

Thank you for inquiring about BCC's Counselor Training! I'm very excited to hear you are interested in becoming a Biblical counselor. God is calling leaders and laymen everywhere to help those all around us who are hurting. Below I've outlined our lay counselor program for training and for ACBC Certification. You can sign up at our [website](#) under training. Individuals can set up a payment plan or pay in full for a discount. If you are planning to register a group from one church, we encourage you to explore our LAUNCH ministry to local churches with its increased support.

BCC's training program that can be completed anywhere in the world that you live, on your own media device and at your own pace, or it can be completed as a group with group support. We encourage students to aim for one year to complete their studies, but an extension can be granted for an additional fee. The courses are intense, but you will learn so much that you can use right away in helping others!

The training program of **Biblical Counseling Center** has three main objectives:

- ~ To provide comprehensive, fully ONLINE, and affordable biblical counseling courses that teach compassionate and competent care of the hurting.
- ~ To assist churches in beginning lay counseling ministries by training ministry leaders and other church members in biblical counseling (LAUNCH).
- ~ To train individuals in biblical counseling so they may become lay counselors used by God as He leads them. We encourage ACBC Certification for our students.

Founded in 1989, **Biblical Counseling Center** seeks to "Help Churches Care for People." To this end, we have developed six courses that may be purchased individually, one course at a time, or as Bundles. The Bundle for a Certificate in Lay Counseling has three courses, described below, which lead to a Certificate in Lay Counseling upon successful completion. The ACBC Certification Bundle has three courses which prepare you for ACBC Certification once all requirements have been met. We walk you through that process as directed by the [Association of Certified Biblical Counselors](#). BCC is a certified training center and Dr. Ron Allchin is a Fellow in ACBC who does supervision of prospective counselors. We've been doing this for 28+ years, though the online school is growing much faster in our current culture of internet and media usage.

### **Bundle for a Certificate in Lay Counseling:**

**FOUNDATIONS IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING:** This course begins by laying out a process of why and how to counsel biblically, and then addresses the most common issues one might face in counseling, such as anger, depression, anxiety, guilt and forgiveness. It also gives an overview of marriage, communication and parenting issues.

**PORTRAITS OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING:** This course lets you observe our experienced and diverse counselors in real-life counseling cases filmed in our offices on dual screen. In the Bundle these videos have been intertwined with the Foundations course for more effective learning.

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES:** This course builds on Foundations and trains you in counseling common topics that you will see regularly in counseling, such as suicide and self-injury, sexual and domestic abuse, sexual brokenness, bipolar behaviors, and other issues we see regularly in our counseling offices.

## **Bundle for ACBC Certification:**

**FOUNDATIONS IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING:** This course begins by laying out a process of why and how to counsel biblically, and then addresses the most common issues one might face in counseling, such as anger, depression, anxiety, guilt and forgiveness. It also gives an overview of marriage, communication and parenting issues.

**PORTRAITS OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING:** This course lets you observe our experienced and diverse counselors in real-life counseling cases filmed in our offices on dual screen. In the Bundle these videos have been intertwined with the Foundations course for more effective learning.

**ESSENTIALS IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING:** This course prepares the counseling student to take the ACBC counseling and theology exams and to move forward in application for ACBC supervised counseling and certification. You should actually complete the open book exam during the process of this course. After completing Essentials, you will be ready to submit your application and exam along with forms about your training, the required reading and observations directly to ACBC. When those are approved, you will then complete a practicum of 50 hours of supervised counseling by an ACBC Fellow. There is a charge for ACBC application for certification and for the supervision, paid directly to ACBC. You can find out more about that process on their website. This is a study guide to prepare you for the certification exam.

## **Advanced Courses and Continuing Education:**

**ADVANCED ISSUES:** This course guides you to a deeper understanding of the theological foundation for direction and methodology to counsel advanced topics, such as eating disorders, addictive behaviors, or grief.

**ADVANCED MARRIAGE & FAMILY ISSUES:** This course continues to build on the foundation already laid in our training, and deals with the issues you will see in our culture of divorce and remarriage, single parenting, step families, etc.

## **Individual registration prices:**

Individual courses: \$150 each

Bundles (\$450-reg/\$375 prepaid package, or a payment plan of \$37.50 for 12 months)

Training online classes are \$150 per class, but you can buy a package deal if you want to work toward the certificate. The 3-in-1 bundles prepaid cost \$375. If you choose the payment plan, it is regular price. For financial questions, our bookkeeper Kristen typically returns your call quickly if you leave a message at 847-398-7193.

## **Church Registration prices:**

Call Dr. Tim Allchin for info about LAUNCH prices for churches that are training a group. Go to our [website](#) to learn how you can start a lay counseling ministry in your church. BCC's office # 847-398-7193 or Tim's mobile # 630-390-6075.

*Below are questions that I'm frequently asked, and the answers. This assumes you have already read the information above that is sent upon inquiry into our training. These are clarifications or additional info that some wanted before registering. If you still have more questions, call me at 847-946-1267 or email me at [sallchin@BiblicalCounselingCenter.org](mailto:sallchin@BiblicalCounselingCenter.org).*

*Sherry*

**What requirements are there for taking this training? Is it for professionals or for laymen?**

Many who have secular degrees in counseling want to learn a biblical approach and choose to take our courses. We've had psychologists, psychiatrists, and pastors all take our courses and find them very beneficial both in their own personal growth and in helping others to apply biblical truth to life. We've also had those with little other training take it and likewise find benefit in those same areas. Like anything else, you get out of training like this proportionately to what you put into it. There are no specific educational requirements, so we have students with differing levels of expertise who function on differing levels of expertise. We provide the materials and encouragement, you provide the study, the absorption and the application of this material to your everyday life and ministry to others.

**Is the entire counseling certificate available online?**

All six courses are available online and can be accessed anywhere in the world that a steady internet is available. There are four "core courses" which are the informational videos...Foundations of Biblical Counseling, Contemporary Issues, Advanced Counseling and Advanced Marriage & Family Counseling. Included in both bundles is a course called Portraits Observations. The student watches a video where both the counselor and the counselee/s are seen; these were actual counseling sessions by several of BCC's professional counselors. Ten observed sessions are a requirement for those moving toward ACBC certification. Essentials of Biblical Counseling - ACBC Exam Prep Course walks students through the 48 questions on the counseling and theology exams for ACBC certification. When a student finishes this course, the exams are ready to submit to ACBC along with the 10 observations log and the reading log, both required for the application process. We encourage students to take BCC's six online courses that fully prepare them for ACBC certification and provides a good level of proficiency and counseling skills.

**Is there a specific order to take the courses?**

Yes, the Foundations course is always first. After that, the courses can vary depending on specific student needs and goals. For example, students with a strong theology background may take the ACBC Exam prep course right after Foundations, and then take the other courses as they work on the 50 supervised counseling sessions with an ACBC Fellow. All of our students do not continue on to ACBC certification, and if that is not the goal, then after Foundations, any order is acceptable.

**How long will it take my church group to complete the certificate program?**

The Certificate Bundle is 3 courses. The ideal is to complete it in a year, though some take longer. A few who are between jobs and have available time to focus full time may finish much sooner. But to help you figure what works for you....There are 102 videos in all six courses combined. Most of those are 45 minutes, but a few are an hour or so. That is a good chunk of time (but also GREAT opportunities for learning and growing!). In addition, there is assigned reading and some homework assignments, as well as case study open book exams. This is adult learning, so you get out of it what you put into it. A few skim lightly and reap lightly. Others dig deep and reap deep. Most can finish in a year with a consistent 3-4 hours a week. It's individual, though...you move at your own pace. Some students are highly motivated and self-disciplined, and those stick to the task to finish the course! You know you, so you can plan what works for you.

Foundations takes the longest time to complete. Advanced courses move faster and focus more on case studies, which come easier with practice. Writing the ACBC exams varied greatly in time, depending on how much extra study a student must do to accurately answer each question. A pastor with theological training and some counseling experience may zip through them, while another student may struggle with a number of the counseling or theological issues on the exam and have to do some reading before answering the open book exam questions.

### **Does this work better for individuals or for groups?**

I will say that when a group schedules working together as a group, that tends to keep everyone focused and on task. We find church groups plowing away at the material and benefitting greatly with the goal of developing a core of trained lay counselors who encourage and support one another. This is discipleship at its best...the core group learning and growing together, then helping others in the congregation and community who are struggling! This is a great model for church growth on all levels, even outreaching into the community as your own disciples mature in their ability to help one another.

But all of our students are not in churches that are building lay counseling ministries. So, can a student benefit by this training as an individual? Absolutely! We always encourage couples to work together if possible, or for any student to find a small group of even two or three others if possible. Group learning always reaps benefits through discussions, sharing experiences and skills, and encouraging each other. Iron sharpens iron!

### **How much will it cost to become a certified biblical counselor?**

The cost varies depending on your training needs. As a rule, we recommend our full training program of 6 courses, all online. Some who already have advanced theological training in Bible college or seminary and who have some pastoral counseling experience can take our Foundations course and whatever other courses they might need to fill in their gaps in training, and then go on to the ACBC counseling and theology exams and do the 50 supervised hours from an ACBC Fellow. (There is a separate charge by ACBC for application and dues, and for the Fellow who supervises, but this comes later, long after your training tuition to BCC.) Above are the descriptions and prices of our courses. If you have little or no experience, we encourage you to take the Certificate Bundle first, and perhaps the Advanced courses, which will fully prepare you for the ACBC certification process. Essentials - ACBC Exam Prep Course then walks you through completing the exam and being supervised by an ACBC Fellow. My husband (an ACBC Fellow) and I both work with students to help them to complete certification.

### **What is the difference between the BCC Certificate and ACBC Certification?**

ACBC is a certifying organization that certifies individuals and training centers. BCC is a training center that is recognized and certified to do training for ACBC. We do the training, and once someone is trained, they can then move forward to certification. There are some who do not intend to become ACBC certified, so our training earns them a Certificate in Lay Counseling when they complete our three courses: *Foundations*, *Contemporary Issues*, and *Portraits Observations*. This is a certificate stating they have satisfactorily completed the training, but it includes no practicum, as with the ACBC certification. We do encourage our students to continue on to the practicum of 50 supervised hours by an ACBC Fellow because there is much sharpening of skills as a counselor during that supervision time.

## **Where can I find the required books and what other books do you recommend?**

Books are available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)...sometimes used and even cheaper! 😊

I have recommended books for those building libraries on biblical counseling topics...but there are so many more that I can't list them all here!!!! Generally you are safe with any book coming from CCEF or Westminster Seminary faculty or ACBC recommended books. There are other books by the authors listed below that are also good. Many more new books on Biblical counseling topics are being written, and some on very important contemporary issues (Eccl 12:12,13).

### **Required books for BCC training:**

*How to Counsel Biblically* by John MacArthur

*Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul Tripp

*Christ and Your Problems* by Jay Adams; *Godliness through Discipline* by Jay Adams

*God, Marriage & Family* (2nd Edition) by A.J. Kostenberger and D. Jones

<https://www.amazon.com/God-Marriage-Family-Second-...>

*Ministering to Twenty-First Century Families* by Dennis Rainey

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IlriCQAAQBAJ&pri...>

### **Other Recommended Library Resource books, especially for church libraries:**

*Ready to Restore; Competent to Counsel; Theology of Christian Counseling; Christian Living in the Home; Christian Counselor's Manual* or any title by Jay Adams

*Looking Though New Eyes* by David Powlison ... any title by Dave Powlison

*Christ-Centered Biblical Counseling; Gospel-Centered Counseling; Scripture & Counseling; Spiritual Friends* by Bob Kelleman

*Counseling One Another Life-Line Mini-Book Series* by Dr. Paul Tautges; any by Paul Tautges

*What do you think of me and Why do I care? (for teens)* by Ed Welch; ... any title by Ed Welch

*Age of Opportunity; Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul Tripp; any title by Paul Tripp

*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp; *Don't Make Me Count to Three* by Ginger Plowman

*Leaving Yesterday Behind* by William Hines

*Putting Your Past in its Place* by Steve Viars

*Homework Manuals 1, 2, & 3* by Wayne Mack; any title by Wayne Mack

*Finally Free; A Theology of Biblical Counseling: the Doctrinal Foundations of Counseling*

*Ministry* by Heath Lambert

*Counseling the Hard Cases* by Heath Lambert & Stuart Scott

*Fear, Worry & Anxiety; Idols of the Heart; Counsel from the Cross* by Elyse Fitzpatrick

*People Pleasing; Heart of Anger* by Lou Priolo

*Uprooting Anger* by Robert Jones

Blessings to you and I hope to see you online in the classroom!

Sherry

Sherry L. Allchin, M.A.B.C., Online Training Director

[www.BiblicalCounselingCenter.org](http://www.BiblicalCounselingCenter.org)

"Helping Churches Care for People"

*Ps 68:19 - Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.*