

M E T R O

ATLANTA

S E M I N A R Y

**Master of Arts in
Biblical Counseling Catalog**

Equipping gospel-centered counselors for
Kingdom impact in a hurting world.

2026-2027

From the Dean

Dear Prospective Counseling Student,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling program at Metro Atlanta Seminary (MAS). As Dean of Biblical Counseling, I am grateful for your interest in a program designed to equip men and women to bring the hope and wisdom of God's Word to the complex personal, relational, and spiritual challenges of our ever-changing life journeys.

The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling is grounded in our conviction that Scripture is infallible, sufficient, authoritative, and necessary for understanding the human condition and guiding faithful care for souls. This program integrates rigorous theological study courses with practical counseling training, preparing students to counsel with both truth and compassion in the context of the local church, Christian ministries, and related helping vocations.

Our faculty are scholars and practitioners who are committed not only to academic excellence, but also to leading and teaching students in spiritual maturity, discernment, and Christlike character. All students will benefit tremendously from an invaluable relationship with a seasoned mentor throughout their time of study at MAS. Through coursework, supervised practice, and theological reflection, students are trained to wisely apply biblical principles to real-life counseling situations, always pointing others to the redemptive grace found in Jesus Christ.

Whether you sense a call to formal counseling ministry, pastoral leadership, discipleship, or support roles within the church or community, this program is designed to serve as a solid foundation for faithful and effective service. We count it a privilege to walk alongside students as they prepare for the ministry of counseling marked by both conviction and Christ-like care.

I invite you to prayerfully consider how the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling program at MAS may serve God's calling in your life. Should you choose to join us, we would welcome you into a seminary family committed to forming wise, humble, and biblically grounded counselors for the glory of God and the good of His people.

Furthermore, I would be delighted to address any questions you may have about this program and MAS in general. Know that we are continually praying for all prospective students.

Grace and Peace in Kingdom Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robbie Sherrill". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and personal.

Dr. Robbie Sherrill

Dean of Biblical Counseling

robbies@metroatlantaseminary.org

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling is a three-year program designed to prepare biblically grounded, spiritually mature counselors who are equipped to serve the church and broader community with wisdom and compassion.

How do we define Biblical Counseling? Biblical Counseling seeks to bring focus and clarity in addressing human problems drawing from the standard of God's word and the perspective, training, and discernment of the biblical counselor. Biblical counseling is aware of the value of other disciplines such as psychology, sociology, social work, and secular counseling. However, the biblical counselor holds, as the highest value, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, working in both the counselor and the counselee. This work is theological in nature, pastoral in focus, and life-changing in intention.

Our MABC program reflects Metro Atlanta Seminary's commitment to Christ-centered care and practical ministry application. We aim to equip students with a biblical foundation and practical strategies to foster effective ministry practices. The seminary combines academic study with mentoring and practical experience, preparing graduates to minister with wisdom, compassion, and impact in their ministry contexts.

Students meet on weekday evenings for 8-week terms, with four terms per academic year. This approach makes the program uniquely suited for those called into or currently engaged in ministry. The format combines theology and practical counseling courses, allowing each student to integrate truth with practical skills/tools and immediate application in real-life ministry settings. Our ideal MABC candidates come from all walks of life. They are diverse in many ways but they all desire to serve the Lord and feel called to a season of study, reflection, and growth.

While MAS formally is a non-denominational seminary, we are theologically Reformed, affirming the system of doctrine expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms.

Program Objectives

The Head (to "Know") –

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling Program (MABC), the graduate should be competent in demonstrating their scripturally-based counseling knowledge, comprised of three years of study; integrating psychology that aligns with scripture, theology, and evidence-based counseling techniques, skillfully applied to the lives of those desiring help along their life sojourns. Due to the Fall, the cause of all of mankind's difficulties and shortcomings, the entirety of the graduate's studies will be founded on the solid, immutable truth that man's only healing and freedom comes through the acceptance and application of the victorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Heart (to "Be") –

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling Program (MABC), the graduate will be measurably, personally seasoned, able to demonstrate a maturing character of Christ-like discernment, wisdom, empathy, sympathy, exhortation and teaching, speaking into the lives of those

caught up in various struggles and life concerns. The graduates will be educated and equipped to serve on the front line of Christian Counseling ministry, first through a refreshed AWE of God that permeates the sharing of all gospel-based healing truths; that transformation fed by much study, teaching, prayer, mentoring, case studies, practicum field experience, supervision, and God's all-sufficient grace.

The Hands (To "Do") –

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling Program, (MABC), the graduate will be proficient in evidence-based skills and techniques useful in applying their scriptural and counseling knowledge in face-to-face relationships with those the Lord assigns to them for gospel-based life change. The student will be able to skillfully listen, question, discern, empathize, teach, and speak with wisdom, into numerous life situations...resulting in Spirit led physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual transformative truths for the counselee's best outcome and for the ultimate Glory of God.

In summary:

To know – life transformative truths and the skillful techniques to share those truths.

To be – transformed and competent to share and teach those truths to others.

To do – Go into battle on the frontlines of life pain – with the transforming gospel of Christ.

Accreditation and Certification

MAS has full accreditation by the *Association of Reformed Theological Schools* (ARTS). ARTS is an accrediting agency which in 2024 received recognition from the *Council for Higher Education Accreditation* (CHEA). Accreditation is helpful for potential students as a way of protecting them from falling prey to schools that are little more than "degree mills."

The MABC is a ministry-focused degree rather than a state-licensure track. It emphasizes Scripture as the ultimate authority for understanding and addressing the issues of life, forming a distinctly biblical and theological approach to counseling. While it does not lead to state licensure, graduates are eligible to pursue board certification as Christian Counselors through the [Georgia Board for Christian Counselors](#), affirming their preparation for ministry-based counseling roles within the church and Christian organizations.

The State of Georgia considers MAS a religiously exempt institution, per the following declaration:

"This institution is exempt from authorization under O.C.G.A. § 20-3-250.3(a)(6) Nonpublic, nonprofit, postsecondary educational institutions which demonstrate annually to the satisfaction of the commission that their purposes are solely to provide programs of study in theology, divinity, religious education, and ministerial training, and they do not grant postsecondary degrees of a nonreligious nature and that such institutions: (A) Accept no federal or state funds; and (B) Accept no student who has a federal or state education loan to attend such institutions."

Course Listings and Recommended Curriculum Sequence

Year One (2026-2027)						
Term	Department	Course Number	Description	Weekday	Credit Hours	TOTAL Credit Hours
1	Theology	ST511	Doctrine of Scripture	Tues	1.0	14.0
	Counseling	510	Foundations of Counseling/Counselor Health, ID, Funct	Thurs	2.0	
2	Theology	PT521	Hermeneutics	Tues	1.0	
	Counseling	520	Human Growth and Development	Thurs	2.0	
3	Theology	OT511	OT Survey	Tues	2.0	
	Counseling	530	Intro to Counseling – Theories and Practice	Thurs	2.0	
4	Theology	NT511	NT Survey	Tues	2.0	
	Counseling	540	Counseling Techniques – Helping Skills and Tools	Thurs	2.0	
Year Two (2027-2028)						
Term	Department	Course Number	Description	Weekday	Credit Hours	TOTAL Credit Hours
1	Theology	ST522	God, Man, and Sin	Tues	2.0	16.0
	Counseling	610	Relationship Counseling I – Family Systems	Thurs	2.0	
2	Theology	ST533	Person and Work of Christ	Tues	2.0	
	Counseling	620	Relationship Counseling II – Marriage	Thurs	2.0	
3	Theology	ST634	Holy Spirit and Salvation	Tues	2.0	
	Counseling	630	Prominent Life Issues I – Mood Disorders, Anxiety	Thurs	2.0	
4	Theology	PTXXX	Integration of Counseling and Theology: Practical Appl	Tues	2.0	
	Counseling	640	Prominent Life Issues II – Grief, Eating Disorders, etc.	Thurs	2.0	
Year Three (2028-2029)						
Term	Department	Course Number	Description	Weekday	Credit Hours	TOTAL Credit Hours
1	Counseling	PRACXXX	Practicum - Classroom Supervision	Tues/Zoom	1.0	39.5
	Counseling	710	Neuroscience	Thurs	2.0	
2	Counseling	PRACXXX	Practicum - Classroom Supervision	Tues/Zoom	1.0	
	Counseling	720	Trauma / Crisis Counseling - Recovery Systems	Thurs	2.0	
3	Counseling	PRACXXX	Practicum - Classroom Supervision	Tues/Zoom	1.0	
	Counseling	730	Psychopathology and Intro to DSM-5	Thurs	2.0	
4	Counseling	PRACXXX	Practicum - Classroom Supervision	Tues/Zoom	1.0	
	Counseling	740	Addictions	Thurs	2.0	
1-4	Counseling	750	Practicum (275 Hours of Field Experience / Supervision / Notation, executed throughout Year 3, yielding 27.5 Hrs	Onsite/TBD	27.5	
Biblical Counseling Mini-Terms (can be taken anytime, recommended to complete during Years 1 and 2) Each BCMT course provides 5 hours, 50 minutes pre-recorded faculty lecture, along with specified assignments						
Term	Department	Course Number	Description	Weekday	Credit Hours	TOTAL Credit Hours
Any	Counseling	BCMT1	Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling	OnDemand	0.5	2.5
Any	Counseling	BCMT2	Multi-Cultural Counseling / Group Counseling	OnDemand	0.5	
Any	Counseling	BCMT3	Loving Like Jesus: Understanding Gender/Identity Issues	OnDemand	0.5	
Any	Counseling	BCMT4	Psychopharmacology and Holistic Approaches	OnDemand	0.5	
Any	Counseling	BCMT5	Assessment Techniques in Counseling; Understanding	OnDemand	0.5	
Program Totals						
			Counseling Credit Hours (Classroom)	26.5		
			Counseling Credit Hours (Practicum)	31.5		
			Theology Credit Hours	14.0		
			TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	72.0		

Course Descriptions (subject to change)

Theology Courses

Doctrine of Scripture

The Doctrine of Scripture forms the first part of a two-part course on Scripture and Hermeneutics. Major topics in Part One include: (1) the inspiration, inerrancy, authority, necessity, clarity, and sufficiency of Scripture, and (2) the canonicity, preservation, and the historical reliability of the Biblical documents.

Hermeneutics

The Hermeneutics course forms the second part of a two-part course on Scripture and Hermeneutics. Major topics in Part Two include: (1) a discussion of the major principles and rules of biblical interpretation, (2) how to use tools for effective Bible study, and (3) how to practice the observation, interpretation, and application method of inductive Bible study.

OT Survey

This is a study of the OT dealing with its content, message, form, and background. The survey will introduce the student to the biblical-theological approach to Scripture, showing how the books of the OT point us to God's Covenant of Grace in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

NT Survey

This course is an introduction to the NT writings and their message in the historical, cultural, and religious context of the first century. The aim of the course is to give the student an accurate understanding of the primary backgrounds of the NT writings and other related introductory questions that impact on their message. The course comprises lectures, assigned readings, a written assignment and examination.

God, Man, and Sin

This course seeks to explore the nature, character, and tri-unity of the God who has revealed Himself historically in redemption through His inspired Word, and in the enlightening which comes through the Holy Spirit. It comprises the centerpiece of our

theological efforts as it has the Triune God Himself, and therefore the impartation of a profound knowledge of Him, as its focus. God as Maker and Upholder is set alongside a study of humanity; our original and fallen nature, dependence, and destiny.

Person and Work of Christ

The topic of the Person of Christ is a careful study of the relevant biblical material found in both Testaments, and a survey of the doctrine throughout church history. The study on the Work of Christ draws from both Testaments and reaches its climax in Paul's epistles and Hebrews. The study encompasses a treatment of all the important views of the Work of Christ and will be compared with other differing viewpoints advanced over the last two thousand years.

Holy Spirit and Salvation

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and Salvation course will establish a biblical foundation for understanding the person and work of the Holy Spirit, various facets of soteriology, the application of redemption, the gifts of the Spirit, and the means of grace.

Integration of Counseling and Theology: Practical Application

This course focuses on integrating counseling practice, psychology, and theology under the authority of Scripture. Through case studies, students examine the effects of the Fall and apply biblically grounded counseling methods to issues of spiritual growth and life transformation.

Counseling Courses

Foundations of Counseling / Counselor Health-Identity-Function

This course introduces students to the foundational principles of biblical counseling and the nature of a healthy helping relationship. Emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the counselor, including the counselor's spiritual health, identity in Christ, and functional responsibilities in effective Christ-centered counseling ministry.

Human Growth and Development

This course provides a survey of human growth and development across the lifespan, from infancy through older adulthood. Students examine physiological, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of development, with attention to developmental challenges, appropriate interventions, and factors that influence individual and family well-being.

Intro to Counseling – Theories and Practice

This course introduces students to major counseling theories and their practical application, with an emphasis on discerning their alignment with Scripture. Students evaluate theoretical approaches through case studies and applied exercises, developing a biblical framework for understanding and practicing counseling.

Counseling Techniques – Helping Skills and Tools

This course provides practical training in foundational counseling skills such as active listening, interviewing, and case conceptualization. Emphasis is placed on applying biblical truth and counseling tools to promote heart–mind–behavior transformation and Christ-centered growth.

Relationship Counseling I – Family Systems

This course examines relational dynamics within families and other interpersonal contexts. Students explore common relationship challenges, conflict patterns, assessment methods, and intervention strategies, with opportunities to apply skills and tools through case studies.

Relationship Counseling II – Marriage

This course explores the biblical foundations of marriage and addresses key marital issues including communication, conflict resolution, sexuality, and family relationships. Students develop skills in assessment, planning, and intervention within the marriage and family context.

Prominent Life Issues I - Mood Disorders, Anxiety

This course introduces students to major mood and anxiety-related disorders, including depression and bipolar disorder. Students examine terminology, symptoms, contributing factors, assessment

approaches, and biblically informed interventions for these life-dominating struggles.

Prominent Life Issues II - Grief, Eating Disorders, etc.

This course continues the study of prominent life issues such as grief, anger, loneliness, and eating disorders. Students examine these struggles considering contemporary perspectives and the grounding truths of Scripture, with attention to terminology, symptoms, contributing factors, and biblically informed intervention strategies.

Neuroscience

This course provides an overview of key developments in neuroscience relevant to counseling and related helping professions. Students examine basic brain function and its implications for understanding human behavior and for applying effective, responsible therapeutic and pastoral care approaches.

Trauma / Crisis Counseling – Recovery Systems

This course equips students to understand the effects and stages of trauma and to guide individuals through the process of recovery. Emphasis is placed on helping clients process their trauma stories and pursue healing and growth considering God's redemptive purposes, leading toward hope, resilience, and restored trust.

Psychopathology and Intro to DSM-5

This course surveys major psychological and behavioral disorders as described in the DSM-5. Students examine symptoms, diagnostic categories, contributing factors, and treatment approaches, while becoming familiar with commonly used clinical terminology and evidence-based interventions.

Addictions

This course examines the nature, dynamics, and treatment of addictive and compulsive behaviors, including substance and behavioral addictions. Students explore biblically grounded approaches to assessment, intervention, treatment planning, and caregiving, with an emphasis on recovery, transformation, and Christ-centered hope.

Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling

This course introduces students to the ethical foundations and professional responsibilities of biblical counseling. Drawing from Scripture and selected readings in *Christian Counseling Ethics* by Randolph K. Sanders, students examine key issues including confidentiality, informed consent, dual relationships, and the integration of faith and practice. The course equips students to recognize and thoughtfully address ethical and legal challenges with wisdom, integrity, compassion, and biblical fidelity.

Multi-Cultural Counseling / Group Counseling

This course provides a biblical framework for counseling across diverse cultural contexts while introducing students to the principles and practices of group counseling. Students explore the theological foundations of culture and examine how cultural factors shape beliefs, values, identity, and community, alongside the dynamics of group process, leadership roles, and ethical considerations. Key topics include honor-shame dynamics, collectivism and individualism, immigration stress, trauma, and suffering. Emphasis is placed on applying Scripture and biblical counseling skills to shepherd individuals and families – and to facilitate healthy and effective group experiences – toward Christ-centered hope, healing, and discipleship.

Loving Like Jesus: Understanding Gender/Identity Issues

This course equips students to engage questions of faith, sexuality, and gender with biblical faithfulness and Christlike love. Emphasis is placed on holding together compassion and truth, following the example of Jesus, and affirming the authority and sufficiency of Scripture. Students are prepared to minister to all image-bearers with clarity, conviction, and grace, without compromising the gospel.

Psychopharmacology and Holistic Approaches

This course provides an overview of common psychiatric medications, their effects, and the counselor's role in coordinated care from a biblical perspective. Emphasis is placed on a balanced, holistic approach that considers both physiological and spiritual dimensions, equipping students to make informed decisions and appropriate referrals while upholding the sufficiency of Scripture.

Assessment Techniques in Counseling; Understanding and Practical Application

This course introduces students to the purpose, principles, and ethical use of psychological assessments within the field of counseling. Emphasis is placed on understanding assessment types, interpreting assessment outcomes at a foundational level, and evaluating the appropriate use of assessment data in diverse counseling contexts. Additional emphasis is placed on the interpretation of assessment concepts, utilized in the counselor's evidence-based decision making and client support.

Practicum – Field Experience / Supervision

The Practicum experience will be ongoing throughout all four terms of year three. However, the student will also have classroom exposure to sharing anonymous cases for classroom supervision during the 3rd and 4th term of the final year.

Application Requirements

In addition to the academic qualifications for the intended program of study, applicants are assessed before entry to establish they are Christian leaders who are maturing spiritually. They should be in good standing with their local church or ministry, and in a reasonable state of health.

Documents Required for Admission

- ☐ Application – indicating:
 - ✓ genuineness of conversion and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ
 - ✓ present involvement in Christian service
 - ✓ a sense of vocation in future service for the Lord
- ☐ A pastoral reference from the applicant's senior pastor, or member of their pastoral staff.
- ☐ Two additional references who can verify the applicant's readiness for study and service.
- ☐ An up-to-date photograph.
- ☐ Transcripts from any tertiary institutions.
- ☐ Application fee (must accompany application or be paid on the website).

Requirements for Entry

1. A completed application, with personal testimony, credible profession of faith, and personal references.
2. As part of the application process, we also invite each applicant to participate in a personal conversation with members of our admissions team. This conversation is designed to be a time of mutual discernment – an opportunity to discuss your calling, preparation, and expectations, and to explore together whether the MAS MABC is the right next step in your formation and ministry.

Registration and Orientation

Students can register for classes online at www.metroatlantaseminary.org. MAS arranges a schedule of orientation activities at the beginning of each academic year. We strive to provide an atmosphere of Christian unity and fellowship as the faculty, staff, and returning students help to familiarize new students with the program, and various ministry opportunities.

Tuition and Fees

Application Fee.....	\$100
Tuition.....	\$190 / credit hour (as of August 2026)
Graduation Fee.....	\$200