


AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES (MPS)



**A
DEEPER
CALLING**

Education for Today and Tomorrow's Leaders

ABOUT AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE

American Baptist College is a Christian College dedicated to educating and developing leaders for worldwide service. We are committed to providing women and men with an outstanding interdisciplinary graduate, professional, and undergraduate education in Pastoral Studies and Counseling at the Graduate level, and Bible, theology, and the social and natural sciences at the Undergraduate level. We train clergy, laity, and professional practitioners for vocations, ministry, service and leadership with sensitivity to social justice concerns. We believe in fostering an academic environment in which students and faculty engage in discourse about critical issues impacting the lives of persons within the church, society and world. Our holistic educational philosophy enhances the spiritual, intellectual, and social growth of our students. American Baptist College is a place where men and women can come to prepare for professional vocations in and beyond the church with a Christian theological understanding of the world.

We are privileged and excited to offer a unique Graduate level program that offers the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. Cognizant of our current twenty-first century realities that present diverse needs of persons seeking pastoral care and counseling, this program integrates theology and psychology buttressed by strong clinical training. The vocation of pastoral counseling is to interpret the wisdom of the Christian Tradition in the process of addressing human suffering through the formation of healing relationships. Our model draws upon the distinctiveness of pastoral counseling that is rooted in the healing ministries of Jesus Christ. We avoid exclusive focus on the individual autonomy that characterizes much of contemporary psychologies and psychotherapies and defer to our best knowledge that people develop, live and grow in families, communities and systems. We affirm that the healing envisioned by Jesus transforms individuals and society.

American Baptist College bears both a historic and contemporary mantle of training leaders committed to the movement for justice and liberation. The Master of Pastoral Studies will continue in the same tradition to education a generation of professional care givers.

We hope you will join our mission!

CURRICULUM

AREA I: THEOLOGICAL AND PASTORAL FOUNDATIONS (24 CREDITS)

THEOLOGY (6 CREDITS): Choose Two

Christology (3)

Theologies of Liberation (3)

Practical Theological of the Christian Life (3)

Interpreting Biblical Perspectives of the Human Condition (3)

PASTORAL THEOLOGY, COUNSELING AND CARE

Foundations of Pastoral Care and Counseling (3)

Pastoral Theological Methods (3)

ELECTIVES (9 CREDITS): Choose Three

Pastoral Theology Seminar: Hope and Despair (3)

Pastoral Theology Seminar: Shame and Guilt (3)

African American Experience and Identity: Theological and Psychological Perspectives (3)

Cultural Issues in Pastoral Care & Counseling (3)

Pastoral Care and Counseling: Addictions and Mental Health (3)

Brief Therapy: Congregational Context (3)

Contemporary Christian Spirituality (3)

AREA II: CORE CLINICAL STUDIES

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONALITY

Theories of Human Personality (3)

Theories of Human Development (3)

Abnormal Behavior and Pastoral Diagnosis (3)

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY STUDIES (MFT)

Students will choose three (3) from the following courses:

The Family in Religio-cultural Context (3)

Family Systems Theory (3)

Psychology and Theology of the Family (3)

Care of Seniors and the Elderly in the Family System: Clinical and Pastor Dilemma (3)

Marriage and Family Therapy

Clinical Pastoral Therapy with Couples (3)

Clinical Pastoral Therapy with Families (3)

Clinical Pastoral Therapy with Children and Adolescents (3)

Theories and Methods of Clinical Research (3)

Clinical Pastoral Therapy: Identity and Ethics of the Profession (3)

Contemporary Relational Psychoanalysis and Pastoral Counseling (3)

Practicum in Clinical Pastoral Therapy (6)

PRACTICUM I: Psychoanalytic Case Formulation, Psychodynamic Diagnosis, and Pastoral Psychotherapy

PRACTICUM II: Psychoanalytic Process and Pastoral Psychotherapy

INTERNSHIP I

INTERNSHIP II

***The Master in Pastoral Studies (MPS) prepares students for professional practice in Ministries of care, counseling, relational wholeness, psychosocial well-being, and health promotion in multiple contexts. Tracks are designed with special emphasis on praxis within the Black Church and African American communities, and serving persons in:

Churches

Parishes

Para-church organizations

Counseling Centers

Private Practice

Community-based agencies

Hospitals and Hospices

Domestic Violence Shelters

Behavioral Health Facilities

Correctional Facilities

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

DEGREES OFFERED

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (M.A.), General

The Pastoral Counseling track within the Master of Pastoral Studies degree program is a two-year, 63 credit professional program that prepares persons for ministries that require advanced competencies in pastoral counseling. The degree program seeks to integrate the spiritual and theological understanding of humanity with the practice of counseling and psychotherapy. This course of study is appropriate for counseling professionals who wish to integrate a holistic perspective in their work, for lay persons who wish to provide counseling in a church or agency setting, and for clergy who wish to further develop their pastoral care and counseling skills and ministries. In short, this degree prepares students for work as pastoral counselors in multiple settings (congregation, agency, clinic, parish, or private practice). Upon meeting appropriate criteria mandated by the state of Tennessee students will be eligible for licensure this program provides a solid theological, psychological, and clinical foundation.

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MPS), Clinical Counseling Track

The Clinical Counseling Track within the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies meets all the requirements of the general degree in Pastoral Studies as well as requires extensive practicum and clinical experiences based on standards set by the State of Tennessee. This is especially vital for those who will seek to become Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Tennessee.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to completing the required course work for the Master of Arts, candidates must submit to the Master's Committee a topical poster presentation reflecting a comprehensive knowledge of a chosen theory, area, or topic of interest, as well as successfully pass a Comprehensive Exam administered by the Department.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Persons who seek introductory and foundational preparation for a specialized area of pastoral studies or ministries may choose to obtain a *Certificate* in one of seven (7) areas:

- *Congregational Care* • *Youth Formation* • *Health and Wellness Promotion,*
- *Caring for Families* • *Caring for Women* • *Caring for Men* • *Prison Ministry*

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Ms. Karlene Roberts, Interim Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies at 615.687.6975 or email: kroberts@abcnash.edu

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

In compliance with applicable state and federal law the following information about American Baptist College is available:

Institutional information about American Baptist College, including accreditation, academic programs, faculty, tuition and other costs, is available in the College Catalog. A copy of the Undergraduate Catalog may be obtained online at www.abcnash.edu or by writing to American Baptist College Admissions Office, 1800 Baptist World Center Drive, Nashville, TN 37207. Paper copies of the Catalog for the Master or Arts program will be made available upon request.

Information about Financial Aid for prospective students at American Baptist College, including Federal and other forms of Financial Aid for students, is available from the Office of Student Financial Aid, located at 1800 Baptist World Center Drive, Nashville, TN 37207.

AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES (MPS)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION

A completed application to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies at American Baptist College consists of the following components. Please make sure that each area is met before submitting your application.

- A Bachelors degree with a minimum of 3.0 grade point average from an accredited college or university
- Applicants to the **Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies Program (MPS)** must submit a completed Program Application in paper form or on line at www.abcnash.edu
- An application Fee of \$60.00 must be paid by check or money order and sent with completed paper application (make payable to *American Baptist College*) or online if applicable
- Official Academic Transcripts from all undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools attended
- GRE scores from examination taken within the last five years. Scores should be sent to American Baptist College. Our School Code is **6990**. For more information go to www.ets.org/gre
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation from persons who can speak to your academic, professional competencies, as well as pastoral and personal attributes for graduate studies
- All components** for the application must be in our office **no later than May 26, 2010 (Please request your academic transcripts with enough time for arrival to the Admissions office by mail no later than the stated deadline). No late applications will be accepted**
- Personal interviews may be requested for selected applicants
- All enrolled students will be required to obtain student liability insurance that has an annual premium of approximately \$30.00
- If completing the paper Application, please mail to:

Admissions Office
MPS Admissions Committee
American Baptist College
1800 Baptist World Center Drive
Nashville, TN 37207

***Applicants will be notified of the Admissions Committee decisions by mail no later than **June 7, 2010**

APPLICATION

I. PROGRAM OF INTEREST

FALL 20__ SUMMER I 20__ SUMMER II 20__ MAYMESTER 20__

M.A. in Pastoral Studies M.A. in Pastoral Studies Clinical Counseling Track (For those seeking licensure)

Certificate in Pastoral Studies: Select one Area of Concentration from below _____

- Congregational Care • Youth Formation • Health and Wellness Ministries
- Prison Ministry • Caring for Families • Caring for Women • Caring for Men

II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Social Security Number _____ - _____ - _____

Local Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email _____ Alternate Email _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email _____ Alternate Email _____

Relationship to You _____

V. COMMUNITY AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

We recognize that persons may have meaningful experiences that contribute to their growth and development, and that are valuable to the communities they serve. Use this space to share volunteer involvement in community or civic organizations. Please indicate the organization, its mission, and the role that you play. Also, tell us why it is significant service in light of your intended pursuit of this professional academic program at American Baptist College. Use up to three (3) separate pages to respond if needed.

Organization	Address	Phone	Contact

VI. CHURCH AFFILIATION

Are you affiliated with a particular faith or tradition? If so, please list along with your home church/worshiping community (if applicable):

Have you been or are you preparing for an ordained ministry? If so, please note the denomination and your status in the ordination process:

Have you worked in Ministry or Served in Leadership in a congregation? If so, tell us about your role.

VII. PERSONAL ESSAYS

A. AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Please submit as a part of this Application an Autobiographical Statement of not more than 1,500 words. This essay should cover significant relationships and developmental epochs in your life.

1) What is your current family and communal-cultural support systems? How are they being used to shape and form your social, emotional and spiritual development? How have they served or not served you as a prospective student in Pastoral Ministries? What have you found to be not beneficial and what have been most beneficial?

2) How have your congregational relatedness and their support systems contributed to faith and spiritual formations and maintenance in your life? What are the most significant attributes in the current state of this relatedness? Describe the real benefits of this relationship. Please give as full a picture of yourself as you can. Include an assessment of your strengths and limitations within this context.

3) Why are you considering the Pastoral Studies Program at American Baptist College? State your objectives for entering the Program to which you are applying. What are your reasons for undertaking pastoral theological studies? Take into account the people, events, and books that have influenced you, and the aspects of college, work, and life experiences which have been most important and significant to you. Explain your attitude toward the Church and its ministry. Describe the issues of modern life about which you are most deeply concerned.

B. WRITING SAMPLE

Please submit an academic writing sample with correct documentation and accurate citation on a subject matter other than relevance for or related to psychology, Christian theology, or some associated ethical concern or interest. You may choose a topic that is important to you, your context, or a major current concern in our society.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

List below the names and addresses of three (3) persons to whom you are sending the enclosed Recommendation forms. In selecting persons to recommend you for admission include: a professor who is able to evaluate your academic capabilities and preparation for graduate studies; one (1) ordained minister or clergy who can address your preparation, character, and maturity for studies and practice of professional Pastoral Ministries. The final recommendation should come from a colleague, mentor, or lay person of your choosing who can address your personality, attributes, praxis, and commitment to the care of people.

Name	Address	Phone	Relationship

STUDENT RECOMMENDATION FORM
AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE, M.A. IN PASTORAL STUDIES
THIS PORTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT (Please Print Neatly)

LAST NAME OF APPLICANT	FIRST	MIDDLE/MAIDEN
ADDRESS		ANTICIPATED PROGRAM OF STUDY/SEMESTER/YEAR

This recommendation is from a (check one):

Professor (academic)
 Professional Colleague
 Pastor/Church Leader
 Lay Leader
 Employer
 Ministry supervisor/Colleague
 Other _____

NOTE: This form is to be filled out by someone who is not a member of your immediate family. Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives students the right to inspect and review their education records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of recommendation. In the belief that applicants and the persons from whom they request evaluations may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements.

I waive my right to examine this form.
 I do not waive my right to examine this form.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY RECOMMENDER

The individual named above is applying for admission to American Baptist College, Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. Please note the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as indicated above, which gives the applicant the right to review the contents of this recommendation unless that right to do so has been waived by signing the above. Thank you for your part in this important phase of the applicant's life. American Baptist College offers professional and academic programs to equip women and men for worldwide ministry in the service of Christ. You can best serve this applicant by writing specific evidences of character and spiritual maturity, as well as strengths and weaknesses that you have personally observed in his or her life. If you feel that you do not know the applicant well enough to give specific examples, please decline writing this recommendation. Your responses carry significant weight, and we appreciate your careful attention. Your recommendation may also be used for scholarship evaluation. Please attach additional pages if necessary.

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____

How well?
 Very well
 Rather well
 Casually
 Not well

In what capacity? _____

2. If you are a professor, in how many of your courses has the applicant enrolled? _____

_____ Undergraduate
 _____ Graduate

3. In view of your knowledge of the applicant, please share your assessment of him or her in the following categories.

	NOT OBSERVED	WEAK	FAIR AVERAGE	VERY GOOD	OUT STANDING
Emotional stability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-discipline	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fruitfulness in ministry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commitment to the local church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spiritual vitality and growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Servant attitude	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intellectual ability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsibility with finances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (use a separate page to respond in detail):

ACADEMIC

- 4. Aptitude for proposed degree program
- 5. Ability to express ideas in writing in English
- 6. Verbal ability to communicate in English

RELATIONAL

- 7. Ability to relate to others (including teamwork and capacity for leadership)
- 8. Reputation with others

CHARACTER

- 9. Consistency between private & public life
- 10. Conformity of applicant's life to his or her Christian testimony

OTHER AREAS

- 11. Applicant's gifts & abilities
- 12. Areas in which applicant needs improvement
- 13. Do you see this person as someone you would hire, have as your pastor or church staff member, or like to work with as a colleague?
 Yes No Unsure Please comment:
- 16. Recommendation for admission to American Baptist College Masters of Arts In Pastoral Studies (Mps) (required):
 Highly recommend Recommend Recommend with reservations Do not recommend

17. I certify that the information given in this recommendation is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

YOUR NAME (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT) SIGNATURE DATE

POSITION ORGANIZATION/CHURCH ABC ALUMNUS ? YES NO

ADDRESS

CITY STATE /PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

DAY PHONE EVENING PHONE

EMAIL FAX