PASTORAL COUNSELING (M.A.) - MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2026 through summer 2027. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

Code	Title	Hours
Program Courses		
PACO 500	Introduction to Pastoral Counseling [1]	3
PACO 501	Foundational Doctrines for Pastoral Counselors [1]	3
PACO 509	Spiritual Formation in Pastoral Counseling	3
PACO 510	Human Suffering in Pastoral Counseling	3
PACO 604	Crisis Intervention in Pastoral Counseling	3
PACO 615	Marriage and Family Counseling	3
PACO 617	Theories and Techniques in Pastoral Counseling	3
PACO 679	Pastoral Counseling Capstone [2,3]	3
or PACO 699	Pastoral Counseling Internship	
Total Hours		**24**

1 PACO 500 and PACO 501 are required first entry courses for all students in this degree
2 May register for PACO 699 after successfully completing 21 hours
3 Background check clearance required for PACO 699

Code	Title	Hours
Marriage and Family Cognate		
Choose four of the following courses:		*12*
PACO 603	Premarital and Marital Counseling	
PACO 618	Advanced Marriage and Family Counseling	
PACO 620	Counseling the Adolescent and Their Families	
PACO 625	Healthy Sexuality	
PACO 687	Counseling Women	
Total Hours		**12**

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 36 hours
- 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
- 2.5 GPA
- No grade of D or below may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ & D-)
- Liberty University course work that is more than 10 years old may not be applied towards this degree. Students are required to repeat the course if it has exceeded the age limit
- Degree must be completed within 5 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Resident & Online Format

Course Sequence

First Year		
First Semester		**Hours**
PACO 500	Introduction to Pastoral Counseling [1]	3
PACO 501	Foundational Doctrines for Pastoral Counselors [1]	3
PACO 510	Human Suffering in Pastoral Counseling	3
	Hours	**9**
Second Semester		
PACO 509	Spiritual Formation in Pastoral Counseling	3
PACO 604	Crisis Intervention in Pastoral Counseling	3
PACO 615	Marriage and Family Counseling	3
	Hours	**9**
Third Semester		
PACO 617	Theories and Techniques in Pastoral Counseling	3
Elective [2]		3
Elective [2]		3
	Hours	**9**
Fourth Semester		
PACO 679	Pastoral Counseling Capstone [3,4]	3
Elective [2]		3
Elective [2]		3
	Hours	**9**
	Total Hours	**36**

1 PACO 500 and PACO 501 are required first entry courses for all students in this degree
2 Choose one of the following courses: PACO 603, PACO 618, PACO 620, PACO 625 or PACO 687
3 May register for PACO 699 after successfully competing 21 hours
4 Background check clearance required