



Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Biblical Counseling Institute  
and  
ACBC Certification



As an ACBC Training Center, the Biblical Counseling Institute of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) can help you to prepare for certification by the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors.

## Training for ACBC Certification

### Basic Training

If you are seeking only basic training for ACBC certification, we have packaged the lectures from our *Introduction to Biblical Counseling* course and our *Marriage and Family Counseling* course into one resource entitled *Foundations of Biblical Counseling*.

- This resource includes a total of 60 hours of lectures along with course notes.
- Admission into an RPTS program is not required.
- There is a one-time fee of \$250. After payment, you will receive access to this online training resource.
- These lectures are self-paced and may be done in your home at your convenience.
- Should you later decide to enroll at RPTS as a credit or audit student, this \$250 fee would be applied to future tuition payments.

### Observation

ACBC certification also requires counseling observation. If you do not live in the Pittsburgh area, we recommend the observation videos produced through the Institute for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship (<http://www.ibccd.org>) to fulfill your ACBC observation requirement. You may also apply to RPTS as a credit or audit student and register for our Counseling Observation class, if you have completed the Introduction to Biblical Counseling course as a credit or audit student.

### Supervised Counseling

You may only fulfill the ACBC supervised counseling requirements through RPTS if you are enrolled at the Seminary, and if you have taken the five other counseling courses as a credit or audit student. In addition to all RPTS course fees, there is an additional \$600 supervised counseling fee which covers your supervision phase for ACBC certification.

## Certificate & Degree Programs

The Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary offers three degrees which offer a Biblical Counseling concentration: both a Master of Theological Studies and a Master of Divinity degree, and a Doctor of Ministry degree. We also offer a Biblical Counseling Certificate program. If your goals in Biblical counseling extend beyond ACBC certification, we encourage you to consider either our Biblical Counseling

Certificate or one of our degree programs. Admission requirements for these programs and the courses required for each can be found in our *Academic Catalog* (<http://www.rpts.edu/pdf/AcademicsCatalog.pdf>).

The counseling certificate and the masters programs include six counseling courses. The first three are classroom courses and the second three are practicums. The classroom courses are offered in a 3-weekend format during each quarter, and the classes meet from 6-9pm on Friday evening and 9am-5pm on Saturday.

You may apply as an auditor or credit student for the classroom courses without being enrolled in a specific program. Credit students pay \$346 per credit, and auditors pay \$99 per course. These three courses may be taken live here in Pittsburgh or as a distance student. Distance students pay an additional \$50 per credit content delivery fee if the course is taken in the quarter the course is offered. If you desire to take these three courses at a time other than the quarter in which it is normally offered, you must seek the permission of the professor and pay an independent study fee of \$55 per credit hour in addition to the tuition charge and the content delivery fee of \$50 per credit.

### **BC11 Introduction to Biblical Counseling**

An introduction to what Biblical counseling is, who should do it, the key elements of the process, and its application to basic problems faced in the local church. Consideration is given to alternative approaches, both secular and religious. Fall Quarter (3 credits)

### **BC22 Marriage and Family Counseling**

Marriage and Family builds on BC11 and is a theological study of marriage and family issues, such as the covenantal nature of marriage, gender roles, sexuality, and children; a theological study of problems: communication, problem solving, adultery, physical abuse, etc.; an application of Biblical principles to solve problems in the context of the local church. Consideration is given to alternative approaches, both secular and religious. Winter Quarter (3 credits) - Prerequisite: BC11

### **BC23 Advanced Biblical Counseling**

This course builds on BC11 and BC22 and seeks to help the counselor grow in personal holiness, insight, and creativity. The counselor is given a Biblical and theological framework for dealing with all counseling issues in the context of pastoral ministry. Spring Quarter (3 credits) - Prerequisite: BC11 and BC22

We also offer the following three practicum classes, which require students to be in Pittsburgh in order to enroll, as they are not available for distance education. The Counseling Observation course will fulfill the ACBC observation requirements, provided that the student observes at least ten hours of live counseling. While the Counseling Role Play class is not required for ACBC certification, we think it is also a vital part of training in Biblical counseling, and we require it in all of our programs. Auditors must pay a \$300 practicum fee in addition to the \$99 course fee for Observation and Role Play. Supervised Counseling provides the opportunity for students to counsel under the supervision of Dr. Scipione. Completion of this course does not automatically fulfill the requirements for ACBC certification. Those seeking ACBC certification must complete all ACBC requirements, including fifty hours of supervised counseling.

### **BC12 Counseling Observation**

The student will observe live counseling cases and discuss them with the supervising counselor and other students. Requirements include regular attendance and graded participation, reading, and reflection papers. Winter Quarter (2 credits) - Prerequisite: BC11

### **BC13 Counseling Role Play**

Providing practical “hands-on” counseling experience for those students interested in advanced training in Biblical counseling. This practicum will be comprised of role-play counseling, which is then videotaped and critiqued by the professor and classmates. Spring Quarter (2 credits) - Prerequisites: BC11 and BC12

### **BC31 Supervised Counseling**

This practicum involves counseling which is observed by a faculty mentor and discussed. The class credits are awarded in the fall quarter, but the counseling hours may be logged throughout the entire academic year. Fall Quarter (2 credits) - Prerequisite: BC23 and a grade of “B” or better in BC13.

If you have further questions regarding our courses or admission to our programs, please contact us at 412-731-6000. To register for our *Foundations* training program visit <https://rpts.pathwright.com>.