MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN SERVICES COUNSELING (M.A.)

Format
This program is delivered both in residence and online.

Purpose
The Department of Community Care and Counseling’s Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling provides students with an academic program designed to educate students in the study of human behavior and application of helping skills. Students will master coursework and review the literature in the field considered essential to the master’s-level professional preparation of human service counseling workers who seek to offer services in areas such as leadership, families, addictions and recovery, etc., that are consistent with a Biblical worldview. Though students are encouraged to evaluate their own specific needs and to take advantage of available resources for personal and professional development, the learning outcomes are applicable to all students as they seek a degree relevant to the vast field of human services. The degree does not lead directly to state licensure as a professional counselor, so students will need to examine what their state of residence requires.

Program Learning Outcomes
The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge in all core curricular areas of human services in preparation for certification and employment.
2. Conduct research and generate reports appropriate to the discipline.
3. Integrate Biblical principles with professional human service’s methods in a variety of contexts.
4. Identify and incorporate ethical and legal standards in the human services arena.

Program Specific Admission Procedures
In addition to the General Admission Procedures outlined in this Catalog, applicants to the non-licensure Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling must have:

1. An earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.);
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale).
3. Applicants for the non-licensure 30-hour Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling are not required to complete prerequisite work.

Applicants must submit each of the items listed in the General Admissions Procedures to the Office of Graduate Admissions before being considered for acceptance to the program.

Transfer of Credit
Students may transfer up to 15 semester hours of coursework into the non-licensure 30-hour Human Services Counseling program. For a transferred course to replace a Liberty University course, the following requirements must be met:

1. The school at which the course was taken must be appropriately accredited.
2. The course credit must be at least three semester hours or five quarter hours.
3. The student must have earned a grade of B or better in the course.
4. The course must overlap one of Liberty’s courses by at least 80%.

Courses related to psychology and counseling that meet all but the last criterion may be transferred in as elective courses. Course work must have been completed within the previous eight years. Transfer credits from outside Liberty University will not be accepted for the following courses: HSCO 500 Introduction to Human Services Counseling (3 c.h.) and HSCO 506 Integration of Spirituality and Counseling (3 c.h.). Credit will not be awarded for life experience or continuing education workshops.

Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits. Liberty University course work that is more than ten (10) years old must be repeated.

Course Requirements
The Department of Community Care and Counseling offers two master’s-level degree programs. The non-licensure M.A. in Human Services Counseling is designed for professionals from all walks of life dedicated not only to career advancement, but impacting tomorrow's world and the well-being of others in the spirit of Christian services. While there are some courses that can be done residually, the program was designed to be done completely online, so all courses are in that format for the students’ convenience. The degree is grounded in a core of courses developed through the Department of Community Care and Counseling. The core is reflective of the University’s mission statement and designed to provide the values, knowledge, and skills needed for effective work in the vast field of human services. This degree consists of 18 hours of human services counseling courses and a 12-hour online cognate from such graduate level academic disciplines as Marriage and Family; Crisis Response and Trauma; Addictions and Recovery; Military Resilience and varied human-service fields.

Graduation Requirements
To graduate, students in the non-licensure M.A. in Human Services Counseling programs must:

1. Complete a minimum of 30 hours.
2. A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level.
3. Have completed their required curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or better
4. No grades of D (includes grades of D+ & D-) may be applied to the Human Services Counseling degree.
5. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
6. Liberty course work that is more than ten (10) years old must be repeated.
7. The degree must be completed within five (5) years.
8. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student’s anticipated graduation date.
The non-licensure Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling program is available with a cognate in *Children, Families, and the Law*. This cognate is open only to currently enrolled Liberty University School of Law J.D. students or Liberty University School of Law Alumni. For more information on this cognate, please see the Liberty University School of Law section of this Catalog.

**Programs of Study**

**Delivery Format: Online Only**
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Addictions & Recovery
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Criminal Justice
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Crisis Response & Trauma
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Dobson Center Family Advocacy, Public Policy & the Future
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Dobson Center Marriage & Family Studies
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Dobson Center Parenting & Child/Adolescent Development
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Life Coaching
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Military Resilience

**Delivery Format: Residential and Online**
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Business
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Christian Ministries
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Executive Leadership
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Health & Wellness
- Human Services Counseling (M.A.) - Marriage & Family

**Career Opportunities**
- Behavioral Management Aide
- Career Counselor
- Case Manager
- Child Advocate
- Child Life Specialist
- Christian Counselor
- Clinical Mental Health Counselor
- Community and Social Service Specialist
- Crisis Intervention Counselor
- Dietary Counseling
- Disaster Relief Counselor
- Domestic Violence Counselor
- Family Services Specialist
- Human Services Coordinator
- Juvenile Court Counselor
- Juvenile Probation Officer
- Mental Health Specialist
- Rehabilitation Specialist
- Social Services Director
- Sports Counselor
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Victim/Witness Advocate

**Courses**

**HSCO 500 Introduction to Human Services Counseling 3 Credit Hour(s)**
This course explores the historical context and the current structure of the Human Service field. Students will be exposed to the primary intervention strategies utilized in human services including interviewing, case management and facilitating groups. The special populations served in the Human Service profession will be examined. Topics including values and ethical dilemmas, the social welfare system, diversity, program planning, organizing and changing systems, legal issues, staying current and avoiding burnout will be considered.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**HSCO 502 Human Growth and Development 3 Credit Hour(s)**
Prerequisite: HSCO 500 (may be taken concurrently)
This course explores individuals throughout the lifespan in the areas of cognitive, personality, physical, and social development specifically through the examination of various theories. Understanding development crises, specific interventions, and optimal wellness are key content areas within this course. Additionally, this course provides a framework for understanding the impact of various situational, environmental, and sociocultural factors on individuals and their families and communities.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**HSCO 506 Integration of Spirituality and Counseling 3 Credit Hour(s)**
Students critically examine how a Christian worldview and a client’s spirituality impact the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning process in counseling. Ethical, diagnostic, and assessment issues relevant to the use of Christian spiritual interventions with appropriately religious individuals, couples, and families are considered, along with current research related to spirituality and counseling.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**HSCO 508 Studies in Interpersonal Communication 3 Credit Hour(s)**
An interactive learning experience designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of self and the ‘listening-to-understanding’ skills which facilitate improved interpersonal communications in establishing and maintaining relationships with God and others.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**HSCO 509 Multicultural Issues in Human Services 3 Credit Hour(s)**
This course examines contemporary scholarship on race/ethnic relations and addresses issues of racial/ethnic identities, gender inequality, and disability discrimination. It will examine social stratification by looking at various public policy arenas, social institutions, and the history of group marginalization. The course employs case studies, various readings, and theoretical and empirical literature on racial/ethnic relations, gender, and disability issues.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**HSCO 511 Group Dynamics 3 Credit Hour(s)**
This course involves the study of human beings in relationship to other persons, singularly and in groups. The course explores-in theory and through in-class exercises - the real-life application of various aspects of group dynamics including (but not limited to) leadership, motivation, perception, power, and decision-making.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

**HSCO 597 Seminar in Human Services Counseling 3 Credit Hour(s)**
An intensive study of a specific subject in human services counseling. This course allows variation in the approach and content of the regular curriculum.