

11. Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MA-CC)

a. Program Goals

The Master of Arts in Christian Counseling degree program aims to nurture and equip Christians to become a servant companion counselor or a servant professional counselor. This program highlights blending elements of Christian faith and spiritual direction into counseling theories and practices. Experiential learning like personal growth, spiritual formation, communal interaction, counseling practicum and others equips students to become Christian counselors of high quality to establish and develop a caring ministry of Christian counseling service.

After completion, students would acquire: i) enhancement of personal growth to help themselves and others; ii) mastery and application of the Christianity and spiritual direction on counseling theories and practices; iii) an understanding of the psychology and spiritual needs of various serving population across different phases of life; iv) an understanding of various critical issues in counseling including but not limited to mental health, culture, research and assessment for counseling; v) mastery and application of the Christian counseling ethics code in practice; vi) application of what have learned to counseling, caring or related ministry.

b. Requirements for Admission

Admission requirements shall include: i) a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an institution recognized by LTS; ii) two prerequisite courses (6 credits) of Essential Counseling Skills and Personal Growth; otherwise, admitted students should fulfill the requirement via the course at LTS on an extra-credit basis; the prerequisite courses can also be exempted by the Foundation Certificate in Christian Counseling from the Companion LeShalom Centre; iii) applicants must have been baptized for at least one year prior to application for study; iv) applicants should have the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for this program; v) the ability to engage in graduate-level study for academic pursuits and personal development. For application, see VII. Enrollment Procedures.

c. Program Content

Students are required to take 21 credits of basic counseling theoretical and practical courses, 6 credits of integrative counseling and theological courses, 9 credits of guided electives, 6 credits of counseling practicum (stream B) or free electives (stream A), and plus 15 sessions of personal growth counseling. Students are required to pay extra fees for practicum supervision, exams, personal growth counseling and camps apart from the tuition (charges according to the scale of related institutes). Students opting for the professional counseling practicum will incur the final assessment exam.

i) Basic Counseling Theoretical and Practical Courses*¹ credits

Core Courses

CP2012 Theories and Practice in Group Counseling	3
CP2034 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	3
CP2036 Counseling Theories and Practices	3
CP2043/SW2046 Developmental Psychology and Spiritual Growth	3
CP2047 Professional Counseling Ethics	3
CP3016 Research and Assessment for Counseling	3
CP3017 Advanced Christian Counseling Theories and Techniques	3
subtotal	21

ii) Integrative Counseling and Theological Courses*¹ credits

CT1000 Introduction to Christian Ethics	3
DM2009 Dogmatics (Module A); or	
CP2050 Counseling and Anthropology	3
subtotal	6

iii) Guided Electives (choose 3 courses)*¹ credits

Integrative Counseling Courses

- CP2026/SW2021 Emotions & Spirituality
- CP4001/SW4001 Integrative Seminar on Counseling and Spiritual Direction

Theory and Practice in Different Populations

- CP2002 Child Counseling
- CP2003 Adolescent Counseling
- CP2004 Geriatric Counseling
- CP2005 Marital Counseling
- CP2007 Grief Counseling
- CP2014 Theories and Practice of Family Therapy

subtotal	9
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iv) Counseling Practicum*² credits

CP2040 Counseling Practice: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	1
CP2041 Counseling Practice: Essential Counseling Skill	1
CP3024-3025 Professional Counseling Practicum I & II; or	
CP3028-3029 Companion Counseling Practicum I & II; or	
CP3028 Companion Counseling Practicum I & CP3019 Group Counseling Practicum	2
CP3032 Assessment for Counseling Tutorial and Exam	1
CP3033 Counseling Ethics Tutorial and Exam	1
subtotal	6

v) Others

Personal Growth Counseling (15 sessions)

Stream A (Theoretical Based)

credits

Basic Counseling Theoretical and Practical Courses	21
Integrative Counseling and Theological Courses	6
Guided Electives	9
Free Electives	6

Total Credits Required for Graduation	42
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Stream B (Professional/Pastoral/Companion Practicum)

credits

Basic Counseling Theoretical and Practical Courses	21
Integrative Counseling and Theological Courses	6
Guided Electives	9
Counseling Practicum	6

Total Credits Required for Graduation	42
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- *1 Under special circumstances, a student may take courses out of the above list with the approval of the adviser in advance.
- *2 Counseling practicum will be started only after finishing the required counseling courses and with the permission of the adviser.

d. Credits

Full-time students in the MA-CC program normally take a maximum of 18 credits in each semester.

Conditions	Credit Exemption
i) graduate of graduate certificate or graduate diploma or a master's degree programs in the Theological Education by Extension	a maximum of half of the earned credits with a grade of 'B+' or above
ii) Bachelor of Christian Studies in Christian Counseling degree holder	a maximum of 18 credits
iii) a bachelor's degree holder with the Higher Diploma in Christian Counseling	a maximum of 15 credits
iv) a master's degree holder with a major in professional counseling in a recognized institution	a maximum of 18 credits

e. Remarks

Student in the MA-CC program, may be completed solely by taking evening and Saturday courses.

f. Duration

This program requires three academic years. The time allowed for completion of the program may not exceed nine years.

g. Requirements for Graduation

- i) Students must complete the program requirements with a GPA of 2.50 or above; and
- ii) complete 15 sessions of personal growth counseling; and
- iii) complete and pass the final assessment exam if professional counseling practicum is included; and
- iv) satisfactorily meet the standard or requirements of LTS.
- v) The graduation diploma will be shown as Theoretical Based, Professional Practicum, Pastoral Practicum, or Companion Practicum for different schemes.

h. Further Study

If a MA-CC program student wishes to transfer to the Master of Divinity (MDIV) program at LTS, with or without applying for the conferral of the degree, a maximum of 27 credits may be counted toward that degree. If the degree is conferred, exemptions cannot exceed one-half of the credits earned for that award. Students are required to undertake a minimum of two and a half academic years of study in the MDIV program. For the relevant application, see VI. I. Changes in Registration.

If a MA-CC degree holder with a Bachelor of Theology degree continues to study for the Master of Divinity with Theological Degree (MDIV-T) program at LTS, a maximum of half of the earned credits can be exempted.

If a MA-CC degree holder continues to study for the Master of Arts program in a specific emphasis (MA-BS/MA-CM/MA-CS/MA-SD) or Master of Arts in Theology (MA-T) program at LTS, a maximum of 18 or 21 credits can be exempted respectively.