

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

This program can also be completed by taking courses in the evening and Saturday solely.

### **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 VI. Enrollment Procedures.

### **c. Program Content**

Students are required to take 5 credits of experiential courses, 24 credits of basic counseling theoretical and practical courses, 9 credits of guided electives on counseling, 4 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, personal growth counseling and camps apart from the tuition (charges according to the scale of related institutes).

<b>i) Experiential Courses</b>	credits
CP2039 Experiential Process in Counseling	5
<b>ii) Basic Counseling Theoretical and Practical Courses*<sup>1</sup></b>	credits
CP2012 Theories and Practice in Group Counseling	3
CP2034 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	3
CP2035 Satir Transformational Systemic Therapy	3
CP2036 Counseling Theories and Practices	3
CP2037/CT2007 Counseling Ethics and Culture	3
CP2043/SW2046 Developmental Psychology and Spiritual Growth	3
CP3016 Research and Assessment for Counseling	3
CP3017 Advanced Counseling Theories and Techniques	3
subtotal	24
<b>iii) Guided Electives on Counseling (3 courses)*<sup>1</sup></b>	credits
Integrative Counseling Courses	
CP2010/OT2032/NT2037 Biblical Perspectives on Christian Counseling	
CP2026/SW2021 Emotions & Spirituality	
CP2038/SW2045 Kardia Formation and the Spiritual Exercise	
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
<b>iv) Counseling Practicum*<sup>2</sup></b>	credits
CP2040 Counseling Practice: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	1
CP2042 Counseling Practice: Satir Model	1
CP3024-3025 Professional Counseling Practicum I & II; or	
CP3028-3029 Companion Counseling Practicum I & II; or	
CP3028 Companion Counseling Practicum I and CP3019 Group Counseling Practicum	2
or	
CP3020 Pastoral Counseling Practicum I	3
CP2040 or CP2042	1
subtotal	4
<b>v) Others</b>	
Personal Growth Counseling (15 sessions)	

**Stream A (Theoretical Based)**

	credits
Experiential Courses	5
Basic Counseling Theoretical and Practical Courses	24
Guided Electives on Counseling	9
Free Electives	4
<b>Total Credits Required for Graduation</b>	<b>42</b>

**Stream B (Professional/Pastoral/Companion Practicum)**

	credits
Experiential Courses	5
Basic Counseling Theoretical and Practical Courses	24
Guided Electives on Counseling	9
Counseling Practicum	4
<b>Total Credits Required for Graduation</b>	<b>42</b>

- \*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. Duration**

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

**f. 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) 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.

**g. Further Study**

If a MA-CC degree holder continues to study for the Master of Divinity (MDIV) program at LTS, or for the Master of Divinity with Theological Degree (MDIV-T) program with a Bachelor of Theology degree, 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-CS/MA-SD/MA-D/MA-M) or Master of Arts in Theology (MA-T) program at LTS, a maximum of 18 or 21 credits can be exempted respectively.