



COUN5202 Counseling in Ministry

**Division of Counseling
Spring 2021 Classroom**

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MISSION STATEMENT

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE COUNSELING PROGRAM

The mission of the NOBTS Counseling Program is to provide training and supervised experience in evidence-based counseling methods to help people deal with life issues in a biblically sound way and prepare students for licensure in counseling and counseling-related professions. We seek to produce graduates who have the values, knowledge, skills, and personal disposition to promote the mental health and holistic wellness of clients across diverse populations.

SYLLABUS DISTRIBUTION

This syllabus is distributed at the beginning of the semester for review and can be found electronically in the course Blackboard shell.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of Christian counseling and basic counseling skills. Biblically-based foundations and approaches to counseling will be examined. In addition, the class will address skill development and application and will examine counseling issues such as marital and family relationship problems, depression, anxiety, anger, forgiveness and reconciliation, substance abuse problems, and spiritual direction.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In order to perform counseling effectively with the knowledge and skills necessary, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to understand the basic foundations and dimensions of biblically-based Christian counseling, including theological, pastoral, historical, scientific, and psychological elements and counseling models.
2. Be able to apply a biblically-based knowledge of pastoral care and counseling to the difficulties commonly faced by church members and their families.
3. Be able to evaluate personal limits in counseling and to know how and when to make appropriate referrals.
4. Be able to communicate effectively using basic counseling skills.

TEACHING METHODS

This course meets twice per week in a live classroom experience. Each week you will be asked to interact with different types of materials, including lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, class texts, videos, exercises or practical activities, and responses from other students.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Bible—your preferred translation

Jones, Ian F. (2006). *The Counsel of Heaven on Earth: Foundations for Biblical Christian Counseling*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman. (Available from [Amazon](#) and from [LifeWay online](#).)

Sphar, Asa R. III, and Argile Smith (2003). *Helping Hurting People: A Handbook on Reconciliation-Focused Counseling and Preaching*. University Press of America, Inc. ISBN# 0-7618-2477-4 (Available from [Amazon](#) and electronically through [wordsearchbible.com](#))

Collins, Gary. (2007). *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*. Revised and Updated Third Edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. ISBN# 13: 978-1-4185-0329-1

RECOMMENDED READING

(Although these books are not required, they provide helpful information for further study in areas covered by the course.)

Ash, Christopher (2016). *Zeal Without Burnout: Seven keys to a lifelong ministry of sustainable sacrifice*. London, UK: The Good Book Company. ISBN-13: 978-1784980214

Bolton, Robert (1979) *People Skills: How to Assert Yourself, Listen to Others, and Resolve Conflicts*. New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster.

Clinton, Timothy, & George Ohlschlager (Eds.). (2002). *Competent Christian Counseling, Volume One: Foundations & Practice of Compassionate Soul Care*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: WaterBrook Press.

Clinton, Tim, Archibald Hart, & George Ohlschlager (Eds.). (2006). *Caring for People God's Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Reference & Electronic.

Ripley, J. and Worthington, E. (2014). *Couple Therapy: A New Hope-Focused Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. ISBN-13: 9780830828579

Sande, Ken (2004). *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*. Third Edition, Revised and Updated. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books.

Thomas, Alan (2017). *Tackling Mental Illness Together: A Biblical and Practical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. ISBN: 978-1-7835-9559-4

Yarhouse, Mark. (2010). *Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers. ISBN-13: 978-0764207310

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Examinations:

Midterm—20%

Final—20%

Exams will cover material from assigned readings and PowerPoint presentations. They will be posted on Blackboard, along with instructions.

Resource Guide:

20%

Students will submit a resource guide for their own ministry context or anticipated ministry context. The guide must include local mental health referral resources and quality online resources. See the assignment description in Blackboard for details.

Book Review:

15%

Students will write a book review of not less than five pages, excluding cover sheet, of the book *The Counsel of Heaven on Earth* by Ian F. Jones. The review will be double spaced, in accordance Turabian style. The book review should include (1) a brief summary of content, (2) an evaluation of the strengths and limitations of the work, and (3) its applicability to Christian ministry and counseling. Submit the review on Blackboard at the designated place under Assignments.

Research Paper:

25%

Students will write a research essay on a counseling issue of approximately 15 pages in length, not counting cover sheet or bibliography. Please refer to the assignment description in the Blackboard Assignments folder for details and a list of possible research topics. The paper should consist of:

1. An introduction to a counseling topic, including definitions, description and extent of the problem, and significant related issues
2. An exploration of the mental health field addresses and/or treats this issue (best practices)
3. An exploration of how the Scripture speaks to the issue and how you could integrate Scripture and Christian faith into treatment and ministry
4. A basic plan for how you, as a person in your area of ministry, could address the problem with a counselee and with your larger ministry context (where you minister or plan to minister). See assignment folder for details and helps.

The paper will include a bibliography with a minimum of fourteen (14) references that may include the texts for this course. See assignment description in Blackboard for specific requirements. Possible sources for information include quality books on the subject, counseling texts, academic journal articles, professional organizations dedicated to addressing the problem, Bible commentaries, internet articles or sources, etc.—one place to start your search is the syllabus bibliography.

Papers will be scanned for plagiarism. (See the seminary statement in the Student Handbook under General Policies [p. 9] at <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf>)

The paper should conform to Turabian style as interpreted by the approved **NOBTS Style Guide**. A copy of the approved **NOBTS Style Guide** can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Rubric for Research Paper

Research Paper	Unacceptable (0)	Basic/Poor (70)	Competent/Fair (80)	Good (90)	Excellent (100)
Introduction to the Topic	0% Missing	70% (3.5 pts.) Introduction fails	80% (4 pts.) Introduction is	90% (4.5 pts.) Introduction	100% (5 pts.) Well-written

Weight: 15%		to address the structure and nature of the paper	present, but incomplete.	covers the content, but it is not clearly articulated	introduction to the paper
Treatment and Best Practices Weight: 15%	0%	70% (10.5 pts.) Subject matter is missing.	80% (12 pts.) Inadequate discussion of subject matter.	90% (13.5 pts.) Adequate discussion of the subject matter	100% (15 pts.) Excellent discussion of the subject matter
Biblical perspective and integration Weight: 15%	0%	70% (10.5 pts.) Discussion of basic counseling skills and assessment is missing or not adequately addressed	80% (12 pts.) Incomplete discussion of basic counseling skills and assessment.	90% (13.5 pts.) Some basic counseling skills are identified with limited assessment.	100% (15 pts.) Basic counseling skills are identified and comprehensively assessed.
Application to individual counseling and ministry setting Weight: 15%	0%	70% (21 pts.) Discussion on a counseling issue is missing or fails to adequately address the issue	80% (24 pts.) Incomplete discussion of a counseling issue, lacking biblical insights, interventions, evaluation, and use of research	90% (27 pts.) Counseling issue is discussed along with some biblical insights, interventions, critical evaluation, and use of research	100% (30 pts.) Excellent examination of a counseling issue, including biblical insights, appropriate interventions, critical evaluation, and use of evidenced- based research
Conclusion Weight: 10%	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Conclusion missing	80% (4 pts.) Incomplete conclusion, failing to draw contents of the paper together	90% (4.5 pts.) Adequate conclusion, but fails to tie all areas of the paper together	100% (5 pts.) Excellent concluding summary drawing together and applying all components of the paper
Organization, Grammar and Spelling Weight: 10%	0%	70% (7 pts.) Paper lacks organization and is not clearly structured; many style, spelling and grammar errors	80% (8 pts.) Incomplete or unclear organization and numerous style, spelling, and grammar errors	90% (9 pts.) Paper is adequately organized, with few style, spelling, or grammar errors	100% (10 pts.) Paper is well-organized, with no obvious style, typographical, spelling or grammar errors
Bibliography	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Bibliography is	80% (4 pts.) Bibliography is	90% (4.5 pts.) Bibliography	100% (5 pts.) Bibliography is

Weight: 10%		missing or lacks use of basic books and articles in the field	lacking, failing to meet minimum requirements	is adequate, generally meeting minimum requirements	comprehensive and relevant to the subject, with use of significant supporting books and journal articles and a minimum of 14 references as assigned
Format Weight: 10%	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Form and writing does not meet Turabian guidelines. Many significant errors	80% (4 pts.) Form and writing only minimally follows Turabian guidelines and contains numerous errors	90% (4.5 pts.) Form and writing does not completely follow Turabian guidelines. Some errors	100% (5 pts.) Form and writing follows Turabian guidelines, with no obvious errors

Part One: Draft Research Paper (5%)

Each student will write a first draft of the research paper. The draft must be a complete paper. This draft will be submitted to the *NOBTS Writing Center* by the due date in the course schedule. Students will certify their writing center submission on Blackboard. Information about the Writing Center and the process for submitting papers can be found at <http://www.nobts.edu/writing>.

Part Two: Final Research Paper (20%)

Submit the final research paper via the Blackboard assignment link by the due date specified in the course schedule.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- 1. Exam 1 (Midterm) 20%
- 2. Exam 2 (Final) 20%
- 3. Resource Guide 20%
- 4. Book Review 15%
- 5. Draft Research Paper 5%
- 6. Final Research Paper 20%

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale is used at NOBTS. See the Graduate Catalog, available online at <https://catalog.nobts.edu/>:

- A: 93-100
- B: 85-92
- C: 77-84
- D: 70-76
- F: Below 70

Due Dates and Times:

All assignments are due on their respective due dates as detailed in the Reading and Assignments Schedule. Assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time) on the dates they are due. *Late assignments will be assessed a 4-point per day penalty.*

If technical difficulty precludes your submitting an assignment through Blackboard, you may email it as an attachment to the instructor or the grader and it will be graded according to the date & time stamp on your email. Please use the email option only as a last resort.

Reading and Assignments Schedule

CC = Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide. HHP = Helping Hurting People

Week #	Class Meeting Dates	Reading & Assignments Schedule
1	1/19, 1/21	CC: Ch. 1-5 HHP: Ch. 1 Foundations; Biblical Basis for Counseling; Historical Perspectives
2	1/26, 1/28	CC: Ch. 6-7 Counselor Qualities Legal and Ethical Issues; Multicultural Issues Due: Book Review (1/30/20, end of day)
3	2/2, 2/4	CC: Ch. 8-9 HHP: Ch. 2, 3 Depression & Anxiety; Basic Skills
4	2/9, 2/11	CC: Ch.10-12 Guilt and Shame; Cognitive Therapy
5	2/18	2/16 is Mardi Gras: No Class Meeting
		CC: Ch. 13-17 HHP: Ch. 4 Counseling through the generations
6	2/23, 2/25	CC – Ch. 34-35 Addictions to substances and behaviors Pornography
7	3/2, 3/4	CC: Ch. 19-20 Sexual Issues within and apart from Marriage Sexual Dysfunctions
8	3/9, 3/11	Midterm Exam: may be taken on Blackboard anytime from 3/11 at 9:30 AM through 3/22 at 11:59 PM

9	<i>3/15, 3/19 Spring Break No class meetings</i>	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS MEETINGS
10	<i>3/23, 3/25</i>	CC: Ch. 21 Homosexuality Gender Dysphoria Due: Draft Research Paper to Writing Center (10/26/19, end of day)
11	<i>3/30, 4/1</i>	CC: Ch. 36-37 Finances; Vocational Counseling
12	<i>4/6, 4/8</i>	Preventing Abuse in Churches and Organizations Caring for Victims of Abuse and Trauma
13	<i>4/13, 4/15</i>	CC: 33 Serious Mental Illness Overview Mental Illness and the Church Due: Final Research Paper (4/15/21, end of day)
14	<i>4/20, 4/22</i>	CC: 27-32 Premarital Counseling Marriage Counseling
15	<i>4/27, 4/29</i>	CC: Ch. 25 Grief; Suicide Brief Counseling Approaches
16	<i>5/4, 5/6</i>	CC: Ch. 22 Crisis and Trauma Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence
Final Exam	<i>5/13/2021 9:00-11:00</i>	Final Exam, 9:00-11:00 <i>to be taken on Blackboard in class for classroom-based students (online for NOLA2U FLEX students)</i>

Course Policies

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date in the syllabus. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by four (4) points per day.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in

the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Help for Writing Papers at the NOBTS Writing Center

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not offered in this course. Students with hardships, emergencies, or other situations impacting academic performance are encouraged to contact the professor as soon as possible to explore options appropriate to their specific situations.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

- Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Policies

Academic policies relating to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

Online Course Reminder/Warning

Online courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this online course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that an online course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Selected Bibliography

The following texts represent some of the resources in the field. The list should be consulted as a departure point for gathering references for use in the research paper.

- Adams, Jay E. *Competent to Counsel*. Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1970.
- Adams, Jay E. *More than Redemption: A Theology of Christian Counseling*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1979.
- Aden, Leroy, & Benner, David G. (eds.) *Counseling and the Human Predicament: A Study of Sin, Guilt, and Forgiveness*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1989.
- Allport, Gordon W. *Becoming: Basic Considerations for a Psychology of Personality*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1955.
- Allport, Gordon W. *Personality: A Psychological Interpretation*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1937.
- Ash, Christopher (2016). *Zeal Without Burnout: Seven keys to a lifelong ministry of sustainable sacrifice*. London, UK: The Good Book Company. ISBN-13: 978-1784980214
- Augsburger, David W. *Pastoral Counseling Across Cultures*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
- Beck, James R. *Jesus and Personality Theory: Exploring the Five-Factor Model*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Beck, J. T. *Outlines of Biblical Psychology* (Translated from the Third Enlarged and Corrected German Edition, 1877.) Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1877. (First German Edition, 1843).
- Beck, James R., & Demarest, Bruce. *The Human Person in Theology and Psychology: A Biblical Anthropology for the Twenty-First Century*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 2005.
- Becvar, D. S., & Becvar, R. J. *Family Therapy: A Systemic Integration*, 3rd ed. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon, 1996.
- Belgum, David. *Guilt: Where Religion and Psychology Meet*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Augsburg Publishing House, 1970.
- Benner, David G. *Care of Souls: Revisioning Christian Nurture and Counsel*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1998.
- _____. (ed.) *Christian Counseling and Psychotherapy*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1987.
- Benner, David G., & Hill, Peter C. (Eds.) *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology and Counseling*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1999.

- _____. *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structural Model*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1992.
- Berkley, James D. *Called into Crisis: The Nine Greatest Challenges of Pastoral Care*. The Leadership Library, Vol. 18. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today/Word, 1989.
- Boa, Kenneth. *Augustine to Freud: What Theologians & Psychologists Tell Us About Human Nature (and Why It Matters)*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2004.
- Bobgan, Martin and Deirdre. *Competent to Minister: The Biblical Care of Souls*. Santa Barbara, CA: EastGate Publishers, 1996.
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- Bolton, Robert (1979) *People Skills: How to Assert Yourself, Listen to Others, and Resolve Conflicts*. New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster.
- Browning, Don S. *Atonement and Psychotherapy*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1966.
- _____. *The Moral Context of Pastoral Care*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976.
- Brush, Nigel. *The Limitations of Scientific Truth: Why Science Can't Answer Life's Ultimate Questions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2005.
- Buchanan, Duncan. *The Counselling of Jesus*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1985.
- Bufford, Rodger K. *The Human Reflex: Behavioral Psychology in Biblical Perspective*. San Francisco: Harper/CAPS, 1981.
- Burnet, Gilbert. *A Discourse of the Pastoral Care* (1692). London: W. Baynes, 1818.
- Capps, Donald. *Biblical Approaches to Pastoral Counseling*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.
- Carter, John D., & Narramore, Bruce. *The Integration of Psychology and Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1979.
- Chambers, Oswald. *Biblical Psychology: Christ-Centered Solutions for Daily Problems*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 1912/1962.
- Charry, Ellen T. *By the Renewing of Your Minds: The Pastoral Function of Christian Doctrine*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Clebsch, William A., and Jaekle, Charles R. *Pastoral Care in Historical Perspective, An Essay with Exhibits*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1964.
- Clinebell, Howard John, Jr. *Basic Types of Pastoral Counseling*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1966.
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- _____. *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*, 3rd Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2007.
- _____. *How To Be a People Helper*. Santa Ana, Calif.: Vision House, 1976.
- _____. *Psychology and Theology: Prospects for Integration*. Edited by H. Newton Malony. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1981.
- _____. *The Rebuilding of Psychology: An Integration of Psychology and Christianity*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1977.
- _____, (Ed.). *Helping People Grow: Practical Approaches to Christian Counseling*. Santa Ana, Calif.: Vision House, 1980.
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- _____. *Connecting: Healing for Ourselves and Our Relationships. A Radical New Vision*. Nashville, Tennessee: Word, 1997.
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- Engel, Jonathan, *American Therapy: The Rise of Psychotherapy in the United States*. New York: Gotham Books, 2008
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- Kellemen, Robert W. *Martin Luther's Counseling: Spiritual Care in Historical Perspective*. E-Document in Word Format (218 Pages) <http://www.rpmbooks.org/>
- Kellemen, Robert W. *Soul Physicians: A Theology of Soul Care and Spiritual Direction*. Taneytown, MD: RPM Books, 2005; Revised and Updated: Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 2007.
- Kellemen, Robert W. *Spiritual Friends: A Methodology of Soul Care and Spiritual Direction*. Taneytown, MD: RPM Books, 2004; Revised and Updated: Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 2007.
- Kelsey, Morton T. *Christo-Psychology*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1982.
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American Association of Christian Counselors: <http://www.aacc.net>

Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation (CCEF) <https://www.ccef.org>

Hope for the Heart: <http://www.hopefortheheart.org>

Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) www.biblicalcounseling.com

Association of Biblical Counselors <http://christiancounseling.com>

RPM Ministries <http://www.rpministries.org/writing/equipping-counselors-for-your-church>