Graduate Studies in Psychology and Counseling

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Graduate Studies in Psychology and Counseling

• Master of Marriage and Family Therapy
• Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
• Master of Science in Psychology

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The mission of the graduate Psychology and Counseling program is to prepare competent and caring professionals who adhere to high standards of ethical behavior. Graduates of our program should be able to serve individuals of all ages and from diverse ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds. Our curriculum is informed by faith and we encourage a dialogue and integration of findings in psychology and theology.

Degrees Offered

Lipscomb’s graduate counseling program offers the following options:

• **M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling** (61 hours, including practicum and internships) prepares students to seek licensure in Tennessee as a Licensed Professional Counselor with Mental Health Services Provider designation. This program will prepare students to provide counseling services in a variety of settings including mental health centers, churches and private practice. This degree is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

• **M.S. in Psychology** (39 hours). This program allows flexibility in choosing electives for unique career goals and will enhance career opportunities in diverse areas including education, ministry, social work, health care and business. This degree is also helpful preparation for doctoral study in psychology and involves a significant research component.

• **Master of Marriage and Family Therapy** (60 hours, including practicum and internship) prepares students to seek licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. This program will prepare students to provide marriage and family therapy in a variety of settings including mental health centers, churches and private practice.

Students interested in changing graduate programs may do so with an additional interview, which may be waived at the discretion of the program director, and an internal assessment of availability and fit. It is likely when transferring programs that not all classes will be applicable to the new program. Students concerned about the transfer of hours should consult with the program director to assess degree completion requirements prior to switching programs.

Lipscomb graduate students wishing to complete a second Master’s degree may apply for the second desired program with the completion of a new application and a second interview (other requirements will be waived). Students who are admitted will be able to apply nine hours of their prior graduate course work toward the second Master’s degree at the director’s discretion.

Students who have completed a master’s degree in psychology or a related field, at Lipscomb or a different university, may be interested in course work that enables them to pursue licensure. These students must complete all application procedures and be admitted to the M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling as a non-degree seeking student (Students who completed their master’s degree at Lipscomb will only need to complete their application and interview).
Admission Policies and Procedures

Applicants to graduate programs must submit the following:

1. **Application Form.** Each applicant must complete an application form. The application form is available at lipscomb.edu/admissions/graduate then click on “Apply by Program” to complete the online application.

2. **Application Fee.** Each application should be accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee ($75 for international students). Fee will be waived for those applying before Oct. 1 for Spring semester and March 1 for fall semester.

3. **Goals Statement.** A 750-1000 word expanded goals statement concerning the applicant’s interest in the program’s curriculum and expected career progression is required.

4. **Standardized exam score.** Scores from the Graduate Record Examination are required for students seeking their first graduate course work. (For more information on the GRE, visit www.ets.org/ and click on “GRE.”)

5. **TOEFL.** The Test of English as a Foreign Language is required for international students. (See section titled International Students for more information.)

6. **References.** Three letters of reference are required. Letters should be from individuals who are familiar with your professional and/or academic achievements.

7. **Official Transcript(s).** Each applicant must submit an official transcript, showing degree conferral when appropriate, from all schools attended.

8. **Health Form.** Each accepted new student must submit a completed health form signed by a health care provider. (To print a copy of the health form, visit www.lipscomb.edu/healthcenter/forms.)

9. **FERPA:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords students certain rights of access to educational records; even if you are independent of your parents, you must submit this form prior to enrollment.

*These forms must be submitted after acceptance into the program.

All application items should be submitted to the Graduate Studies in Psychology and Counseling office by the program deadlines. Please check the website, psychology.lipscomb.edu, for application and program deadlines.

Items should be mailed to: Graduate Studies in Psychology and Counseling, Lipscomb University, One University Park Drive, Nashville TN 37204-3951.

**Transfer of Courses**
Graduate credit hours may be transferred from another accredited institution. A maximum of nine hours (or more at the program director’s discretion) will be counted toward a graduate degree. The director or appropriate faculty member of the graduate program will evaluate the course(s) being proposed for transfer and make a determination of suitability. No course with a grade below a “B” will be considered for transfer. See “Special Consideration” in front of catalog.

**Documentation**
Students are required to provide satisfactory documentation of personal identification for off-site learning experiences required in many programs of graduate study at Lipscomb University. Failure to provide proper credentials will result in failure to complete the desired course of study. For complete policy, see section entitled Required Documentation for Off-Site Learning Experiences in the opening section of this catalog.

**Student Classifications**
Students are admitted to graduate courses in one of four categories:

1. **Graduate Student:** One who has satisfied all admissions requirements. A student with an incomplete admission file will be accepted to the program at the discretion of the program director but will be placed on an academic hold which will prevent registration for the following semester. Once the proper admissions documents have been received, the hold will be removed and the student will be allowed to register for the following semester.

2. **Conditionally Admitted Student:** One who has been admitted conditionally, without satisfying all admission requirements, at the discretion of the program director. Students admitted with the following criteria may be required to complete a minimum of nine hours of graduate work with a grade of “B” or above before the conditional admission is removed.
a. With a substandard GPA or GRE score.

b. A transfer student with a graduate GPA of 3.0 or above. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.

c. As a student who has not completed a bachelor’s degree program. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.

3. **Non-Degree Student**: One who has been admitted to graduate studies and has met all admission requirements except GPA or MAT/GRE. The student may take up to nine semester hours for graduate credit (unless enrolled in a 15-hour certificate program). Those hours may be applied toward a master’s degree if the student makes a grade of “B” or better in the courses taken for credit and if all admission requirements (GPA and entrance test score) are met and the student is formally admitted to a graduate program as a degree-seeking student.

4. **Visiting Student**: One who is currently enrolled as a student in good standing at the post-bachelor’s level at another graduate school, wishes to take courses at Lipscomb and desires to have transcript evidence of course work done at Lipscomb provided for the school of primary enrollment.

5. **Probationary Student**: One who has been readmitted to a graduate program following academic suspension from the program.

Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master’s degree. Only those students who meet the requirements for “graduate student” described above are eligible for candidacy.

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**Academic Policies**

**Course Load**
A student enrolled for nine hours is considered a full-time student. A student enrolled for six hours is considered a half-time student. A student enrolled for less than six hours is considered a part-time student. No student will be permitted to enroll for more than 12 hours per semester without special approval from the director of the graduate program.

**Academic Standing**
1. **Good Academic Standing**: To remain in good academic standing, the student must maintain a cumulative 3.00 GPA and a 3.00 GPA on the most recent 12 semester hours of work.

2. **Probation**: Should the student’s cumulative graduate GPA fall below 3.00, he or she will be placed on academic probation. Additionally, earning an “F” in a course will cause a student to be placed on probation. A student on academic probation will not be allowed to enroll for more than six hours during any term the probation applies. The probationary student is required to achieve a 3.0 cumulative GPA and successfully pass any failed classes within the next nine hours of coursework. A course(s) may be repeated to achieve the requisite GPA. If the requisite GPA/grade is attained, the academic probation status will be removed.

3. **Suspension**: If the requisite GPA is not attained, the student will be suspended from graduate studies at Lipscomb for the following semester, after which the student may apply for readmission. Additionally, a graduate course in which a student earns an “F” will cause suspension for the following semester. The student may be required to appear before the graduate committee.

A graduate course in which a student has earned a “C” or “F” may be repeated. Students earning a “C” or below in a practicum or internship course will be required to repeat the course before the student may proceed to the next course in the clinical sequence. In such cases, only the higher grade will be used to compute the student’s GPA. Failing grades will provide no credit toward the degree but will be included in figuring scholarship level, unless replaced with a higher grade by repeating the course(s). A 3.00 GPA must be maintained to be eligible for financial assistance.

4. **Appeals**: Appeals to suspension decisions should be made in writing to the vice provost for academic development and graduate studies. Appeals must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Monday of the week before classes begin for the term during which the student wishes to be readmitted.
Degree Completion Requirements

Residency
No period of formal residency is required for a degree in a master's program.

Statute of Limitations
All requirements for the M.S. in psychology, M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling or the M.M.F.T degree must be completed within a five-year period from the time of initial matriculation.

Candidacy
Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master's degree. During the course of pursuing the M.S. degree, the student must be admitted to “candidacy.” For admission to candidacy the student must satisfy the following within the first twelve months following admission:

1. Complete all required undergraduate deficiencies if admitted on condition.
2. Complete at least twelve hours of graduate work.
3. Maintain a 3.00 GPA on all courses taken toward the requirements for the degree with no incomplete grades.
4. File a degree plan in the graduate program office which meets all requirements and is approved by the advisor, administrator of the graduate program and the dean of the college.

After admission to candidacy and approval of the degree plan, any changes in the degree plan must be approved by the administrator of the graduate program and the dean of the college. The application for candidacy must be filed before the beginning of the student’s last semester in the program. No student will be allowed to graduate in the same semester in which the application for candidacy is filed.

Minimum Credits
The M.S. in Psychology requires 39 semester hours, the M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling requires 61 hours, and the Master’s in Marriage and Family Therapy requires 60 hours, exclusive of hours accumulated to satisfy academic deficiencies.

Minimum GPA
The minimum cumulative grade-point average is 3.00 for all graduate courses taken for graduate credit while pursuing the degree. No grade below a “C” is acceptable. Such grades will not apply toward degree completion.

Graduation
Students must register for GN 999X the semester in which all course work will be completed for graduation. Students who do not file their intent to graduate form in the registrar’s office by the end of the first week of their last semester may be delayed in graduating. Graduate students receiving degrees are hooded during the May and December commencement exercises.

Appeals
Any exceptions to the above stated requirements would require approval via the appeal process established by the graduate academic leadership team.

Financial Information
Tuition and Fees for 2015-16

Basic charges* per semester for graduate program:
Tuition per semester hour ........................................ $898 of graduate credit (includes all general fees)
Tuition to audit without credit.............50% of regular tuition

Special Fees
Application fee .......... $50 ($75 for international students)
Application for Graduation .................. $195
Late registration .......................... $195
Printed refund check fee ............. $25
Returned check fee .......................... $30
Thesis fee (includes printing and binding) ............ $50
TouchNet (monthly payment) ......................... $60 enrollment fee per semester
Withdrawal fee .......................... $195
Internship Continuation (COUN 6910) ........ $195

Additional Expenses: Practicum and internship students are required to obtain and maintain student membership (inclusive of professional liability insurance coverage) with the American Counseling Association or with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Documentation will be required. For information on ACA membership and benefits, www.counseling.org Students. For information on AAMFT membership and benefits, www.aamft.org.

* Effective May 1, 2015
Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
(61 hours required)

The M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling offers a 61-hour curriculum designed to meet the academic requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor with Mental Health Service Provider designation. For detailed information about this licensure, see the rules of the State Board of Certification for Professional Counselors and Marital and Family Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists on our website. In addition to counseling courses, students must also adhere to the policies and requirements listed in the graduate studies in counseling program handbook. Graduation from the counseling program will require:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of a comprehensive exam
- Successful completion of one year clinical experience sequence totaling 750 hours
- Filing an application for graduation with the Registrar and completing all required paperwork.
- Recommendation of the graduate faculty

Core Courses (46 Hours):

- COUN 5103 Theories of Counseling and Personality
- COUN 5113 Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- COUN 5203 Introduction to Psychopathology and Adaptive Behavior
- COUN 5303 Lifespan Development
- COUN 5603 Research Methods and Statistics
- COUN 5703 Ethics and Professional Issues in Counseling
- COUN 5803 Integration of Psychology and Christianity Seminar
- COUN 5903 Introduction to Counseling Skills
- COUN 6053 Multicultural Issues in Counseling
- COUN 6103 Group Dynamics and Group Counseling
- COUN 6253 Career Counseling
- COUN 6303 Substance Abuse Counseling
- COUN 6603 Advanced Psychopathology
- COUN 6653 Assessment Techniques
- COUN 6703 Effective Counseling and Treatment Planning
- COUN 6951 Capstone Seminar in Counseling

Practicum Courses (9 Hours)

- COUN 6803 Practicum
- COUN 6903 Internship I
- COUN 6913 Internship II

Elective Courses (select 6 Hours)

- COUN 6003 Grief and Crisis Counseling
- COUN 6153 Marriage and Family Counseling
- COUN 6403 Psychopharmacology
- COUN 6453 Gerontology
- COUN 6503 Human Sexuality
- COUN 675V Psychological/Counseling Topics
- PSFT 6A23-99 Introduction to Play Therapy
- COUN 675V Advanced Play Therapy and Expressive Arts
- PSG 6933 Thesis I
- PSG 6943 Thesis II

Approved electives from other graduate programs at Lipscomb

Required course sequence for the first year: full-time M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (61-hour program) students entering in Fall 2015 or Spring 2016:

First Semester:

- Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling,
- Introduction to Psychopathology and Adaptive Behavior
- Theories of Counseling and Personality

Second Semester:

- Advanced Psychopathology
- Ethics & Professional Issues in Counseling
- Introduction to Counseling Skills

Third Semester:

- Effective Counseling & Treatment Planning
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Multicultural Issues in Counseling
Master of Marriage and Family Therapy (60 Hours Required)

The Master of Marriage and Family Therapy offers a 60-hour curriculum designed to meet the academic requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Tennessee. This credential allows students to provide marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples, and families in a variety of settings in the community such as mental health centers, private practices, and churches. Our program’s emphasis on faith integration would be especially helpful for those who wish to practice in faith-related settings (although students are not limited to only these settings).

The M.M.F.T. is a 60-hour, 24-month program structured in a cohort model which requires all the course work and practice necessary for students seeking LMFT licensure. Students will complete 500 hours of supervised clinical work in addition to their course work.

Courses in Sequence:

Fall I
PSFT 5103  Introduction to Systems and Family Theory
PSFT 5303  Family Life Cycle
PSFT 5903  Introduction to Counseling Skills

Spring I
PSFT 5203  Family Therapy I
PSFT 5403  Ethics and Clinical Practice
PSFT 6603  Advanced Psychopathology

Maymester I
PSFT 6733  Non-traditional Families

Summer I
PSFT 6743  Couple Therapy
PSFT 6703  Intimacy, Sexuality, and Sex Therapy
PSFT 6843  Supervised Clinical Practice I

Fall II
PSFT 6713  Family Therapy II
PSFT 6653  Family Assessment
PSFT 6853  Supervised Clinical Practice II
COUN 6103  Group Dynamics and Group Counseling (Nashville Campus—required for dual license LMFT/LPC)

Spring II
PSFT 6053  Cultural Diversity in MFT
PSFT 6863  Supervised Clinical Practice III
PSFT 5603  Research Methods and Statistics

Maymester II
PSFT 5803  Spirituality in MFT

Summer II
PSFT 6353  Treating Addiction in Families
PSFT 6723  Therapy Across the Life Cycle
PSFT 6873  Supervised Clinical Practice IV

Special Courses:
PSFT 6800  Clinical Practice Extension
PSFT 688V  Independent Study in MFT
PSFT 6XN3  Special Topics in MFT

There are three areas of specialization in the M.M.F.T program.
- Play Therapy (6 credits)
- Conflict Management (9 credits)
- Mental Health Mission (6 credits)

Note: Each specialization has either 6 or 9 credits, but would replace 6 or 9 existing hours within the traditional MFT track. Thus, the master’s degree remains the 60 hour M.M.F.T. for all students.

Master of Science in Psychology (39 hours required)

The 39-hour M.S. in Psychology is for degree-seeking students who will not seek licensure as a counselor. If attending full-time, this degree could be completed in four semesters. The courses are listed below.

Core Courses (30 Hours, 3 hours each):
PSG 5103  Theories of Counseling and Personality
PSG 5203  Introduction to Psychopathology and Adaptive Behavior
PSG 5303  Lifespan Development
PSG 5603  Research Methods and Statistics
PSG 5803  Integration of Psychology and Christianity Seminar
PSG 6613  Statistics I
PSG 6713 Biological Psychology  
PSG 6623 Statistics II  
PSG 6933 Thesis I  
PSG 6943 Thesis II

**Elective Courses (select 9 Hours):**  
COUN 5103 Counseling Theories and Techniques  
COUN 5703 Ethics and Professional Issues in Counseling  
COUN 6003 Grief and Crisis Counseling  
COUN 6053 Multicultural Issues in Counseling  
COUN 6103 Group Dynamics and Group Counseling  
COUN 6153 Marriage and Family Counseling  
COUN 6253 Career Counseling  
COUN 6303 Substance Abuse Counseling  
PSG 6403 Psychopharmacology  
PSG 6453 Gerontology  
PSG 6503 Human Sexuality  
PSG 675V Psychological/Counseling Topics  

Approved electives from other graduate programs at Lipscomb

**Suggested course sequence for Full-time M.S. in Psychology (39-hour program) students entering in Fall 2015:**

*Note: Some of the classes listed below are only offered once per year. If a student deviates from this plan, it may delay graduation. Students should consult with their advisor about any deviation from this course sequence.*

**Fall 1:**  
Theories of Counseling and Personality  
Research Methods and Statistics  
Introduction to Psychopathology and Adaptive Behavior

**Spring:**  
Lifespan Development  
Thesis I  
Elective 1  
Elective 2

**Summer:**  
Statistics I  
Integration of Psychology and Christianity Seminar  
Elective 3

**Course Descriptions**

COUN - Graduate Counseling  
PSG - Graduate Psychology  
PSG/COUN - Graduate Psychology/Graduate Counseling  
PSFT - Graduate Marriage and Family Therapy

PSG/COUN 5103 Theories of Counseling and Personality (3)  
Provides an overview of the practice of counseling, with emphasis on understanding the profession of counseling, interviewing and assessment, introduction to techniques of psychotherapy and various treatment strategies.
COUN 5113  Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling
This course provides a base of knowledge about the counseling profession, its history, philosophy and identity. Also covered are the roles & responsibilities of the professional counselor in working competently with diverse populations through personal challenges and crises toward wellness and prevention.

PSG/COUN 5203  Introduction to Psychopathology and Adaptive Behavior (3)
Presents categories of psychopathology with an emphasis on causes, diagnosis and treatment strategies. Roles of various mental health professionals involved in diagnosis and treatment of psychopathologies will be addressed. Healthy and adaptive behaviors will also be discussed.

PSG/COUN 5303  Lifespan Development (3)
This course provides a survey of human development from conception through death. Special emphasis will be given to biological, social/emotional and cognitive change as well as applications to counseling and other applied settings.

PSG/COUN 5603  Research Methods and Statistics (3)
Course designed to introduce students to research methods and statistical analyses used in psychological research. Students will be taught to critically evaluate psychological research and understand its application to counseling.

COUN 5703  Ethics and Professional Issues in Counseling (3)
Presents the current American Counseling Association code of ethics and related codes as appropriate. Steps in ethical decision making will be discussed and case studies will be presented. Students will gain an understanding of the need for ethical standards and will learn how to follow ethical guidelines. Prerequisites: COUN 5113, COUN 5203.

PSG/COUN 5803  Integration of Psychology and Christianity Seminar (3)
An in-depth consideration of psychological theories and ethics within the context of the Christian faith with a focus on areas of agreement and disagreement among theories of counseling and Christian principles. Ethical and legal issues from both Psychology and Christianity will be discussed. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5103.

COUN 5903  Introduction to Counseling Skills (3)
Introduces the development of basic counseling techniques with an introduction to counseling theory, philosophy and principles as applied to skill development.

A number of counseling approaches and techniques will be examined for student development, demonstration, and possible integration. The instructor of COUN 5903 will consult with the PRC regarding a student who fails to demonstrate proficiency in this course. Following the review of evidence regarding the student’s deficiencies,
the PRC may recommend that the student be given an “in progress” grade and provided with a performance improvement plan which will detail corrective actions necessary for successful completion of this course. Students receiving a “C” or below in the course will be required to repeat the course. A grade of “A” or “B” is required in this course in order to be considered for candidacy status. Candidacy approval is required in order to complete clinical experiences (practicum/internships). Successful completion of clinical experiences are required to be conferred a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling.

Students failing to successfully complete the PIP and/or failing to pass COUN 5903 in the semester immediately following initial registration in this course will not be allowed to continue in the program. Students dismissed from the program will be provided with encouragement and support in exploring other professions to which they are better suited.

COUN 6003  Grief and Crises Counseling (3)
The purpose of this course is to investigate the process of dying and grieving in order to learn how the normal grieving process occurs and how counselors can address with sensitivity the needs of the dying and those who are survivors of loss. Crises management strategies, including those in emergency situations will also be addressed. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

COUN 6053  Multicultural Issues in Counseling (3)
A course designed to help counselors maximize their effectiveness in working with clients from different cultures and sub-cultures. Includes counseling skills that are effective with clients with various disabilities, races, religions, sexual orientations and economic backgrounds. Prerequisite: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

COUN 6103  Group Dynamics and Group Counseling (3)
An introduction to group counseling techniques, the advantages and limitations of group counseling and group work, opportunities and challenges unique to this format and effective strategies for maximizing group effectiveness. Prerequisite: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

COUN 6153  Marriage and Family Counseling (3)
Introduction to major approaches to marriage and family counseling, including issues and challenges unique to marriage/family counseling and strategies for dealing with these challenges. Prerequisite: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

COUN 6203  Child and Adolescent Counseling (3)
Provides an overview of psychological problems and issues unique to child and adolescent clients and introduces counseling theories and techniques that are used with this population. Problems in diagnosis, treatment, rights of minors and abuse issues will be addressed. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

COUN 6253  Career Counseling (3)
Introduces students to methods used in counseling clients about career-related decisions. Provides an overview of test instruments used to evaluate skills and aptitudes, methods to give guidance for training and job placement and job interview strategies. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

COUN 6303  Substance Abuse Counseling (3)
A course for preparing students to work with substance abuse clients and to be able to refer clients to appropriate treatment. Supervised exposure to a controlled inpatient substance abuse environment is required. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203, COUN 6603.
COUN 6353 Addictive Disorders (3)
Overview how to identify, diagnose and treat common types of addictions such as chemical dependence, compulsive gambling, or sex addiction. The physical, emotional and legal consequences of addiction will also be addressed.

PSG/COUN Psychopharmacology (3)
An overview of the psychotropic drugs with emphasis on drugs that have therapeutic uses relative to clinical disorders. Basic physiological and neurological processes will be discussed along with the necessity for monitoring clients for adverse drug reactions. Prerequisite: COUN/PSY 5203.

PSG/COUN Gerontology (3)
An overview of current thinking and evidence regarding the development of older persons. Problems of illnesses will be explored along with types of possible placements for disabled elderly clients. Ways to assist caretakers in decision making about treatment, placement or referral to agencies for other assistance will be presented. Prerequisite: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

PSG/COUN Human Sexuality (3)
Overview of the physiological and psychological components of sexual behavior. Both healthy and problematic areas of sexual functioning will be studied, with special attention to diagnostic skills for identifying sexual disorders and dysfunctions and designing appropriate treatment regimens. Moral, legal and ethical issues will be addressed. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5103, COUN/PSG 5203.

PSG/COUN Assessment Techniques (3)
An overview of interviewing methods, appropriate assessment instruments and their interpretation. Students will serve as both examiner and subject in administration of psychological tests. This course is only open to students in the professional counseling program. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5603.

PSG/COUN Effective Counseling and Treatment Planning (3)
Course will provide advanced study of the process of counseling, with emphasis on treatment planning strategies, rapport building and developing counseling skills. This course is only open to students in the Professional Counseling program. Prerequisites: COUN/PSG 5603.
The course is only open to students in the professional counseling program. Prerequisites: COUN 5903, COUN 5113, COUN 5203, COUN 5103, COUN 5703, COUN 6603.

**PSG 6713 Biological Psychology (3)**  
This course surveys the biological basis of behavior. Foci will be on neuroanatomy, functioning of the nervous system, endocrine hormones and other biological and chemical influences upon behavior.

**PSG 6723 Statistics II (3)**  
This is an intermediate graduate level research course that builds on the information learned in previous statistics courses and is designed to provide students with the skills in common multivariate research designs and data analysis for the behavioral sciences. This course will prepare students to complete a master’s thesis by helping them develop research skills in conducting a multivariate research project, including data collection, analysis and interpretation.

**PSG/COUN Psychological/Counseling 675V Topics (1 to 3)**  
A course option available upon request of students and/or faculty to cover topics not covered in the regular graduate program. The course may be offered as an extension of existing courses or may cover advanced or seldom-covered areas.

**COUN 6803 Practicum (3)**  
Introductory experience in supervised counseling with clients in selected clinical settings totaling a minimum of 150 hours. Students will be supervised by the course instructor and a field supervisor and receive feedback from supervisors in order to develop counseling skills. Practicum must be approved by the clinical director prior to registration for practicum. Students should plan to start searching for practicum two semesters before they wish to start. Prerequisites: COUN 5903, COUN 5113, COUN 5203, COUN 5103, COUN 5703, COUN 6603, COUN 6703, COUN 6053, COUN 6303. Some practicum sites may require additional prerequisites. This class may be taken only by students enrolled in the clinical mental health counseling program. Proof of liability insurance (through ACA student membership) is required.

**COUN 6903 Internship I (3)**  
Intermediate experience in supervised counseling with clients in selected clinical settings totaling a minimum of 300 hours. Students will be supervised by the course instructor and a field supervisor and receive feedback from supervisors in order to develop counseling skills. Internship must be approved by the clinical director in the semester prior to beginning the internship. Proof of liability insurance (through ACA student membership) is required. Prerequisites: COUN 6803, COUN 6103.

**COUN 6913 Internship II (3)**  
Advanced experience in supervised counseling with clients in selected clinical settings totaling a minimum of 300 hours. This course should be taken during the last semester of the students’ program. Students will be supervised by the course instructor and a site supervisor and receive feedback from supervisors in order to develop counseling skills. Internship II must be arranged with the clinical director in the semester prior to beginning the practicum. Proof of liability insurance (through ACA student membership) is required. Prerequisites: COUN 6903. Permission of instructor is required.

**COUN 6910 Internship Continuation (0)**  
For students who are unable to complete the 600 hours required in Internship I and II, they may register for additional semesters of Internship Continuation until their site and face to face hours are completed (subject to approval of the site director or supervisor). Internship continuation must be approved by the clinical director in the semester prior to registration for internship continuation. Proof of liability insurance (through ACA student membership) is required.
insurance (through ACA student membership) is required. A fee will be required to register for internship continuation. This is a no credit hour course. Prerequisites: COUN 6913.

**PSG 6933 Thesis I (3)**
The student will work in collaboration with a faculty member to select a research problem, review the relevant literature, design the methodology and develop the thesis proposal. Prerequisite: PSG 5603. Permission of thesis coordinator is required.

**PSG 6943 Thesis II (3)**
The student will work in collaboration with a faculty member to collect and analyze the relevant data and present the completed thesis research in oral and written forms. Prerequisite: PSG 6933. Permission of thesis coordinator is required.

**COUN 6951 Capstone Seminar in Counseling (1)**
 Provides a review of the counseling program and is a venue for students to further explore their professional identity and plan for the licensure process. Course is to be taken in the last semester of the program and is only open to students in the clinical mental health counseling program. Prerequisite: completion of 52 hours in course work. This course should be taken in the final semester only.

**PSFT 5103 Introduction to Systems and Family Theory (3)**
This course explores the contribution of general systems theory to the development of family therapy. The focus is on examining different theoretical perspectives. Students will expand their acquired theoretical foundation by exploring the influence of their family of origin and current family life.

**PSFT - Graduate Marriage and Family Therapy**

**PSFT 5203 Family Therapy I (3)**
This course will train the CFT therapist in the theories and clinical applications that inform our practices. Throughout the semester, the student will learn the fundamental concepts of General Systems Theory as it applies to the study of couple and family therapy. The student will also examine the role of theory in philosophy, politics, epistemology, empirical investigation, and conceptual frameworks. Lecture, videotapes and role-play will be utilized in an effort to aid the students in learning and integrating four fundamental models of family therapy.

**PSFT 5303 Family Life Cycle (3)**
Developmental aspects of the family life cycle and emphasis on transition difficulties. Special focus will be given to the specialized needs of families at each stage. The focus of this course will be on integration of individual, couple, and family developmental cycle in the context of diagnosis and treatment individual and relational problems. Students will be exposed to lifespan literature as well as literature on the systemic application of this perspective for the field of marriage and family therapy. This course will include lecture, video, role playing, case study group consultation and demonstrations among other activities.

**PSFT 5403 Ethics and Clinical Practice (3)**
This course is designed to provide the student with background material associated with the major ethical, legal, and professional issues in the field of marriage and family therapy. Issues of faith will be included as they pertain to these arenas. Students will learn through lecture, group discussion, case study and presentations.
PSFT 5803  
**Spirituality in MFT (3)**
This course is designed to help the student explore family spirituality, spirituality in family therapy and the integration of psychology and theology from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Epistemological issues from the perspective of Scripture, traditional psychology, and family systems theory will be explored. Related issues include general versus specific revelation, models of integration, human nature, mental health, sin, guilt, forgiveness, moral development, sexuality and others. Application of social sciences to the church setting will be explored as well as spiritual applications in secular settings.

PSFT 5903  
**Introduction to Counseling Skills (3)**
Introduces the development of basic counseling techniques with an introduction to counseling theory, philosophy and principles as applied to skill development. A number of counseling approaches and techniques will be examined for student development, demonstration, and possible integration.

PSFT 6053  
**Cultural Diversity in MFT (3)**
A course designed to help counselors maximize their effectiveness in working with clients from different cultures and sub-cultures. Includes counseling skills that are effective with clients with various disabilities, races, religions, sexual orientations and economic backgrounds.

PSFT 6353  
**Treating Addiction in Families (3)**
Overviews how to identify, diagnose and treat common types of addictions such as chemical dependence, compulsive gambling, or sex addiction. The physical, emotional and legal consequences of addiction will also be addressed.

PSFT 6603  
**Advanced Psychopathology (3)**
Intense coverage of disorders included in the current diagnostic and statistical manual. Focus will be on developing diagnostic skills and an understanding of psychopathology. This course is only open to students in the professional counseling program.

PSFT 6653  
**Family Assessment (3)**
The focus of this course is the exploration of issues in the clinical assessment of specific clinical constructs and relational difficulties experienced in the context of couple and family systems. Students will learn about the underlying assumptions and values of contemporary assessment approaches, as well as empirically tested assessment procedures.

PSFT 6713  
**Family Therapy II (3)**
This course is designed to offer the student advanced training in conceptual and intervention skills. The primary focus will be a general overview of the postmodern family therapy approaches. Attention will be given to the conceptualization and application of these models of therapy through appropriate therapeutic technique. This course will emphasize the integration of faith and learning in order that the student might utilize their skills for Christian service and professional leadership.

PSFT 6723  
**Therapy Across the Life Cycle (3)**
Family Therapy across the Life Cycle is designed to develop therapeutic skills for individuals and families at traditional transitional points across the life cycle: childhood, adolescence and older adulthood. Additionally, problems occurring as a result of discontinuous change such as medical disability, death and divorce as well as therapeutic interventions for these challenges will also be explored.
PSFT 6733 Non-traditional Families (3)
This course will explore areas related to the uniqueness of nontraditional families and how this relates to the practice of marriage and family therapy. Students will study the family interactions, behaviors, and emotions of families who are experiencing divorce, single parenthood, remarriage and other unique family configurations.

PSFT 6743 Couple Therapy (3)
This course provides an overview of dynamics of couple relationships and basic principles of working with couples in therapeutic settings. Applications to common presenting issues in couples will also be included.

PSFT 6753 Intimacy, Sexuality, and Sex Therapy (3)
The focus of this course is to explore theories of intimacy, sexuality and sex in couples. Therapeutic interventions and approaches to sex therapy are covered.

PSFT 6843, 6853, 6863, 6873 Supervised Clinical Practice I-IV (3)
The focus of the courses is to continue the training of the student in the practice and art of counseling. Students will become knowledgeable about various therapeutic approaches, techniques and interventions. Throughout the internships students will accumulate 500 clinical client contact hours. Class format will be lecture and experiential. This class is open only to those students enrolled in the marriage and family therapy program.

PSFT 688V Independent Study in MFT (1-3)
A course offered only in special cases when a need arises and student must take an existing course outside the normal sequencing of courses or under the condition of special student need. Program director approval required.

PSFT 6A23-99 Introduction to Play Therapy
This course covers principles, history, and theories of play therapy, as well as modalities, techniques, applications, skills and how to become a registered play therapist. It includes an experiential component to develop basic play therapy skills within the context of ethical and diversity-sensitive practice. Students are invited to pursue specific interests and professional development through individualization of assignments and course activities. Prerequisites: COUN 5103, COUN/PSG 5303, COUN 5703, COUN 5903, COUN 6053

PSFT 6XN3 Special Topics in MFT (1-3)
A course option available upon request of students and / or faculty to cover topics not covered in the regular graduate program. This course may be offered as an extension of existing courses or may cover advanced or seldom-covered areas.

COUN 675V Advanced Play Therapy and Expressive Arts
This course covers advanced principles, history and philosophies of play therapy, as well as modalities, techniques, applications, and skills. It includes an experiential component to practice and apply advanced play therapy and expressive arts skills within the context of ethical and diversity-sensitive practice. While the course is designed for application within the child population, special consideration will be given to applying a child-centered play therapy approach to adolescent and adult populations. Students are invited to pursue specific interests and professional development through individualization of assignments and course activities. Prerequisites: PSFT 6A23-99, COUN 5103, COUN/PSG 5303, COUN 5703, COUN 5903, COUN 6053
Graduate Psychology and Counseling Core Faculty

Our full-time faculty consists of professors representing the areas of counseling, clinical, experimental, neuroscience, developmental and cognitive psychology. We supplement this group with several excellent part-time faculty members who are experts in their fields. For further information about each faculty member, visit our website.

J. Dale Alden III, B.S. (Freed Hardeman University), M.S. (Abilene Christian University), Ph.D. (Virginia Polytechnic University), Internship/Residency, (Vanderbilt University School of Medicine), HSPP, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling

Justin G. Briggs, B.A. (Azusa Pacific University), M.S. (Northwestern University), Ph.D. (Purdue University), Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling; Clinical Director, Master’s in Marriage and Family Therapy Program; Director, Lipscomb Family Therapy Center

Christopher J. Gonzalez, B.A. (Harding University), M.M.F.T. (Abilene Christian University), Ph.D. (University of Minnesota), Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling; Director, Marriage and Family Therapy Program

David M. Morgan, B.S. (Auburn University), M.M.F.T. (Trevecca Nazarene University), Ed.D. (Vanderbilt University), LMFT, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling

Jake Morris, B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D. (University of Mississippi), LPC, Professor of Psychology and Counseling, Director, M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

Melanie Morris, B.S., (Lipscomb University), M.S., Ph.D. (University of Mississippi), LPC, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Clinical Director, M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Program

Shanna D. Ray, B.S. (Lipscomb University), M.S. (Middle Tennessee State University), M.S., Ph.D. (Vanderbilt University), Professor of Psychology and Counseling; Chair, Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Science; Director, M.S. in Psychology Program

Douglas Ribeiro, B.S., M.S. (Freed Hardeman University), Ph.D. (Georgia State University), Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling

Frank H. Scott, B.A. (Lipscomb University), M.S. (Tennessee State University), M.S. (Abilene Christian University), Ph.D. (University of North Texas), Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling; Director, University Counseling Center

Denis’ Thomas, B.A. (Abilene University), M.Ed. (Middle Tennessee State University), Ph.D. (University of Tennessee), NCC, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling

Paul E. Turner, A.A. (Faulkner University), B.S. (Auburn University), M.A. (Southern Christian University), M.S. (Western Kentucky University), M.A., Ph.D. (University of Southern Mississippi), Professor of Psychology and Counseling