

6.5 Master of Arts (M.A.) in Pastoral Counseling

a. Purpose of the Degree

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling degree is to equip persons with core counseling approaches and practices for future ministry purposes. It will be built upon solid theological and psychological knowledge in applying for pastoral counseling.

b. Primary Goals of the Program

The primary goals for this program include: i) the capacity for learning Christian ethics; ii) equipment with basic skills in the design, implementation, and assessment on pastoral counseling which will be sensitive to different church cultures and contexts; and iii) an understanding of the various approaches and issues relating to pastoral counseling.

c. Requirements for Admission

Admission requirements shall include: i) a B.Th. degree or other bachelor's degree with a major in Christianity, or equivalent from an institution recognized by LTS; ii) proficiency in both English and Chinese; iii) applicants should have the interests, aptitudes, personal qualities, and academic record indicating the ability to engage in graduate-level study for academic pursuits and personal development; and iv) applicants should have a passing grade in Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice or CP2001 Christian Counseling (3 credits) or equivalent as pre-requisite; otherwise admitted students should fulfill the requirement via the course at LTS on a free elective-credit basis. For more information, see VI. Enrollment Procedures.

d. Content

Students are required to take 3 Core Courses, 3 Guided Electives in counseling courses, and 2 Free Electives; the counseling practicum is optional. The counseling practicum will only be started after finishing the required counseling courses (please refer to the *Counseling Practicum Handbook*) and with the permission of the program coordinator. If applicable, students are required to pay an extra practicum fee apart from the tuition.

e. Courses Required

i) Core Courses	credits
CP2006 Crisis Counseling; or	
CP2007 Grief Counseling	3
CP2008 Short-termed Pastoral Counseling; or	
CP2011 Essential Counseling Skills	3
CP2015/CT2003 Christian Counseling Ethics	3
subtotal	9

ii) Guided Electives on Counseling and Psychology (CP)	credits
3 courses	9
iii) Free Electives	
2 courses*	6
<hr/> Total Credits Required for Graduation	24

* CP3004 Pastoral Counseling Practicum may be counted as one course in free electives.

f. Credits

Full-time students in the M.A. program normally take 12 credits in each semester. In exceptional cases, permission to take an additional 3 credits may be granted.

g. Duration

The degree requires one academic year of full-time study or the equivalent. If applicable, students are required extra time for the pastoral counseling practicum. The time allowed for completion of the program on a part-time basis may not exceed three times that of the full-time program.

h. Requirements for Graduation

- i) Students must complete the program requirements with a GPA of 2.30 or above; and
- ii) satisfactorily meet the standard or requirements of LTS.

i. Further Study

If a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling degree holder continues to study for the Master of Divinity (M.Div.2-yr) at LTS, a maximum of 12 credits can be exempted.