribed Bible Exposition courses, 12 are in prescribed Systematic Theology courses, and 2 are in the Christian Life and Witness course. In addition, there are 54 hours in prescribed counseling courses and 6 hours in counseling electives. No thesis is required.

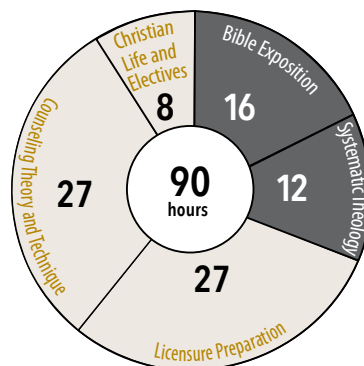
Students move from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the MABC program upon the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 24 hours of coursework, including BC5305 Counseling and Ethics Practicum I. This process normally occurs after the student's third term in the program, and involves a Personal, Academic, and Professional Progress Interview with the department faculty to help determine the student's appropriate fit for the profession. Students must successfully move to Stage 2 to continue in the program.

Students may take certain specialized counseling courses, other than those that are prescribed and/or offered in the MA in Biblical Counseling curriculum, at other accredited schools to fulfill any needed academic requirements for state licensure in other states. Biblical Counseling course transfers are subject to prior department approval, and must not exceed 15 hours. Transferring courses during a student's final term may delay graduation.

Bible Exposition		16
BE5101	Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics	2
BE5102	Old Testament History I	2
BE5103	Old Testament History II and Poetry	2
BE5104	Old Testament Prophets	2
BE5105	The Gospels*	2
BE5106	Acts and Pauline Epistles	2
BE5107	Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	2
BE5109	Ruth, Psalms, Jonah, and Selected Epistles	2
Systematic Theology		12
ST5101	Theological Method and Bibliology	2
ST5102	Trinitarianism	2
ST5103	Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology	2
ST5104	Soteriology	2
ST5105	Sanctification and Ecclesiology	2
ST5106	Eschatology	2
Counseling Theory & Technique		27
BC5201	Theological and Psychological Foundations	3
BC5210	Counseling Theory	3
BC5215	Normal Human Growth	3
BC5220	Counseling Methods and Techniques	3
BC5225	Abnormal Human Behavior	3
BC5230	Lifestyle and Career Development	3
BC5235	Social and Cultural Foundations	3
BC5240	Research Methods and Statistics	3
BC5245	Appraisal and Assessment Techniques	3

Licensure Preparation		27
BC5250	Professional Orientation and Ethics	3
BC5255	Addictions and Compulsive Behaviors	3
BC5260	Psychopharmacology for Therapists	3
BC5270	Family Systems	3
BC5280	Group Counseling	3
BC5305	Counseling and Ethics Practicum I	3
BC5310	Counseling Practicum II	3
BC5315	Counseling Practicum III	3
BC5320	Counseling Practicum IV	3
Christian Life and Electives		8
PM5101	Christian Life and Witness	2
MABC Electives		6
Total		90

*With permission, MABC students may take BE5909 Israel Study of the Bible in place of BE5105 The Gospels. Please contact the Bible Exposition office for additional information about this opportunity.



complete up to
42
hours online

CURRICULUM (MA IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING)

The following table represents the required curriculum for the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling. Students should create an individualized plan of study in light of their current realities and future ministry plans in consultation with an academic advisor. The prerequisites and corequisites for each course may be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog. The terms during which courses are offered vary by location, and the plan provided below pertains specifically to Dallas-campus course offerings. Online courses are typically offered each fall, spring, and summer term. Courses may be cancelled or offered in alternate terms as needed. Required courses are regularly offered during summer terms in intensive or hybrid formats. Please refer to dts.edu/schedule for the most updated list of available course offerings.¹

FIRST YEAR	HOURS	FALL	SPRING	ONLINE
BIBLICAL STUDIES²				
BE5101 Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics	2	●	●	●
BE5102 Old Testament History I	2		●	●
BE5105 The Gospels	2		●	●
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES²				
ST5101 Theological Method and Bibliology	2	●	●	●
ST5102 Trinitarianism	2		●	●
PASTORAL MINISTRY²				
PM5101 Christian Life and Witness	2	●	●	●
COUNSELING				
BC5201 Theological and Psychological Foundations	3	●		
BC5210 Counseling Theory	3	●		
BC5215 Normal Human Growth	3	●		●
BC5240 Research Methods and Statistics	3		●	●
BC5245 Appraisal and Assessment Techniques	3		●	
BC5255 Addictions and Compulsive Behaviors	3		●	
FIRST YEAR HOURS	30			

SECOND YEAR	HOURS	FALL	SPRING	ONLINE
BIBLICAL STUDIES²				
BE5103 Old Testament History II and Poetry	2	●		●
BE5104 Old Testament Prophets	2	●		●
BE5107 Hebrews, General Epistles, and Revelation	2		●	●
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES²				
ST5103 Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology	2	●		●
ST5104 Soteriology	2		●	●
COUNSELING				
BC5220 Counseling Methods and Techniques	3		●	
BC5225 Abnormal Human Behavior	3		●	●
BC5230 Lifestyle and Career Development	3	●		
BC5235 Social and Cultural Foundations	3	●		●
BC5250 Professional Orientation and Ethics	3		●	
BC5305 Counseling and Ethics Practicum I	3	●		
BC5310 Counseling and Ethics Practicum II	3		●	
SECOND YEAR HOURS	31			

THIRD YEAR

HOURS FALL SPRING ONLINE

BIBLICAL STUDIES²

BE5106 Acts and Pauline Epistles	2	●		●
BE5109 Ruth, Psalms, Jonah, and Selected Epistles	2		●	●

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES²

ST5105 Sanctification and Ecclesiology	2	●		●
ST5106 Eschatology	2		●	●

COUNSELING

BC5260 Psychopharmacology for Therapists	3	●		
BC5270 Family Systems	3	●		
BC5280 Group Counseling	3		●	
BC5315 Counseling Practicum III	3	●		
BC5320 Counseling Practicum IV	3		●	
Biblical Counseling Electives ³	6			

THIRD YEAR HOURS

29

- 1 Students studying at the Houston and Washington, DC, locations should contact their campus-specific academic advisor for schedule planning and course availability.
- 2 Students in the MABC program complete core 3-hour Bible Exposition, Systematic Theology, and Pastoral Ministries courses for 2 credit hours. Please contact the Registrar's office for assistance with registering for these courses.
- 3 Electives should be chosen in consultation with Biblical Counseling faculty to ensure that all licensing requirements are met for the state in which the student intends to practice. The MABC program may not meet the minimum requirements for licensure in all states.

