



Graduate Catalog
2016 - 2017

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About the Catalog

With regard to academic programs, this Graduate Catalog is valid for students who first enroll in Richmond fall 2016 through summer 2017 and for students who choose to change to programs within this catalog from an earlier catalog. Policies herein apply to all Richmond students.

The Richmond Graduate Catalog is produced by the Records Office in conjunction with the Dean of the School of Ministry, Dean of the School of Counseling, Dean of Students, Dean of Clinical Affairs, Institutional Advancement, and the Academic Affairs Committee. It contains general academic and administrative information and specific descriptions of degree programs offered.

Because this publication is prepared in advance of the years it covers, some changes will inevitably occur. Every effort is made to provide accurate information regarding course offerings and the Academic Calendar. A schedule of classes is available before registration each semester. All courses are offered subject to instructor availability and sufficient enrollment. Richmond reserves the right to change any of its policies without prior notice, including but not limited to tuition, fees, credit hour per course, course offerings, curricula, grading policies, graduation and program requirements, and admission standards and policies.

This Graduate Catalog supersedes all previous catalogs. The policies expressed in this catalog and each subsequent one will be controlling, regardless of any policies stated in a previous catalog received by the student upon admission. This catalog and subsequent ones are supplemented by the rules and regulations stated in institutional publications and on the website. When conflicts exist between any of these sources, the most recent rule, regulation or policy will be applied.

The student is responsible for meeting all graduation requirements for degrees and certifications in accordance with the Graduate Catalog. Students must meet requirement of the catalog in effect when they first attend Richmond except in the following circumstances: 1) students who elect to participate in a program or certification in a catalog published after they matriculate must meet all degree requirements listed in the updated catalog; and 2) students who leave Richmond for more than two semesters must meet the requirements of the most updated catalog upon returning to the University.

RICHMONT AUTHORIZATIONS AND PRACTICES

Authorization Statement

Richmont Graduate University is authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). This authorization must be renewed each year and is based on an evaluation of minimum standards concerning quality of education, ethical business practices, health and safety, and fiscal responsibility.

Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220
Tucker, GA 30084-5305
770.414.3300

Tennessee Higher Education Commission
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900
Nashville, TN 32743-0830
615.741.3605

SACSCOC Accreditation

Richmont Graduate University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Master's degree. For inquiries regarding Richmond's accreditation, please contact:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097
404.679.4500

The Commission is to be contacted only should evidence appear to support significant non-compliance with a Commission requirement or standard. Normal inquiries about Richmond Graduate University, such as admissions requirements, financial aid, and academic programs, should be addressed directly to Richmond Graduate University and not the Commission's office.

National Counselor Examination Administration

Richmont is a Graduate Student Administration National Counselor Examination Testing Site. As an approved GSA-NCE Site, Richmond administers this examination each April. Most Richmond graduates choose to complete this examination while a student at Richmond.

Endorsement Policy

Department faculty members are pleased to assist trained and qualified students in obtaining employment in the field of human services. This assistance typically occurs through writing reference letters and providing recommendations. Students are encouraged to solicit the support of appropriate faculty. However, departmental faculties reserve the right to decline the request. A recommendation maybe withheld if it is determined that the specific student is not qualified or adequately prepared for the position being sought. Students desiring to obtain a reference or a recommendation from a faculty member are encouraged to discuss this request in person.

Financial Accountability

Richmont is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. ECFA is committed to helping Christ-centered organizations earn the public's trust through developing and maintaining standards of accountability that convey God-honoring ethical practices.

Agent's Code of Ethics

Any agent of Richmond who represents the University for the purpose of recruitment or promotion will abide by the highest standards of conduct for institutional representatives.

Business Practices

Advertising and promotional vehicles for the University include internet, billboards and publications. Richmond produces and distributes a semi-annual newsletter "Connecting" and other mailings to donors and friends. These mailings also include counseling professors, ministries, and career services staffs at various colleges and universities. Representatives from the Office of Admissions visit colleges and universities, churches and attend conferences to acquaint faculty/staff and prospective students with Richmond's mission and academic programs. Additionally, Richmond uses social media to promote Richmond's mission.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to Richmond Graduate University!

Whether you are a new student or a returning student we are so glad to have you here! As I've watched students study their way through and receive their master's degree, I can confidently say that you are a part of a group of life-long learners who deeply love God and love people.

At Richmond, we are committed to providing Christ-centered education and research that advances God's work of **healing, restoration, and transformation** in the lives of **individuals, churches, and communities**. Because of this, let me assure you of a few things:

1. The faculty that will mentor you will be exceptional. Serving in churches, parachurch organizations, addiction rehabilitation centers, hospice centers, homeless shelters, and prison systems, your faculty members will be well read, well published and well prepared. It is a privilege to have such a diverse faculty that spans so many academic subjects and life experiences.
2. Your classmates will represent a wide variety of backgrounds and life experiences. You'll have a chance to learn, be stretched and receive affirmation from people who are both similar and dissimilar to you. Believe it or not, this diversity will help you view coursework in fresh ways.
3. Your personal walk with Christ and your spiritual growth will be a priority to us. The faculty, staff and administration know you will be most successful when you are given space and encouragement to catch a deeper vision of Christ in yourself and in the world around you.
4. You will leave Richmond with a well recognized degree. The university maintains the highest academic standards as well as full accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. This will translate to you in quality training and student services.

Overall, while we are proud of our academic achievements and community services, it is the genuine community forged among the student body, professors and administrators that is immensely meaningful. It is community that allows for forthright sharing and genuine affirmation to flow freely across our campuses.

So, look through these pages, dream a little bit, and sign up for classes. You will emerge with so much more than a degree – you will grow in every area. I am excited to see what will become of your callings and aspirations.

Joyfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMR', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert G. "Bob" Rodgers
President

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The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:*

*Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead;

*He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence He shall
come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.*

Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Richmont is founded on principles that adhere to the following National Association of Evangelicals Statement of Faith. It has been affirmed by more than 70 denominations and thus represents a broad evangelical consensus. All faculty members affirm this statement, and students who attend Richmont are taught from a Christian perspective.

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whom the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe God's redemptive purpose will be consummated by the return of Christ to raise the dead, judge all people, and establish His glorious Kingdom.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Mission of Richmont Graduate University is to provide Christ-centered education that advances God's work of healing, restoration, and transformation in the lives of individuals, churches, and communities.

1. Graduate Education

- a. Richmont Graduate University School of Counseling provides graduate programs that integrate counselor education and Christian faith. We are committed to academic and clinical excellence through educating counselors to be spiritually sensitive practitioners.
 - i. This training occurs within the context of a structured curriculum and supervisory relationships, and is designed to equip graduates to facilitate spiritual growth, mental health, and relational healing.
 - ii. This training culminates in either a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy, or a Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies.
- b. Richmont Graduate University School of Ministry provides training in how to advance the Gospel of Christ by increasing the capacities of those called into ministry, to understand God's word, to become whole and holy people, and to lead and serve in culturally sensitive ways.
 - i. This training culminates in either a Master of Arts in Ministry or a Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction.

2. Christian Counseling Centers

- a. As a part of the clinical training provided to our students in the School of Counseling, Richmont maintains counseling centers throughout the Atlanta and Chattanooga areas.
- b. These centers allow our students to work with clients in church-based and community settings under the supervision of Christian mental health professionals.

- c. These centers assist the church and enable people who are struggling with psychological concerns to receive low-cost Christian counseling.

3. Programmatic Research

- a. Institutional programmatic research – complete productivity report -enables Richmont to better evaluate its progress and improve institutional effectiveness.
- b. In addition, Richmont makes the tools of counseling – clinical training manual available to measure clinical applications of Christian theology and spiritual formation activities.
- c. Finally, Richmont encourages systematic investigation – thesis manual- of the interface between mental health and spiritual issues.

4. Service to the Church

- a. Richmont offers a “Curriculum of Christlikeness” for the Christian church that is designed to provide a comprehensive series of learning modules on spiritual transformation.
- b. Other activities designed to enhance pastoral care and spiritual transformation include the provision of Christian resources to the community, including libraries, seminars and lay training programs for the local church.
- c. Richmont faculty make significant contributions to academic and professional journals designed to benefit the Church.

Richmont Graduate University approaches graduate education through the integration of psychology, spiritual, and theological concepts. Integration describes a spiritually sensitive approach to professional counseling that operates within the bounds of ethical standards and a commitment to academic and clinical excellence.

The Board of Trustees approves the Richmont Statement of Purpose with administrative staff, faculty and students providing input into the process. It is reviewed annually and modified only with Board authorization.

HERITAGE

Richmont Graduate University was founded by hardworking visionaries who desired to impact the world for Christ. The legacy began in 1933 when the Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI) was founded by Dr. James L. Fowle, Reverend H.E. Wright, Mrs. Ellen Poindexter, Mrs. George Elder, Mrs. Mark Senter, Mrs. Hilda Spence, and Mrs. Howard McCall. These founders envisioned a “Moody Bible Institute of the South” that would support local churches and their various ministries. From this incredible vision, CBI faithfully served the Chattanooga, TN community by providing training, counseling, library resources and support for clergy and laity of all denominations.

In 1973, a group of Christian mental health professionals who had begun exploring the integration of Christian faith and professional counseling founded the Atlanta Clinical College. After opening a counseling center, they partnered with a major state university to offer advanced professional training and research within a Christian context. The organization was named the Religious Consultation and Research Society before being incorporated as the Psychological Studies Institute (PSI). The individuals who were initially committed to the founding of PSI included: Dr. William J. Donaldson, Jr. – faculty member at Georgia State University; Dr. Donald G. Miles – CEO of Georgia Mental Health Institute; Dr. John R. Richardson – pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church and chaplain of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents; and Dr. Paul L. Walker – pastor of Mount Paran Church of God.

Initially, PSI operated out of the Georgia Mental Health Institute and then at North Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Metanoia Building, Capitol View Baptist Church and Mt. Paran Church of God’s Family Life Center before the McCarty Foundation generously moved PSI into their own facility on the campus of Mount Paran Church of God in 1995. For more than 25 years, PSI offered a diploma in Christian counseling through its partnership with Georgia State University. In the fall of 1998, PSI began offering its own Master of Arts in Professional Counseling

degree after receiving authorization from the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

In August of 2000, the Chattanooga Bible Institute merged with the Psychological Studies Institute formalizing a working relationship that had begun in 1997. Only three years after the merger, PSI received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The Psychological Studies Institute changed its name to Richmont Graduate University in November of 2008.

Today, Richmont continues to provide high-quality graduate education that produces compassionate ministers and professional mental health counselors who work throughout the metro Atlanta and Southeast region of the United States. Our counselors work in behavioral health centers, homeless shelters, addiction rehabilitation facilities, churches, and other community-based programs that serve uninsured/underinsured populations. Our graduates work with clients of all ages who are experiencing trauma, grief, child abuse, neglect, depression/anxiety, marital strife and other adverse life experiences.

The university is committed to preparing students and to serving local residents by providing access to reduced-fee counseling services. Specifically, by providing counseling interns to nonprofit organizations throughout Atlanta and Chattanooga, students can receive credit toward their degree requirements and recipient organizations can better serve their constituents without the enormous costs of building in-house mental health clinics.

The history of Richmont is truly a rich one. Today, led by President Robert G. “Bob” Rodgers, the university is committed to staying true to Christian principles and practices.

OUR NAME

At the foot of the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus went with his closest friends to set right what had gone so wrong in an early garden, Eden. It was here Jesus prayed just after His commencement address to his disciples and before His arrest. Jesus’ trust in His Father and His acceptance of God’s will is the model for Christian living—radical obedience. The richness of “Christ-in-you” is possible because of Jesus’ prayer on the Mount of Olives, His death and resurrection.

RICHMONT is a reminder of Jesus’ prayer from the Mount of Olives and the richness that is now available because of the great mystery revealed, Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col. 1.26-27).

RICHMONT is a reminder of the PSI Chalice, our symbol of the integration of psychology and theology and the gift of Christ-within.

RICHMONT also connotes special geographic significance as a reference to the rolling mountains that connect the two cities of our institution, Atlanta and Chattanooga.

FACILITIES

Richmont blended two teaching campuses in 2001 under one corporate name: a campus in Atlanta, Georgia and a campus in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Students may reside in either city to complete most coursework and the practicum and internship requirements. However, students from both campuses must attend intensive-format courses offered at the sister campus in order to complete degree requirements. The two campuses function as one with a balance of administrative staff and full-time faculty having offices in Atlanta and Chattanooga. Faculty members maintain a consistent presence at each location to serve student needs for consultation, advising and mentoring. The unity of Richmont is thus preserved while offering the convenience of two locations.

Atlanta Campus

1900 The Exchange SE
Building 100
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: 404-233-3949
Toll-free: 888-924-6774
Fax: 404-239-9460

Chattanooga Campus

1815 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404
Phone: 423-266-4574
Toll-free: 888-267-4073
Fax: 423-265-7375

Libraries

Both the Richmont Library in Atlanta and the Poindexter Library in Chattanooga are essential partners with the faculty, staff and students in the instructional and research endeavors of Richmont Graduate University.

The Libraries' purpose is to foster the development of creative reasoning and critical thinking skills that lead to intellectual, spiritual, and social growth. This is accomplished by working to meet the information needs of the Richmont community with programs and collections that advance scholarship, develop critical competencies, promote lifelong learning, and otherwise serve the needs of the curricular, research, and service mission of Richmont.

Richmont librarians, in collaboration with Richmont faculty, staff, and students, and periodic surveys of comparable institutions, select resources for the Library collections. The Richmont Libraries contain collections of over 49,000 cataloged items: books, journals, electronic resources, and media (audio recordings, VHS and DVD), providing a rich resource for all programs at Richmont. Computer stations and a wireless network provide students with access to online resources such as PsyInfo, PsycArticles, Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection, Religion & Philosophy Collection, ProQuest Religion, and many other databases via GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online) and TEL (Tennessee Electronic Libraries). These online resources are also available off campus, via password access. In addition to print journal holdings of titles relevant to Richmont's programs, the Libraries provide access to over 3,000 full-text online journals. Interlibrary loan services are provided through both Libraries for materials held in LYRASIS

(formerly SOLINET) member libraries and other libraries worldwide, providing access to materials not available in the Richmont Libraries.

The Richmont Libraries maintain contractual agreements that provide Richmont students with privileges at other area college and university libraries. Atlanta Richmont students have borrowing privileges at the libraries at Kennesaw State University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary–North Georgia. Additionally, the Atlanta area hosts more than forty institutions of higher learning, including four major universities and three theological seminaries. Richmont is also a member of the Georgia Private Academic Libraries Association, which provides access to many of these institution's libraries. Chattanooga students have walk-in privileges at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Library, and can purchase borrowing privileges for a yearly fee.

Counseling Centers

Richmont has developed a network of counseling centers housed in churches of a variety of denominations throughout the Atlanta and Chattanooga metropolitan areas. Richmont faculty, doctoral- and master's-level clinicians, and students under the supervision of licensed mental health professionals provide assessment and counseling to individuals, families and groups through these centers.

These counseling centers provide mental health services to the church community and the general public. Additionally, they serve as a laboratory for the development and implementation of spiritual intervention strategies designed to promote psychological health and spiritual transformation within the standards of professional practice. They also provide students a context in which to develop and practice the skills taught in the academic curriculum.

STUDENT LIFE AND HOUSING

Richmont students come from a wide range of geographical regions and backgrounds. This diverse student body provides excellent opportunities for learning and social life. The Atlanta and Chattanooga areas are host to a wide variety of social, cultural and recreational activities.

Richmont does not provide student housing but provides information about local housing in addition to information regarding local churches, part-time employment possibilities, and other pertinent information for students upon acceptance into the program.

Atlanta

Atlanta, known as the "Gateway to the South," is a respected center of learning as well as a Southeastern center of business and commerce, finance, transportation, medicine and health care, sports and recreation, and the arts. Information about the arts, banking, public transportation, churches, employment, medical services, motor vehicle registration, points of interest, recreation, shopping, sports, taxes, utilities, and voting can be obtained by contacting:

Metro Atlanta Chamber
235 Andrew Young International Blvd. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-880-9000

Information about private housing in the Atlanta area is available in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (www.ajhomefinder.com) or by contacting the Free Home Finder, an apartment location service.

Chattanooga

Richmont also offers its program in Chattanooga, the “Scenic City of the South.” Long noted for its history and tourist appeal, Chattanooga more recently has garnered international attention for its downtown revitalization and environmental leadership. Information about services and opportunities in Chattanooga can be obtained by contacting:

Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
811 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
423.756.2121

Information about housing in the Chattanooga area may be obtained from the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* (www.timesfreepress.com).

Student Community

Because spiritual growth is vital to effective ministry, each Richmont student is encouraged to become involved in a local church. Richmont also encourages regular times for students to meet for Bible study, prayer and community building for the enhancement of their spiritual lives. Richmont also sponsors communion as well as social gatherings throughout the academic year.

Student Government Association

Each campus elects student representatives to provide leadership for Richmont students. These officers are responsible for activities and serve as a student voice in the life of the institution.

Alumni Association

Once students complete their degrees at Richmont, they are encouraged to join the Richmont Alumni Association to remain connected to fellow Richmont graduates and foster a network for professional and spiritual development. Alumni reunions are held annually in the fall in conjunction with continuing education (CE) workshops throughout the year. Other alumni events are sponsored throughout the year, including both social and CE-related functions. Alumni are informed about Richmont events through the website at www.richmont.edu/events, the semiannual Connecting newsletter, and the monthly What’s Happening at Richmont Alumni e-newsletter.

Richmont’s website features a password-protected Alumni Association Membership Directory in which members’ contact information is listed, along with their practice specializations, to assist in networking and referrals. A founding membership to the Alumni Association is \$50 for the most recent graduating class. A basic membership also is available for \$30. Annual renewal fees do apply. Alumni can establish new memberships, renew their memberships, and locate additional information online.

CAREER SERVICES FOR THE SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

Richmont Career Mapping

Richmont students enrolled in the School of Counseling are equipped with marketing and professional development strategies and skills to facilitate graduate placement and professional advancement. From the first day of class through commencement, students work to develop a personalized career map designed to provide a strong practical foundation from which to launch their careers in the settings in which they believe God has called them.

As they complete certain required courses, students will begin to accumulate the resources necessary for a successful career map. These include:

- Professional practice forms and procedures
- Licensure requirements
- Professional networking
- Professional resume
- Interview preparation

Students are also exposed to guest speakers, including Richmont alumni, who share their varied work experiences as well as information about further graduate study. Richmont also maintains a listserv and Facebook groups for students and alumni that are focused on current job opportunities and licensure issues.

Electronic Communications

Because Richmont is a two-campus community, e-mail is a vital tool in disseminating information to students. All Richmont degree-seeking students are issued a Richmont e-mail address upon enrollment. Students activate this e-mail address and are required to check the account on a daily basis.

Change in Name or Address

Changes of name should be submitted in writing to the Records Office along with a copy of the marriage certificate or other appropriate documentation of legal name change.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Programmatic Research

The goal of programmatic research at Richmont is to further the understanding of the counseling process and relating religion and spirituality to it. Richmont encourages faculty, supervisor and student research in areas relevant to this goal. Richmont maintains programs of research that facilitate student and faculty research productivity. Members of the Richmont faculty are expected to write, present at professional conferences, and publish. Faculty promotion is based in part on scholarly productivity.

Continuing Education

Richmont conducts and sponsors workshops on counseling designed bring together mental health professionals and others in the helping fields to participate in clinical training and spiritual renewal. These workshops offer a period of instruction, support,

building professional relationships, and renewal for people in the helping ministry. The workshops will seek to offer CE credits applicable to the various professions represented. Richmond does not guarantee any course as meeting requirements for CE. Students seeking approval for Richmond courses must obtain it from the organization or governing body for which CE is required (i.e., state board or professional organization).

Richmont also sponsors and offers its facilities to a broad range of adult education programs in Bible, Christian living, and Christian mental health to the surrounding community.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES FOR DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS

Applicants must submit the following materials to be considered for admission to a degree program at Richmont:

1. Admission application with a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Application fees are completely refundable within 3 days of the original transaction..
2. An acknowledgement that the applicant has reviewed the Statement of Faith as part of the application.
3. One official transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended. Transcripts must be sent directly from the institution. In order to review your file, we must have an official transcript for every institution attended, even if any credits were transferred to another school. One official transcript must reflect a conferred, qualifying bachelor's degree.
4. One official copy of the score report from the GRE Revised General Test or Miller Analogies Test (MAT).

Test scores are not required for admission to the School of Ministry.

Scores are to be sent directly to Richmont. Richmont's school code for the GRE is 5599; school code for the MAT is 2671.

The GRE or MAT may be waived for students who have successfully completed at least 12 hours of master's level work in a regionally accredited program, as listed above, with a GPA of 3.0 or above prior to application to Richmont.

5. The School of Counseling requires three reference forms and/or letters of reference. These should include one academic/professional reference, one character reference, and one pastoral reference. The School of Ministry requires one reference ministry form and does not require character or academic reference.

References cannot be completed by family members.

6. A resume highlighting professional and/or volunteer experience.

7. A personal autobiography incorporating the following topics: What are your personal and professional goals and how would a degree from Richmont help you obtain those goals? What significant event(s) and/or influence(s) that have helped shape your present values and approach to life? Describe your conversion experience and/or other important events in your Christian walk.

Personal autobiographies should be a minimum of 500 words and approximately 2-5 pages. This statement will be examined to determine the applicant's writing ability and will be rated according to the following criteria: clarity of thought, grammar, and readability. It will also be used to learn more about you personally..

8. At the discretion of the Admissions Committee, Richmont may require an applicant to appear for a personal interview in order to make an admissions decision.
9. For non-native speakers of English, applicants are required to demonstrate proficiency in the English language by submitting a TOEFL score.

All materials for admission should be sent to:

Richmont Graduate University
Office of Admissions
1900 The Exchange S.E. Building 100
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: 888.924.6774
Fax: 404.239.9460

Upon acceptance to Richmont, students should notify Admissions of their decision to enroll. Notification of plans should be accompanied by a \$300 non-refundable deposit, which will be credited to the first semester of tuition.

Application Deadlines

Start Term	Priority Deadline	Scholarship Deadline	Final Deadline
Fall	February 28	March 30*	July 1
Spring	October 1	N/A	November
Summer	N/A	N/A	April 1

*Deadline for priority scholarship consideration. The final scholarship deadline is May 1st.

Richmont admits students for study in one of five statuses: full admission, conditional admission, provisional admission, contingent admission, and non- degree admission.

Full Admission

All applications to Richmont are reviewed by the Admissions Committee on a rolling basis. The Committee reviews all applications from a holistic approach taking all aspects of the application into consideration.

Full admission requires that the following conditions be met and that the individual's application package be submitted in its entirety by the deadline, and approved without reservation by the Admissions Committee.

Each applicant shall have:

1. A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

Regional accrediting bodies recognized by CHEA are the following:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE)
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools The Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC- ACSCU)

Students graduating from unaccredited institutions or those accredited by an organization not listed above may be accepted upon demonstration of knowledge and experience comparable to students graduating from an accredited institution. Students may be required to provide such evidence as may be needed to support the quality of their undergraduate program during the admissions process. Richmond will limit the number of such students to no more than 10% of the overall student population.

Students admitted under this circumstance will be placed on conditional status and subject to the normal procedures for such.

Twenty percent of the student body enrolled in the School of Ministry maybe able to be admitted without a bachelor's degree. These students will provide documentation of work experience that would be equivalent to Richmond's Admission standards as evaluated by the Admissions Committee.

2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 can be considered for conditional admission to Richmond.

3. GRE aptitude scores (V+Q) greater than 300 with at least a 3.5 on the writing section; or a Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score greater than 400.

Applicants that score below the minimum requirement can be considered for conditional admission to Richmond.

The GRE/MAT requirement is for the School of Counseling only. Students enrolling in the School of Ministry are not required to submit a GRE or MAT score.

The GRE or MAT may be waived for students who have successfully completed at least 12 hours of master's level work in a regionally accredited program as listed above, with a GPA of 3.0 or above prior to application to Richmond.

Applicants with disabilities that may compromise the validity of GRE or MAT scores may petition the Admissions Committee for waiver of the GRE or MAT as an entrance requirement. The student must provide (a) a statement of the nature of the disability with current documentation of the disability and (b) a statement explaining why this disability would compromise the validity of the GRE or MAT with accompanying evidence.

4. All Counseling students are recommended to have completed basic undergraduate psychology courses and an introductory course in psychological statistics.

Students who have not completed at least 12 semester hours in psychology or a closely related field must take CED5102: Introduction to Counseling during their first semester.

It is advisable for applicants to have completed the following courses:

- General Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Personality Theory
- Developmental Psychology
- Experimental Psychology or Psychological Statistics
- Basic courses in Biblical studies and theology

5. At the discretion of the Admissions Committee, Richmond may require an applicant to appear for a personal interview in order to make an admissions decision.
6. For non-native speakers of English, applicants are required to demonstrate proficiency in the English language by submitting a TOEFL.

Deferred Status

Applicants who have been granted admission to Richmond may elect to defer their matriculation date for up to one year from the date of original acceptance. After one year, students must resubmit an update to the application, as well as an updated personal autobiography.

Conditional Admission

In making its selection, the Admissions Committee will give consideration to the applicant's personal autobiography, recommendations, grade point average, and test scores. Students with lower grades or test scores may be granted conditional admission when compensating strengths in other areas are clearly demonstrated. Conditionally admitted students may be limited in the number of semester hours they may take during the first semester of attendance.

The conditional status will remain until the student has attempted eight semester hours of graduate work that are graded with a traditional letter grade. Courses graded Pass/Fail will not be counted toward the required eight hours. These eight hours must be completed within the student's first two semesters at Richmond. Students who are conditionally admitted are required to have at least three meetings with their advisor during their time while they are in Richmond to ensure that the student has appropriate support as they progress through the program..

Once the student satisfactorily completes the initial eight hours with a cumulative average of at least a *B* (3.0), the student's status will change to be fully admitted. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 within the first eight hours of study will be subject to dismissal from the program. A student dismissed for failure to meet the conditions of this admission status may reapply after one year and must meet full admission criteria for the master's program, in addition to any requirements stipulated at the time of dismissal, to be considered for readmission.

In order to meet full admission status, the Dean of the School of Counseling, the Dean of the School of Ministry or the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management must clear a student who is admitted conditionally.

Provisional Admission

A student may be admitted on a provisional basis if a student is appears during the application process to need extra support to enhance their interpersonal, psychological, or behavioral resources/skills/capacity due to life circumstances and experiences while fulfilling the rigorous requirements of Richmond's counseling programs. Students who are conditionally admitted are required to have at least three meetings with their advisor during their time while they are in Richmond to ensure that the student has appropriate support as they progress through the program.

Contingent Admission

A student may be admitted on a contingent basis if all admissions documents required have not been received. Files must be completed by the date determined by the admissions committee or at the time of registration for the next semester, whichever occurs first. Once files are completed the student's status changes to either conditional admission or full admission. If files are not completed by the time of registration for the semester immediately following the first semester of attendance, the student will not be allowed to enroll in subsequent semesters until the application file is complete.

Introduction to Graduate Writing and Research Skills

As the Admissions Committee considers the applications of prospective students, multiple criteria are evaluated. Although GRE/MAT scores and GPA are important, the Committee considers the application in its entirety. Applicants who score a 3.5 or below on the written portion of the GRE may be required to take CED5062: Introduction to Graduate Writing and Research Skills, in order to gain a solid foundation for graduate work. Additionally, GRE scores, GPA and a personal writing sample are used to determine whether it is in the best interest of the applicant to enroll in the course. For students required to enroll in the course, their performance is used as an evaluation to determine their readiness for additional graduate coursework.

Readmission Policy

Students who withdraw from Richmond may submit a letter requesting reinstatement within one calendar year of the last date attended, provided they left in good academic standing, resolved all financial commitments to the school, and complied with the University's withdrawal procedures. The Admissions Committee will review the letters and make a determination of readmission. Readmission will be assumed unless there are significant concerns regarding the student and/or conditions of the withdrawal or readmission.

Students who withdraw and wish to be reinstated after more than one year of absence must submit a Richmond enrollment application (but not supporting materials) and application fee along with a letter relating the circumstances of withdrawal and reasons for seeking readmission. The Admissions Committee will review these materials and decide upon readmission based on the former performance in the program and the nature of the reasons for withdrawal and readmission.

Students who withdraw and wish to be reinstated after more than one year of absence must submit a Richmond enrollment application (but not supporting materials) and application fee along with a letter relating the circumstances of withdrawal and reasons for seeking readmission. The Admissions Committee will review these materials and decide upon readmission based on the former performance in the program and the nature of the reasons for withdrawal and readmission.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Richmont does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, handicap or disability, or age, in any of its policies, procedures, or practices in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (pertaining to race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (pertaining to gender), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (pertaining to handicap), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (pertaining to age). This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to Richmond programs and activities, as well as employment at Richmond. Additionally, Richmond opposes physical abuse, verbal abuse, or implied threat toward any person. Richmond recognizes the rights of all people to live peacefully in society and freely express their beliefs.

Members of the Richmond community with a concern or complaint that may involve discrimination are encouraged to discuss the concern with a designated individual as identified in Section III, "Initial Procedures," of Richmond's Statement on Sexual Harassment. Richmond will follow the "Complaint Resolution Procedures" outlined in Section IV of the Statement on Sexual Harassment for investigating and resolving discrimination complaints.

Non-Degree Admission: Schools of Counseling and Psychology

A non-degree student is one who is not enrolled in a Richmond degree program. The non-degree status is for those wishing to enhance their knowledge of the integration of psychology and theology, enroll in courses for personal enrichment, or obtain continuing education (CE) credit. Richmond does not guarantee any course as meeting requirements for CE. Students seeking CE approval for Richmond courses must obtain it from the organization or governing body for which CE is required (i.e., state board or professional organization). Credit for courses completed by non-degree students is recorded on the student's transcript.

Non-degree students may enroll in courses for credit or audit. Because Richmond trains professional counselors, not all courses are suitable or available for the non-degree or audit student. Some courses have prerequisites (see course descriptions) or assume advanced skills that limit them to the full-time student. Courses that focus on Bible, theology and Christian faith, however, are open to qualified people who are not seeking a graduate degree.

Courses that are offered as a part of the Institute for Sexual Wholeness (ISW) are available only as non-degree for those seeking certification through ISW.

Non-degree students are subject to the same fees as degree-seeking students and are required to pre-register for courses on the same schedule as regular Richmond students.

Admission Procedures and Requirements for Non-Degree Students: Schools of Counseling

1. A completed four-year college degree..

The student must request an official transcript from each college attended be forwarded to the Richmond Admissions Office. The transcript from the college or university from which the applicant graduated must reflect a conferred completed four-year degree. Non-degree students may register for intensive courses as late as one week prior to the first class meeting.

A non-degree/Institute for Sexual Wholeness (ISW) student who has not taken classes at Richmond for one year or more will be considered inactive, and must submit the Non-Degree ISW Registration Update form to update the academic record. No additional application fee is needed. The student must also request that a/an official transcript(s) be mailed to the Admissions Office if any undergraduate or graduate coursework were taken for credit between the student's last semester at Richmond and the time of readmission.

NOTE: Students requesting non-degree status as a part of the Institute for Sexual Wholeness (ISW) must have completed a graduate degree in counseling or be concurrently enrolled in a graduate degree program in counseling to enroll through ISW. Students enrolled with Richmond as a part of the ISW are encouraged to confer with ISW regarding prerequisites (www.sexualwholeness.com/isw/index.htm).

ISW students are expected to adhere to the same standards of scholarship as degree-seeking students and are required to pre-register for courses on the same schedule as regular Richmond students.

2. A completed admissions application accompanied by the application fee of \$50.

Non-Degree Admission: School of Ministry

A non-degree student is one who is not enrolled in a Richmond School of Ministry degree program. The non-degree status is for those wishing to enhance their knowledge of the integration of academic theology, spiritual formation, and practical ministry skills, enroll in courses for personal enrichment, or obtain continuing education (CE) credit. Richmond does not guarantee any course as meeting requirements for CE. Students seeking CE approval for Richmond courses must obtain it from the organization or governing body for which CE is required (i.e., state board or professional organizations). Credit for courses completed by non-degree students is recorded on the student's transcript.

Non-degree students may enroll in courses for credit or audit. Not all courses are suitable or available for the non-degree or audit student. Some courses have prerequisites (see course descriptions)

or assume advanced skills that limit them to the degree-seeking student. Any student approved as a non-degree or audit student with the School of Ministry that wishes to take courses from the Schools of Counseling must meet the admissions requirements for a non-degree seeking student for those schools before receiving permission to register for those courses.

Admission Procedures and Requirements for Non-Degree Students: Schools of Ministry

1. A completed non-degree admissions application accompanied by the application fee of \$50.
2. Official Copy of transcripts from any college attended.

Students accepted as Non –Degree students in the School of Ministry must understand that acceptance in this category does not constitute acceptance to a degree granting program, accept personal responsibility for the applicability of credits earned while registered in this category, and understand that students in this non-degree category cannot be considered for scholarships, federal or state financial aid.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Policies outlined in the academic section of the catalog apply to all students attending Richmond Graduate University, except where slight variations occur amongst the two schools. Where variances occur, it is noted to whom the differences apply.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Richmond Graduate University is committed to honoring our mission and our students by setting standards of excellence in the areas of academics, clinical work, interpersonal skills, and personal growth. The University is also committed to students' engagement in the evaluation process, which includes providing students with full information about the process, their roles and the role of the faculty. A separate list of student rights and responsibilities is provided for students in the School of Counseling and School of Ministry. More information about Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the Student Handbook.

Academic Performance

Richmond students are expected to maintain the highest standards of scholarship with a term grade-point average of 3.0 (B). Any student whose term grade-point average falls below 3.0 during a given semester will receive a letter of scholastic warning from the Records Office and placed on FSAP probation. Student who receive a term GPA of less than 3.0 in two successive semesters will be subject to dismissal. A student dismissed for failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA may reapply after one year and must meet full admission criteria for the master's program at the time of re-application, in addition to any requirements stipulated at the time of dismissal.

Academic Integrity

In keeping with Biblical principles and the desire to exemplify excellence in scholarship, Richmond students are held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Students are to be diligent regarding citations of the words and concepts of other authors.

To ensure electronic security, Richmond prohibits the sharing of passwords. Additionally, all students and faculty must take precautions against others obtaining access to their university computer accounts.

All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Dean of that appropriate school. No assignment, in whole or in part, that has been completed for another class at Richmond or at any other institution is to be submitted in another class. Students who wish to build upon prior research or study are to ask the instructor to what degree previous work may be used in the class. No student shall give or receive any assistance not authorized by the instructor in the preparation of any assignment, report or examination to be submitted as a requirement for academic credit. Truthfulness is of the very nature of God, who is Truth itself. Truth is a prominent theme in Scripture, and God's faithfulness and dependability rest in truthfulness. The Biblical admonitions against false witness, lying, and dishonesty are also prominent.

Richmont is committed to intellectual and moral growth. Upholding the standard of academic integrity with its reliance on honesty is a responsibility of both faculty and students. In addition to maintaining integrity in their own academic pursuits, the faculty has the right and obligation to set and clarify academic requirements for the work of students. Academic integrity is a personal responsibility of students to represent as their own work in reports, papers, or examinations only what they are entitled to honestly so present. It includes a collective responsibility to assure that all uphold the spirit and letter of academic integrity.

Conduct regarded as violating academic integrity includes:

Dishonesty in an examination by copying from the examination of another, allowing one's own examination to be copied, reading without instructor's consent a copy of the examination prior to the date it is given, giving or receiving unpermitted aid on a take-home examination, or the submission of the same work product in more than one course without the express permission of the instructor(s). To ensure electronic security, Richmond prohibits the sharing of passwords. Additionally, all students and faculty must take precautions against others obtaining access to their university computer accounts.

Plagiarism, is the passing off of another's ideas or writings as one's own. It involves failure to acknowledge material, which is copied from others, or failure to acknowledge one's indebtedness to another for the gist of important thoughts in a formal statement, written or oral.

Allegations that any member of the Richmond community has failed to abide by the Statement of Academic Integrity may result in Richmond's invoking the published Procedures for Processing Grievances Regarding Students as outlined in the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook.

A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source and submitting the same material for credit in more than one course is prohibited. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden.

Any infraction of these standards, intentional or unintentional, is taken very seriously. Consequences may include completing an additional assignment, receiving a zero grade for the assignments, and in some cases, failing the class. This may also impact a student's ability to participate in commencement or be able to graduate. Infractions of the academic integrity standard, intentional or unintentional, are presented at the Student Qualifying Evaluations.

Students enrolled in distance education courses are prohibited from sharing passwords and required to take precautions against others obtaining access to their university computer accounts.

Academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal. Disposition of cases involving alleged academic dishonesty is the initial responsibility of the instructor involved. During Student Qualifying Evaluations, instances of academic dishonesty will be discussed by the faculty. Appeal of the decision by the Richmond instructor to impose sanction may be made to the Academic Affairs Committee. If this resolution is unsatisfactory to one of the parties involved, further appeal may be made to the President.

Writing and Research Standards

All papers written for the Schools of Counseling are to conform to the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* unless otherwise specified by the instructor. All papers written for the School of Ministry will conform to the most recent edition of Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers* or as otherwise noted by the professor. All written documents are to reflect the highest standards of grammar, composition and style. Students are expected to have adequate computer skills to produce all course assignments and to conduct research for those assignments independently. Any student desiring assistance for the research or production of assignments (other than basic proof-reading) is required to seek prior approval from the professor.

Copyrighted Material

Richmont Graduate University recognizes the legal rights of copyright holders in any form. It prohibits illegal downloading, copying and sharing of such materials, either in physical form or digitally. Failure to follow this policy has both legal and University disciplinary implications. Further explanations of this restriction are in the Richmond Student Handbook. Students may also contact their campus librarian for further information and for assistance in legally obtaining research materials.

Course Delivery Systems School of Counseling

Courses within the School of Counseling are offered through traditional classroom instruction in weekly and intensive formats. The School of Counseling currently also offer hybrid courses. While a majority of the class work in the hybrid courses is experienced through online learning, all online hybrid courses also require an in-person component of the course. Instruction for intensives, hybrid, and weekly courses begin at the first of each semester.

Course Delivery Systems Schools of Ministry

Courses are offered in both residential and online formats. Students in the residential format participate in classes that are offered in several formats, including weekly, bi-weekly, intensive and technologically mediated delivery systems. Some courses in the residential program may include online assignments and discussion formats. Course syllabi and instruction for intensive courses begin the first of each semester.

Students in the online program will complete all courses in a digital medium with a residency requirement.

Class Attendance and Grading

Students are permitted one unexcused hour of absence per hour of course credit. Necessary absences may be excused with permission of the instructor; this must be done in advance except in acute emergencies. Beyond the permitted unexcused absences, each additional unexcused class block absence will result in the decrease of the student's course grade by one level (e.g., *A* drops to *A-*). A student who accumulates more than 3 unexcused absences in a course during the fall and spring semesters will have earned a failing grade because of the excess absences. Likewise, because of the truncated summer semester, a student who accumulates more than 2 unexcused absences during summer semester will also automatically fail the course.

A class block is defined by the number of credit hours a course receives. For a two credit-hour course, a class block is two hours of the course, etc. This grade reduction will be taken until the student reaches four class block absences beyond the allowed absence, at which point the student will receive a failing grade for the course. This policy applies to intensives, hybrid, and weekly classes. For example, in a two credit-hour intensive, a student may miss two hours of class without a grade reduction penalty. Should the student miss two additional hours, the student's final grade will be reduced by one level (*A* to *A-*, etc.). Students who miss classes because they register late or change sections are subject to the same policy. Faculty may count tardiness toward absences at their discretion.

The attendance requirements for a School of Ministry Online class is subject to the stated policy in the course syllabus.

Auditing Courses

The audit status is for persons wishing to enhance their knowledge of the integration of psychology and theology, understand the role of ministry, enroll in classes for personal enrichment, or obtain continuing education credit (with the approval of their agency). Courses which focus on the Bible, theology, or the integration of psychology and the Christian faith are open to qualified persons who are not seeking a graduate degree. However, because Richmond trains Professional Counselors, not all courses are suitable for the audit student. Some courses have prerequisites (see course descriptions) or assume advanced skills that limit them to the degree-seeking student.

In the School of Counseling, Human Sexuality and all other classes in the Christian Sex Therapy certification curriculum are not available for audit, nor are Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab, Counseling Practicum, or Counseling Internship I and II. Exams, papers and other assignments are not required, and

auditing students receive no academic credit for their participation. Additionally, instructors have the discretion as to whether or not to allow audits for the courses they teach.

Audited courses are recorded on a student's transcript and assigned a grade of either *AU* or *U*. *AU* grades are assigned for attendance of a course, and *U* grades are assigned for non-attendance of audit courses. Students are not allowed to change the credit/audit status of any weekly classes for which they are enrolled. Students may change the credit/audit status of an intensive-format course before the close of business on the day before the course begins. Students may also change the credit/audit status of an intensive course before the close of business on the day before the course begins by turning in a change of course credit form. Students who have audited classes earlier may repeat the classes later for credit. Students are allowed to audit classes as space is available. Priority for class seating is given to degree-seeking students. Exceptions to this policy will be granted by the Dean of the School of Counseling, or Ministry only in extreme circumstances.

Academic Advisement

Upon acceptance to Richmond, each student is assigned a faculty advisor. The advisor assists the student in becoming acclimated to the Richmond community, in choosing elective courses, in career planning, and in a variety of other aspects of involvement in the University's program.

Advisors will also provide to their advisees feedback from faculty about the student each semester. Though the advisor guides students through the process of selecting courses, ultimately the student is responsible for following degree requirements and policies as outlined in the Graduate Catalog.

Because of the sequential nature of the program and the fact that many courses are offered only once per year, deviation from the planned curriculum may result in a delay in meeting requirements for graduation and inadequate preparation for coursework. Students who wish to depart from the standard sequence should consult with the Records Office regarding proposed changes and implications for completing the program. Students who deviate from the suggested sequence of courses are held to the same standards of the courses as students who have followed the prescribed sequence.

Program of Study

Students complete a Program of Study before they matriculate into their perspective programs. Template sequences for each degree program and certificates are provided for students to complete their program in two, three and four years. Using this as a guide, the student develops a program of study with the collaboration of their advisor and the Records Office, outlining the sequence in which he or she plans to take the courses for the selected program. The Program of Study is signed and approved by the student and the Records Office. The signed document is kept on file in the Records Office and with the student's advisor. Students are also given a copy. Students who deviate from their Program of Study are required to resubmit a Program of Study for the following reasons: change of degree, change of certification(s), or change in length of time to complete the degree. A Program of Study is required to complete a student's academic file.

Changes in Program of Study

Students seeking to change from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree to the Marriage and Family Therapy degree may make these changes at any time in their program sequence up until the beginning of Practicum (CED6962/CED6922). Necessary forms required for this change must be submitted to the Records Office and can be obtained from the Records Office or the CAMS Student Portal. Upon entrance into the final clinical sequence marked by the beginning of Practicum, students will need to remain in their chosen degree track, completing either one of the following course sequences appropriate to their degree.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Courses:

- CED 6922: Practicum
- CED 7932: Internship I
- CED 7942: Internship II

Marriage and Family Therapy Courses:

- CED 6962: Practicum
- CED 7962: Internship I
- CED 7972: Internship II

Any student seeking an exception to this policy would need to make a request of the advisor and file a Petition for Academic Exception with the Academic Dean's Office.

Advisement Processes for the Schools of Counseling and Psychology

Students in the School of Counseling are required to meet with their advisor a minimum of two times during their time as a student at Richmond Graduate University. The first meeting occurs the first semester after their matriculation into the program (i.e., first day of classes). The second meeting occurs during a student's participation in CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in spring semester or prior to registration for CED6922/ CED6962: Counseling Practicum when students begin to see clients.

New students will be informed by the Records Office in their preregistration meeting that they will be required to meet with their faculty advisors during their first semester and also during the semester they are enrolled in CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab. Communication about the required meetings will also be provided during Orientation by the Dean of Students or by the Assistant Dean of Students. Students will also be reminded about required faculty advisor meetings via emails from the Records Office.

Required advisement meetings will be scheduled as listed below:

- Students meet with the Records Office to begin development of their Program of Study (prior to Orientation Day).
- The first advisement meeting occurs during the first semester but before a student is able to register for their second semester of coursework. An Advisement Hold will be placed on student accounts who are attending that will prevent them from registering for future semesters until the Hold is resolved. This meeting will serve as time for the Faculty Advisor to assess how the student is performing their first semester and to review and affirm the Program of Study. Given that the plan was created before the student attended any coursework, it may

be necessary to revamp or change degree, length of program, etc. to better fit the student's needs. The student will be responsible to have their Faculty Advisor sign their advisement form and return the form to the Records Office. Once the Advisement form has been signed, the Records Office will release the Advisement Hold and the student will be able to register for future semesters once online registration is open.

- The second advisement meeting will occur prior to registration for CED6922/CED6962: Counseling Practicum. An Advisement Hold will be placed on student's accounts that are enrolled in CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab that will prevent them from registering for future semesters until the Hold is resolved. The student will have the advisor sign the Advisement Form and be responsible for sending the signed Advisement Form to the Records Office. Once the Advisement form has been signed, the Records Office will release the Advisement Hold and the student will be able to register for future semesters once online registration is open.

For students who are enrolled in the Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies will need to complete their second advisor meeting before they are able to apply for graduation.

Advisement Processes for Conditionally Accepted Students for the School of Counseling

Students who are accepted on conditional status into the School of Counseling will be required to meet with their advisor three times during their time here. Students are accepted conditionally when they have come close, but have not met the academic requirements for acceptance into the School of Counseling. The three student meetings will look similar to the meeting structure outlined above, but conditionally accepted students will be required to meet with their advisor prior to their matriculation date and provide an advisement form that this meeting has occurred. The following meetings will occur during the first semester and then in the semester when they are enrolled in CED6912: Applied Practicum. Students accepted conditionally into the Master of Science program will be required to complete the third meeting prior to applying for graduation.

Advisement Processes for Provisionally Accepted Students for the School of Counseling

Students who are accepted on a provisional status into the School of Counseling will be required to meet with their advisor three times during their time at Richmond. Students are accepted provisionally when they may need extra support to enhance their interpersonal, psychological, or behavioral resources/skills/capacity due to life circumstances and experiences while fulfilling the rigorous requirements of Richmond's counseling programs. Provisionally accepted students will follow the same advisor structure of conditionally accepted students outlined above.

Flexible Course Schedule

In an effort to accommodate students furthering their education while maintaining employment and to offer students the opportunity to be exposed to outstanding faculty from across the country, some Richmond classes are offered in nontraditional, intensive formats. For example, a two-hour course may be offered in three weekend days of 10 hours of instruction each; and three-hour courses may be taught on four Saturdays of 11 hours each, at a frequency of approximately one Saturday per month during the semester. Syllabi are available to students at the beginning of the semester during which intensives are offered. Readings are assigned to prepare students for the first day of class when all the coursework is collapsed into one weekend. All assignments may not be due that weekend, but all will be due prior to the last day of regular classes for the semester as determined by the instructor. Thus, although the class time is condensed, students still have essentially the entire semester to interact with the subject matter of the class.

Although this flexible schedule is designed to benefit students needing a non-traditional schedule, Richmond does not make any guarantees about the possibility of any individual student's being able to complete the entire degree program by attending classes only on a flexible schedule.

Degree Time Limits

Students have five years from the date of matriculation to complete degree requirements for the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy. Students have three years to complete the Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies, Master of Arts in Ministry, and the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction.

Academic Calendar

Richmont operates on a semester schedule. Fall and spring semesters are approximately 16 weeks; and summer semester is 10 weeks, with weekly classes extended to meet contact-hour requirements. Although a rare occurrence, Richmond maintains the prerogative to change the Academic Calendar should the need arise.

Technology Requirements:

School of Counseling

All students are required to have laptop computers as a part of Richmond's clinical training sequence. The minimum requirements for the laptop are:

- Microsoft Windows 7 Home Premium or higher, Professional Edition is highly suggested, Mac OS X (10.6) or higher
- Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 2.5 GHz or better
- Four gigabytes of system memory
- Dedicated or integrated video card, with 256 megabytes minimum of RAM
- A display with no less than 1024x768 resolution and 24- or 32-bit color
- 500GB or larger hard drive for storing video session files. (In general, assume that each hour of compressed session video will require four gigabytes of disk space.)
- High speed USB 2.0/3.0 connectors
- Built-in camera or purchase a separate webcam
- (Optional) DVD Burner and software if some external storage is preferred

As technology advances, recommended computer hardware may change. Richmond provides limited technical support for students.

Technology Requirements: School of Ministry

Students enrolled in the residential program of the School of Ministry are not required to have a laptop computer, but are required to have access to a computer with reliable internet access to complete out-of-class online assignments, access library resources, and discussion forums.

Students enrolled in the online program in the School of Ministry will need to meet the minimum technology requirements listed below for Windows, Mac OS, or Mobile devices. The 7-day on-campus orientation will be heavily interactive as students are introduced to online learning systems. Students are also required to have reliable internet access to complete their online coursework.

Windows

- 1.4GHz or faster Intel® or AMD processor
- Windows 7 (32-bit/64-bit) or higher
- 2 GB of RAM or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 11 or higher; Mozilla Firefox; Google Chrome
- Adobe® Flash® Player 11.2+

Mac OS

- 1.83GHz Intel Core™ Duo or faster processor
- 2 GB of RAM or higher
- Mac OS X 10.7.4, or higher
- Mozilla Firefox; Apple Safari; Google Chrome
- Adobe Flash Player 11.2+

Mobile

- Apple supported devices: iPhone 4S and higher, iPad 2 and higher, iPad mini, and iPod touch (4th & 5th generations)
- Apple supported OS versions summary: iOS 6 and higher
- Android supported devices: Motorola DROID, Samsung Galaxy, Nexus 7 or higher tablet, etc.
- Android supported OS versions summary: 2.3.4 and higher

REGISTRATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following information is an overview of registration procedures. For more detailed information, please contact the Records Office. Preregistration dates for new and returning students are scheduled during the preceding semester and can be found on the Academic Calendar.

In an effort to make the registration process as efficient as possible, the policies and procedures are consistently under review and thus may be changed in the best interest of students and the University. In this event, any changes to policy or procedure will be communicated clearly and in a timely manner to Richmond students via their Richmond email address.

- **Pre-registration for New Students**

All new School of Counseling degree-seeking students meet with the Records Office staff to create a Program of Study and register online via Richmond's Student Online registration system (CAMS). Students in the School of Ministry are required to meet with their advisor to gain access to the registration system, but not required to meet with the Records Office.

School of Counseling students are also required to meet with their advisors before matriculating and have their Program of Study approved. If a student does not take care of this, the student will be prevented from registering for future semesters. The final Program of Study is approved by the student's advisor. For all subsequent registrations, students will be able to register themselves, once the student has cleared all appropriate holds from their accounts. All ISW students and non-degree students will pre-register via CAMS. Their usernames and passwords will be assigned by the Records Office. Records Office staff will discuss with students any holds that are on their account.

Students who are not officially registered on the first day of the semester due to account hold obligations will be assessed a late registration fee of \$50. If students need to drop pre-registered classes, they must contact the Records Office in writing once online registration has closed.

- **Pre-registration for Continuing Students**

Continuing students (students who have been at Richmond for at least one semester) are able to register themselves once registration opens every semester unless it is noted that they must meet with their advisor or have other holds. Continuing students must clear financial and all other holds every semester in order to register for future semesters.

- **Waitlist Procedures**

If a course for which students are attempting to pre-register is full, students can add themselves to the waitlist. If space becomes available in the course, students will automatically be placed into it. Should students decide that a course is no longer wanted, they should drop it from the class schedule. In this way the course can be offered to someone else. By waitlisting for a course, students obligate themselves financially and academically to the course if a space opens.

- **Becoming Officially Registered**

To become officially registered or to register for future semesters, students must have cleared all relevant holds.

Possible Holds Are:

- **PREPAY Hold:** The student has not paid for the semester.
- **ADMISS Hold:** The student is missing a piece of their academic application that would complete their academic file. Examples of missing items would be test scores or transcripts.
- **RECORDS Hold:** The student is missing a Program of Study or other related Records documentation.
- **ADVISEMENT Hold:** The Student has not met with their advisor as required.
- **DELINQUENT Hold:** The Student is no longer attending but still owes the institution fees and tuition.

Add/Drop/Withdrawal Procedures

The add/drop/withdrawal fee is \$10 per transaction. The student has the responsibility of submitting the form to the Records Office for processing and is responsible for fees and penalties incurred for late submission. Students who drop all of their coursework will be refunded student fees for that semester.

- **Weekly or Online Class Add/Drop/Withdrawal Policy**

Weekly, online, and independent studies may be added and dropped during the first week of classes. Dropped courses will be removed from the student's transcript. Courses from which the student withdraws during the second, third and fourth week of school receive a *W* on the transcript. During the fifth through twelfth week of the term, a grade of *WP* or *WF* is assigned, as determined by the instructor. *WF* grades are calculated into the GPA as *F* grades. Beyond the twelfth week of the term, an *F* will be recorded on the transcript for any classes from which the student withdraws. During the abbreviated summer semester, courses from which the student withdraws during the first quarter of the semester will receive a *W* on the transcript. During the second and third quarter of the semester, a grade of *WP* or *WF* is assigned as determined by the instructor. During the last quarter of the semester, an *F* grade will be received in all classes from which the student withdraws. Specific dates are published in the Academic Calendar.

- **Intensive Class Add/Drop/Withdrawal Policy** Registration for intensive courses follows the same process and timeline as regular courses for degree-seeking students. Nondegree students may register up to close of business of the week prior to the beginning of the course for a \$10 fee per transaction. Intensive courses may be dropped prior to the close of business on the day before the first day of the course. Courses from which the student withdraws on or after the first day of the course receive a *WP* or *WF* as determined by the instructor.

- **Institutional Withdrawal Policy**

Students who pre-register but do not return or inform the Records Office in writing of their intent not to continue will be charged a \$50 non-continuance fee on the last day to add/drop. Any currently enrolled student who does not register for classes for two semesters (excluding summer term) will be considered to have withdrawn from Richmond. Students who wish to withdraw from Richmond during an academic term must meet with their academic advisor and complete an institutional withdrawal form and, which is then submitted to the Records Office. Students who wish to withdraw between terms are asked to contact the Records Office in writing. All students who wish to withdraw are asked to complete a withdrawal survey with the Student Services Office. Withdrawals prior to the first day of classes or during the first week will not appear on the transcript. During the second, third and fourth weeks of the semester, a *W* grade will be recorded on the transcript. Beyond this time, a grade of *WP* or *WF* will be recorded as determined by the instructor. Withdrawal from Richmond normally carries the automatic forfeiture of any scholarships that Richmond may have granted. Requests for exceptions may be addressed with the Academic Affairs Committee of the corresponding school.

Course Changes or Cancellations

If the institution changes or cancels a course in such a way that a student who has started the course is unable to continue, arrangements will be made in a timely manner to accommodate the needs of each student enrolled in the course. If alternative arrangements, determined by NPEC to be equitable to both the institution and the student, are not possible, a refund will be given for all money paid by the student for the course.

Transfer of Credits

Students should be aware that transfer of credit is always the responsibility of the receiving institution. Any student interested in transferring credit hours from Richmond to another institution should check with that institution directly to determine to what extent, if any, credit hours can be transferred.

Students with coursework from another regionally accredited graduate institution may apply for transfer of credit to a Richmond degree program. The number of credit hours and the specific course credits that may be transferred from other institutions are limited to protect the student's best interest as well as the integrity of Richmond's programs.

Current Richmond students who wish to take coursework at another institution for transfer into their degree program at Richmond are strongly encouraged to have the course(s) pre-approved by the Dean of the School for which the credit is being considered. Richmond does not guarantee the transfer of any courses which are not pre-approved and/or do not meet the standards which follow.

The evaluation of credits considered for transfer is conducted by the Records Office with final determination by the Dean of the School of Counseling, or Ministry. The following policies will be applied to evaluate all requests for transfer of credit:

Transfer of Credit Policies: Schools of Counseling

- Transferred credit hours must be from another graduate institution accredited by an agency recognized by CHEA and must carry a grade of *B* or higher.
- If the graduate program is comparable in mission, content and focus, a maximum of one-third of the total hours required for the respective Richmond graduate degree is allowed as transfer credit.
- If the previous program does not prepare graduates for licensure as a professional counselor (or equivalent), a maximum of two psychology and/or counseling courses may be transferred.
- Except in a most unusual circumstance, students must complete the clinical course sequence (Practicum and Internship) in residence at Richmond, along with any other course work required.
- A maximum of two courses in theology and/or Biblical studies may be transferred if the student demonstrates the course work is comparable to Richmond requirements. Because Richmond's

theology courses are taught from a counseling perspective, most seminary or other graduate school courses do not have comparable content and thus are not transferable.

- Credits will be transferred only for students currently enrolled at Richmond. Prospective students may request a preliminary review and an informal response for transfer of credit by the Records Office, but credits are formally transferred upon actual enrollment at Richmond.
- Credits to be transferred may not have been earned more than seven years prior to the date of the request.
- Transfer credits may only be used toward one Richmond degree.
- All transfers of credit must be completed prior to the student's pre-registration for his or her final semester of attendance at Richmond.
- Coursework earned on the quarter system is normally calculated as two-thirds of the credit hours for courses offered on Richmond's semester system.
- Transfer credit is not included in the computation of the grade point average for the degree being sought at Richmond.
- Transfer credits are counted when measuring the maximum time frame for Financial Satisfactory Academic Progress (FSAP) to complete the degree program but do not impact GPA.
- Any exceptions to these guidelines will be solely at the discretion of the Dean of the School of Counseling.
- Courses taken via distance-learning or an on-line format will be considered, but are subject to a greater level of scrutiny.
- Richmond reserves the right to assess competency and knowledge for any coursework for which students request transfer of credit.

Transfer of Credit Policies: School of Ministry

- Transfer credit must carry a grade of *B* or higher.
- If the graduate program is comparable in mission, content and focus, a maximum of one-third of the total hours required for the respective Richmond graduate degree is allowed as transfer credit.
- Credits will be transferred only for students currently enrolled at Richmond. Prospective students may request a preliminary review and an informal response for transfer of credit by the Records Office. Credits are formally transferred upon actual enrollment at Richmond.
- Credits to be transferred may not have been earned more than seven years prior to the date of the request.
- Transfer credits may be used toward only one Richmond degree.

- All transfers of credit must be completed prior to the student's pre-registration for his or her final semester of attendance at Richmond.
- Coursework earned on the quarter system is normally calculated as two-thirds of the credit for courses offered on Richmond's semester system.
- Transfer credit is not included in the computation of the GPA for the degree being sought at Richmond.
- Transfer credits are counted when measuring the maximum time frame for Financial Satisfactory Academic Progress (FSAP) to complete the degree but do not impact GPA.
- Any exceptions to these guidelines will be solely at the discretion of the Dean of the School of Ministry.
- Courses taken via distance-learning or an on-line format will be considered, depending on the pedagogical standard of the distance-learning course.
- Richmond reserves the right to assess competency and knowledge for which students request transfer of credit.

Procedures for Transfer of Credit

1. Students should first consult with their advisors before requesting transfers of graduate credits earned and before taking additional graduate courses for which they may want to transfer to Richmond.
2. Students must submit to the Records Office a transfer of credit application packet, including an official transcript showing the course(s) to be transferred, a syllabus of the course(s) in question, and a completed Request for Transfer of Credit form. This form is available from the Records Office and online.
3. The Records Office will conduct an initial evaluation of the request and forward the packet to the Dean of that student's perspective school for final determination.
4. The Dean will evaluate the request and submit the findings to the Records Office.
5. The student will be notified in writing by the Records Office regarding the decision, and the transfer of credit will be documented in the student's file once the student has matriculated.

Academic Exception

Students may petition the Dean of their perspective school for exceptions to academic policy or to make changes to their program of study. Depending on the request, the Dean may act on the petition or refer the request to the Academic Affairs Committee. The appropriate form for academic exception may be requested from the Records Office.

Independent Studies

Students may earn a limited amount of credit through independent directed study when circumstances prevent them from completing the class during the regular schedule or when they have special interest in a subject and wish to complete advanced study.

School of Counseling students should be aware that some state licensure boards do not accept courses earned by independent study for licensure requirements.

Students may take no more than two independent directed studies per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer), no more than one per semester, and no more than four total within the degree program. Students who apply for independent studies must be self motivated and capable of achieving high academic standards while working independently. Students are not guaranteed the approval of independent study proposals.

Independent directed studies include reading, writing, and research projects done under the direction of a Richmond faculty member, unless special permission is granted to work with an adjunct faculty member. Students desiring independent directed study should first contact their academic advisor, who will provide independent study proposal instructions. (See packet online.) Using the instructions provided, the student submits a written proposal for the planned course directly to the professor who will direct the study. Students must first contact the professor who normally teaches the class to request an independent study unless that person is an adjunct professor. In that situation, the student should first contact the Office of the Dean to ask who may lead the independent study. Along with the proposal, the student must submit the attached add form.

Once the professor approves the proposal, he or she will send it to the Office of the Dean for final approval. The entire process, including approval by the professor, the Dean, and submission of the approval form to the Records Office, must be completed by the end of registration the semester before the proposed independent study will occur. A copy of the proposal will become part of the student's permanent file.

A minimum of three individual contact hours with the professor during the independent study is required. Students are responsible to provide the professor with updates of assignments and to initiate contact with the professor. Independent study assignments are due at the end of the semester as determined by the professor.

Students should submit the proposal for an independent directed study during the regular pre-registration period for the semester during which the independent study will occur. Students should NOT register for the weekly class if it is offered. The actual registration for the course is completed by the Records Office upon approval of the proposal by the Dean of the corresponding school. Failure to register for an approved independent directed study by the registration deadline will result in additional fees. If a student is approved to register for an independent study after the regular registration period, he or she must pay a late registration fee or add/drop fee, whichever applies. Independent study proposals will not be approved past the add/drop deadline for any semester. Deadlines will be strictly enforced.

Fees for an independent directed study are not included in the student's regular tuition fees. The fees include the current tuition fee for one course and an instructional fee of \$100 per credit hour. Fees must be paid at the time of registration for the course. See the section on student fees in this Catalog for current independent study fees.

The course identification or prefix for an independent directed study is as follows:

- School of Counseling – CEDI
- School of Ministry – MINI

The prefix is followed by the same course number used for the regular course. The course number for original independent studies will be assigned by the Records Office.

GRADES AND ACADEMIC RECORDS

Computation of Grade Point Average

The cumulative grade point average is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned in courses by the total number of credit hours attempted. Passing grades received in pass/fail courses are not included in this computation. (Richmont does not round up a GPA.) The grade points for academic letter grades are for credit hours attempted.

Richmont has adopted the following grade points for academic letter grades:

		A	93+	A-	90-92
B+	88-89	B	83-87	B-	80-82
C+	78-79	C	73-77	C-	70-72
				F	<70

Grades and grade status are further defined:

P	Pass (0 grade points assigned)
F	Fail (0 grade points assigned)
I	Incomplete
IP	In Progress (incomplete assignments and incomplete clinical hours)
X	In Progress (complete assignments and incomplete clinical hours)
W	Withdrawal
WP	Withdrawal Passing
WF	Withdrawal Failing
AU	Audit
U	Unsatisfactory (used only for audited class)
NR	Not Reported

Grades received in courses from other colleges or universities that are approved for transfer to Richmont will not be calculated in the Richmont GPA. When a course is repeated, the initial course remains on the transcript with an earned grade of "P" but the original grade is no longer calculated into the GPA.

Grade Requirements

Richmont has specific policies related to grades and eligibility for graduation:

- A student must earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA for all Richmont courses appearing on the transcript. (Richmont does not round up a GPA.)
- Transferred courses, if accepted, appear on the transcript with the title of the course from the transferring institution and the credit hours of the course from the transferring institution or Richmont, whichever is less. No grade is recorded, and no grade points are applied.
- A maximum of two C grades (C+, C, C-) may be applied toward meeting course requirements
- A student who earns a third C grade may repeat the course one time for credit.
- A student who earns a fourth C grade is subject to academic dismissal.
- A student who receives a term GPA below 3.0 during a given semester will receive a letter of scholastic warning from the Records Office and is placed on FSAP probation.
- A student who receives a term GPA of less than 3.0 in two successive semesters will be subject to dismissal.
- Conditionally admitted students whose term GPA falls below a 3.0 for coursework taken within the first eight hours of courses evaluated with a traditional letter grade are subject to academic dismissal.
- Any student who receives an F is subject to dismissal from the University.
- Students enrolled in the School of Counseling must earn a minimum grade of B- in the following courses before continuing in the clinical sequence:
 - CED6113: Helping Relationships
 - CED6123: Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling
 - CED6143: Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders
 - CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling

Grade Changes

A grade submitted by the instructor can be changed only in extreme circumstances with the approval of the Dean of the corresponding school.

Grade Reporting Policies

All grades are due for graduating students and students under review for SQE by the Monday following final exam week at 5:00 p.m. Grades for all other students are due the Wednesday after final exams (two days later). Grades that are not received by the due

date will be recorded as *NR* (not reported). As grades are posted by instructors, they are authorized by the Records Office and can be viewed by students via their CAMS student portal. Grades will be unavailable to view by students who have past-due financial accounts.

In-Progress Grades

An instructor may assign a temporary *IP* (in progress) grade when an unavoidable problem in a selected course prevents the issuance of a grade, such as a student who is unable to complete enough direct contact hours in a practicum and has not completed practicum or internship related coursework despite his best efforts. This option is utilized sparingly at the instructor's discretion, not in response to a student's request.

Please note that the *IP* option is used only for Practicum, Counseling Internship, Mentored Internship, and Thesis courses. This grade does not grant the student academic credit.

For the School of Counseling only, an instructor may assign a temporary *X* grade when a student has completed all assignments but lacks the appropriate clinical hours necessary for the course. This grade does give the student academic credit for the course. This option is utilized sparingly at the instructor's discretion, not in response to a student's request.

An *IP* or *X* grade is not the same as an *I* (incomplete). Incompletes maybe requested by students who are experiencing unforeseen personal problems that prevent them from completing their coursework. Grade changes for *IP*s must be submitted by the professor by the day grades are due during the following academic term, or they will be changed to *F*s.

Incomplete Grades

If a student is unable to complete the semester's work for a course, he or she may request an incomplete (*I*) grade. The Request for Incomplete form may be obtained from the Records Office, on the Richmond website, or through the CAMS student portal. The form is to be completed by the student, who must give a legitimate reason for the request and outline the assignments that need to be completed. This form will then be sent to the professor of the course for approval to verify that the student is passing and the incomplete is not being sought to raise the student's grade in the course.

The completed form will be submitted to the Records Office for final approval by the last day of final exams week. The due date for incompletes corresponds with the final day of finals for the semester the course occurred in. Please see below for specific instructions regarding incompletes.

Please note: If an instructor submits an *I* for a student who has not submitted a Request for Incomplete form, an *F* will be assigned to the student until the Records Office receives the form. Students may be limited regarding the number of incompletes they may carry at one time. Those who have an incomplete should limit their course load in the subsequent semester until the incomplete is resolved.

The student must complete the work by the date on which the next academic term's (including summer) grades are due, or the grade will be changed to an *F*.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The following is an abbreviated version of the FERPA policy. The policy in its entirety is available from the Records Office and on the Richmond Website.

Annual Notification

Students will be notified of their FERPA rights annually by publication of this information on the Richmond Website. Copies also will be available from the Records Office.

Procedure to Inspect Education Records

Students may inspect and review their educational records upon request to the appropriate record custodian.

Students should submit to the record custodian or an appropriate Richmond staff member a written request that identifies as precisely as possible the record(s) they wish to inspect.

The record custodian or appropriate Richmond staff member will make the needed arrangements for access as promptly as possible and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Access must be given in 45 days or less from the receipt of the request.

When a record contains information about more than one student, the student may inspect and review only the records that relate to him or her.

Limitations of Rights of Access

Richmont reserves the right to refuse to permit a student to inspect the following records:

1. Letters and statements of recommendation for which the student has waived the right of access
2. Records connected with an application to attend Richmond or a component of Richmond if that application was denied
3. Records that are excluded from the FERPA definition of education records

Refusal to Provide Copies of Records and Transcripts

Richmont reserves the right to deny transcripts in the following situations:

1. The student has an unpaid financial obligation to Richmond.
2. The student's federal loan payments are not current.

Disclosure of Education Records

Richmont will disclose information from a student's education records only with the student's written consent. Records may be disclosed without consent when the disclosure is:

1. To University officials who have a legitimate education interest in the records
2. A University official is any person employed by Richmond in an administrative, research or support staff position
3. A person employed or under contract to Richmond to perform a special task, such as an attorney or auditor
4. To officials of another school, upon request, in which the student seeks or intends to enroll

5. To certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, and state and local educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported education programs
6. In connection with a student's request for or receipt of financial aid, as necessary to determine the eligibility, amount or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid
7. To state and local officials or authorities if required by a state law requiring disclosure that was adopted before November 19, 1974
8. To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of Richmond
9. To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions
10. To parents of an eligible student who claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
11. To comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena
12. To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency
13. To individuals requesting directory information so designated by Richmond
14. The results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by Richmond against an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence to the alleged victim of that crime

Directory Information

Richmont designates the following items as directory information: student name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, degree sought and certifications, part-time or full-time status, degrees and awards received, previous schools attended and photographs. The University may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless notified in writing to the contrary. Such notification must be received within three school days of the official date of registration to ensure that directory information will not be included in University publications.

Correction of Education Records

Students have the right to ask to have records corrected that they believe are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of their privacy rights. Procedures for correction are available from the Records Office. Students should address questions about this policy to the Records Office.

Transcript Requests

Official transcripts will be released by Richmont only upon receipt of a request from the student via the website www.iwantmytranscript.com/richmont. The website does require the student to include his or her handwritten signature. A signature from a friend, parent or spouse on behalf of the student will not be accepted. Requesting an official transcript via the Richmont website is the preferred method of request.

Richmont will mail official transcripts or send electronic transcripts via a secure portal to the recipient indicated through the website. In either case, the transcript will be in a sealed envelope with the Registrar's signature across the back. If the seal is broken, the transcript is no longer official. Transcripts will not be given to a student's representative unless specifically indicated on the request with a signature of the student.

Regular processing time for transcripts is three to five business days. The cost for transcripts is \$6.00 for each transcript sent (paper or electronic). These requests will not be processed until payment is received. Should expedited service be required, an additional \$10

fee will be assessed; and transcripts will be prepared within 24 hours and sent via USPS. If overnight delivery is required, an additional fee of at least \$40 will be assessed (amount based on current FedEx rates). Payment of transcript fee(s) are made by credit card.

Official transcripts may not be issued for the following reasons:

1. Financial holds from the Business Office
2. No signature on the request
3. Insufficient, inaccurate or illegible identification information
4. Insufficient payment, expired or declined credit card, or payment using non-U.S. currency

Students may access unofficial transcripts through the CAMS student portal. Unofficial transcripts are also provided to current students upon request without charge for academic advising and personal use. The unofficial transcript is presented directly to the student on plain white paper and may be duplicated. This transcript is not suitable to obtain employment, transfer to another education institution, or verify degree.

Should a student's transcript or academic record be requested from Richmont by a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, Richmont is required to issue the transcript after making a reasonable effort to contact the student. However, if the subpoena specifically orders Richmont not to notify the student or if it is a federal grand jury subpoena, the transcript or academic record will be issued without notification to the student.

Important note: Richmont cannot accept responsibility for non-delivery if the address provided is either incomplete or incorrect nor can Richmont accept responsibility for timely delivery by the United States Postal Service, FedEx, or any other mail carrier.

Credit Hour Policy

This credit hour policy applies to all degree programs, regardless of the delivery method including lecture, online, internship, independent study/directed research study, and hybrid classes. Each Dean is responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that meets the requirements outlined in this policy. Richmont operates on a semester schedule. Fall and spring semesters are approximately 15-16 weeks; and summer semester is 10 weeks, with weekly classes extended to meet contact-hour requirements. Richmont awards semester credit hours as the measure of academic coursework.

For traditional lecture and seminar classes, a credit hour is awarded in semester hour units based on semesters of 15-16 weeks and contact hours of 50 minutes. For the shortened summer semester, courses are expected to have the same number of contact hours as courses taught in a normal semester.

In an effort to accommodate students furthering their education while maintaining employment and to offer students the opportunity to be exposed to outstanding faculty from across the country, some Richmont classes are offered in intensive formats. For example, a two-hour course may be offered in three weekend days of 10 hours of instruction each; and three-hour courses may be taught on four weekend days of 11 – 11.5 hours each. Syllabi are available to students at the beginning of the semester during which intensives are offered. Readings are assigned to prepare students for the first day of class when all the coursework is collapsed into one weekend.

All assignments may not be due that weekend, but all will be due prior to the last day of regular classes for the semester as determined by the instructor. Thus, although the class time is condensed, students still have essentially the entire semester to interact with the subject matter of the class. Learning objectives and expected outcomes and workload expectations are the same as for traditional weekly courses.

Courses that have less structured classroom schedules, such as internships, online courses, independent study or directed research courses, and hybrid courses, at a minimum, should state clearly learning objectives and expected outcomes and workload expectations that meet the standards set forth above.

No credits are given for audited courses.

The clinical internship course sequence within the School of Counseling provides opportunities for the participation in the counseling process as counselor/co-counselor under the supervision of licensed Christian mental health professionals across 12 months for a total of 6 credit hours. Over this time period, students accumulate a minimum of 700 clock hours of clinical experience of which a minimum of 300 hours is in direct service (face to face counseling). It also includes weekly individual (at least two hours) and group supervision (at least one and one half hours). Overall, the clinical experience typically involves approximately 20 hours per week.

The internship course within the School of Ministry provides opportunities for students to apply learned leadership ideas and models in a ministry setting under the mentorship of an established ministry leader. The 2 credit course includes 5 hours of instruction by the Director of Mentored Growth and Development, class assignments (students are required to read Tom Rath, *StrengthsFinder 2.0.*, Gallop Press, 2007, take the StrengthsFinder assessment and complete a StrengthsFinder integration paper), and 250 hours of internship work. The course requires bimonthly meetings with their mentor.

For independent study or directed research (thesis) courses, credit hours are awarded based on the amount and complexity of the academic work to be done consistent with an equivalent workload for the credit hour standard applied to courses. Time commitment must account for equivalent seat time in a traditional class (e.g., 45 hours for a 3 semester hour course; 30 hours for a 2 semester course) plus additional time spent in study and preparation. The additional time must be double the seat time for the class; in other words, a 3 credit hour class taken as an independent study consists of a minimum of 135 hours of work (45 for seat time; 90 additional). Time involved in work is distributed across a) independent reading of both course materials and lecture slides, the conduct of empirical and/or theoretical research on chosen topic, c) meetings with instructor and/or Thesis Advisor (minimum of three), d) written assignments, and e) other activities (e.g., submission of IRB proposals) as appropriate for the specific subject topic.

For hybrid (direct instructor contact combined with online elements) delivery formats, course instructional time includes direct faculty/student course contact within the physical classroom environment as well as via the virtual teaching space. Virtual teaching contact activities include, but are not limited to: communication via threaded discussion board and email; experiential exercises facilitated by online material; and completion

of course modules. Time commitment must account for equivalent seat time in a traditional class (e.g., 45 hours for a 3 semester hour course; 30 hours for a 2 semester course) plus additional time spent in study and preparation. Additional academic coursework requirements expected to be completed outside of course instructional time include written papers, quizzes, tests, and case studies. Workload expectations are the same as for traditional weekly classes.

EXIT REQUIREMENTS: SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

During their last semester, students in the M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and the M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy programs are required to complete the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) and be approved by the Richmond faculty through the Student Qualifying Evaluation (SQE) process. These steps represent an important aspect of the competency evaluation system for all graduates of Richmond's counseling programs.

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination

The CPCE is administered during the course CED7891: Professional Seminar in Marriage & Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling. It is based on eight core curriculum areas approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The Office of the Dean notifies students about this exam, which costs \$50 (subject to change).

The CPCE provides valuable information regarding the student's strengths and weaknesses relative to the National Counselor Examination (NCE), which is required for licensure as a professional counselor in most states. Richmond uses the CPCE results to improve the quality of the educational experience at the University. Students are encouraged to utilize their results to prepare further for the NCE and their counseling ministry. Currently, Richmond requires all School of Counseling students to pass this examination. It is also used to direct students in strengthening areas of identified weakness and celebrating areas of strength.

National Counselor Examination

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) has granted Richmond certification as an approved Graduate Student Administration National Counselor Examination Testing Site. As an approved GSA-NCE testing site, Richmond administers this test each April. Although the NCE is not required for graduation from Richmond, most Richmond students choose to complete it at their home campus during their last Spring semester enrolled.

Student Qualifying Evaluation

Every student is evaluated each semester for readiness to continue to the next level of clinical training. The clinical skills of graduating students also are evaluated in this process. In the last semester of students' training, the faculty must unanimously affirm students' clinical abilities before they are granted approval for graduation from Richmond, and/or participation in commencement.

STUDENT EVALUATION: SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

Richmont students are expected to maintain the highest standards of scholarship. The minimum standard of performance is a grade of 3.0 (B). Any student who receives a term grade point average below 3.0 during a given semester will receive a letter of scholastic warning from the Records Office. Should the student receive a GPA of less than 3.0 in two successive semesters, he/she will be subject to dismissal. A student dismissed for failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA may reapply after one year and must meet full admission criteria for the master's program at the time of re-application in addition to any requirements stipulated at the time of dismissal.

In addition to academic performance, social and interpersonal skills are essential to adequate performance as a counselor. In the absence of adequate progress, students who experience difficulty in these areas will be subject to dismissal from the Richmont program after warning from the student's advisor. Supervisors of clinical work provide evaluations to the Director of Clinical Training and these are incorporated into the student's overall performance evaluation.

The evaluation of a student's performance is continuous and involves consideration of the student's academic performance as well as the student's performance in laboratory, practicum and internship classes. A student may be withdrawn from a course and/or the Richmont program if the welfare of the student's clientele, prospective clientele, or functioning of a school or agency is, in the judgment of the faculty and administration, in jeopardy as a result of the student's behavior.

Standards of Performance

By policy, students are expected to uphold standards of academic and moral excellence consistent with their commitment to Christian faith and scholarship. Richmont students must demonstrate readiness to meet the level of professional behavior and service expected of graduate students in professional counseling, including but not limited to:

- Exhibiting conduct consistent with his or her profession of faith as a follower of Christ
- Maintaining a minimum term GPA of 3.0 (B)
- Abiding by the formal Statement of Community
- Participating in Richmont functions
- Exhibiting adequate social and interpersonal skills
- Exhibiting emotional balance and maturity, free from any impairment that might place self or another at risk
- Conducting herself or himself with confidentiality, honesty and academic integrity
- Relating respectfully and professionally to faculty, staff, fellow students and others
- Responding to supervision, class instruction, and other sources of constructive feedback
- Recognizing his or her limits of competency
- Translating academic preparation to clinical performance
- Providing competent service to counselees without academic or personal limitations, when compared to others at the same level of training
- Committing to the standards set in the code of conduct established by the appropriate licensure boards and professional societies

Retention and Dismissal

By policy, consistent with the Ethics and Standards of Practice of the American Counseling Association, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, Richmont expects students to secure remedial assistance when needed. Richmont dismisses from the program students who fail to comply with Richmont policies and procedures or who, upon evaluation, are determined to be unable to provide competent services due to academic or personal limitations. Students are expected to meet the standards of performance delineated above and must demonstrate professional behavior and service expected of a graduate student in professional counseling.

This policy is referenced during the admissions process and orientation and on relevant course descriptions. Because specific skills and personal qualities are essential to adequate performance as a counselor, students will be evaluated by the faculty periodically during their training. Not every student is suited to the profession of counseling, and acceptance into the program does not guarantee continuation in the program. The admission process is designed to accept students who, through testing, prior academic performance, interviews, and other application processes, appear to have the academic, professional and personal characteristics that may lead to success in counseling. However, such judgments inevitably are based on limited data. Moreover, life circumstances, personal crises, and other difficulties may arise that interfere with a student's continued success in the program.

Four categories of deficiencies present concerns and will lead to a plan of remediation and possible dismissal from a specific degree program or from Richmont. These categories include:

- Impairment
- Failure to demonstrate competence
- Ethical misconduct
- Problematic behaviors

Impairment is defined as an interference in professional functioning, whether chemical, physical, emotional or otherwise, that is demonstrated in one or more of the following ways:

- Inability or unwillingness to acquire and integrate professional standards into one's repertoire of professional behavior
- Inability to acquire professional skills and reach an accepted level of competency
- Inability to control personal stress, psychological dysfunction, or emotional reactions that may affect professional or social functioning
- Relational and boundary-setting traits or enduring behaviors that interfere with the establishment and maintenance of healthy relationships within or beyond Richmont

Failure to demonstrate competence is defined as a lack of demonstrated skills or ability, including, without limitation, deficiencies in professional conduct, deficient interpersonal skills, academic deficiency, failure to fulfill academic requirements, neglect, repeated absenteeism, and/or similar behaviors. Failure to demonstrate competence includes but is not limited to students providing professional services beyond their current level of competence.

Ethical misconduct occurs when the Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct of the American Counseling Association, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and/or Christian Association for Psychological Studies are not followed. These codes are intended to provide both general principles and the decision rules to cover most situations encountered by counselors and marriage and family therapists in their professional activities. They have as their primary goal the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom counselors or marriage and family therapists work. It is the individual responsibility of each student to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct.

Problematic behavior refers to a student's persistent, unremediated behaviors, attitudes or characteristics that are deemed unacceptable for professionals in training. Performance anxiety, discomfort with client's diverse lifestyles and/or ethnic backgrounds, and lack of appreciation of agency norms are examples of problematic behaviors that are usually remedied and not likely to progress into impairment status. Other problematic behaviors include irresponsibility with regard to class attendance, or missing required supervision or client appointments without notification or without sufficient reason. Problematic behaviors are typically more situational and time limited rather than persisting across time and situations and, therefore, are expected to be corrected through counseling and remediation efforts initiated by either Richmond or the student without requiring further disciplinary action.

Although each situation is different and requires individual assessment, the following factors may indicate that the problem is more serious and may represent a more serious impairment rather than a problematic behavior that is situational:

1. The student does not acknowledge, understand or address the problematic behavior when it is identified.
2. The problematic behavior is not a reflection of a skill deficit that can be rectified by training.
3. The quality of service delivered by the person is insufficient and cannot be restored or remedied.
4. The problematic behavior is not restricted to one area of professional functioning
5. The behavior has the potential for ethical or legal ramifications if not addressed.
6. A disproportionate amount of attention by training personnel is required.
7. Behavior does not change as a function of feedback.
8. Behavior negatively affects the public image of Richmond or the training site. Interpersonal relationship problems suggest a personality disorder or an untreated mental illness.

Identification and verification of impairment, failure to demonstrate competence, ethical violations, or problematic behaviors can arise from many sources, including but not limited to the classroom, a faculty member, a clinical supervisor, the student's advisor, a fellow student, or a member of the community. Both formal and informal interactions provide useful information in determining a student's need for remedial work or suitability for the counseling profession. Richmond retains the right to intervene and move toward remediation or dismissal at any point in the student's program in the event of impairment, failure to demonstrate competence, ethical violations, or problematic behaviors. In general, a student who is observed to have deficiencies will be invited to discuss the identified deficiencies with his faculty advisor, and a plan of remediation will be developed. In the absence of adequate progress, the student who experiences difficulty in these areas will be subject to dismissal after written warning from the student's advisor. Supervisors of clinical

work provide evaluations to the Director of Clinical Training, and these also are incorporated into the student's overall performance evaluation. A student may be dismissed from a course and/or the Richmond program if the welfare of the student's clientele, prospective clientele, or the functioning of the school or agency is, in the judgment of the University's faculty and administration, in jeopardy as a result of the student's behavior.

Student Qualifying Evaluation (SQE)

The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) for School of Counseling meets in April, August and December. All Richmond students are evaluated during this process, although the focus of the clinical component of evaluation is on students who are currently in the clinical sequence.

Evaluation of students serves to identify strengths and deficiencies and, when necessary, to develop a remediation or action plan. For students in the clinical sequence, receiving a passing grade in a clinical course does not necessarily allow the student to proceed within the clinical sequence.

Clinical performance, academic performance, and general personal deportment are all factors considered in the SQE. M.S. degree students are evaluated in interpersonal and academic levels only. Faculty rate students on Academic, Clinical, & Interpersonal areas; staff evaluate Interpersonal skills only. Students' performance is assessed in the classroom and in other settings, both formal and informal, including observations from faculty and staff, the student's advisor, and clinical supervisors where applicable.

Faculty and staff rate the students at the following categories and levels:

- Exceeds Expectations (Special Commendations)
- Meets Expectations
- Meets Expectations with Emerging Concerns (3 levels within this category)
 - Level 1 – Meeting Expectations with Slight Concern
 - Level 2 – Meeting Expectations with Mild Concern
 - Level 3 – Meeting Expectations with Moderate Concern
- Does Not Meet Expectations with Significant Concern (2 levels within this category)
 - Level 4 – Not Meeting Expectations with Serious Concerns
 - Level 5 - Not Meeting Expectations with Extreme Concerns

If a faculty reports an emerging concern, (concern rating of 1, 2, or 3), they are asked to provide specific behavioral instances or patterns of student behavior that warrants their concern. If faculty reports a serious or extreme concern about a student (concern rating of 4 or 5), they complete a Student Concern Report to provide more detailed information.

The master database and students' SQE statuses are reviewed by the SQE committee and a determination is made as to those students whose status warrants further review by Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). The SQE Committee includes representatives from Clinical Affairs, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. The choice to further evaluate a student of concern is based upon, but not limited to, evaluations from the Clinical Affairs Committee regarding the student's clinical performance, observations of the student's advisor, faculty, and feedback from site supervisors where applicable.

Following the meeting of AAC, the Dean of Students and Assistant Dean of Students tally information gathered at the SQE meeting and record it on the Student Performance Review Feedback Form. This form specifies that the student exceeds expectations, meets expectations, meets expectations with emerging concerns, or does not meet expectations with significant concern in each area: Academic, Clinical, and Interpersonal.

Based on completed SQE forms and SQE meeting, the Dean of Students creates and maintains an SQE database with the status of all students. Each student receives an SQE status, as follows:

- SPC: Exceeds Expectations (Special Commendations)
- M: Meets Expectations
- M-E: Meets Expectations with Emerging Concerns
- N/E: Does Not Meet Expectations with Significant Concern

Emerging concerns are indicated when a student acquiring SQE feedback that totals 3 in one semester (two faculty concerns totaling 3 or 1 “3-level” concern) or across cumulative semesters that will total 6 (2 Level-3 concerns, 3 Level-2 concerns, 6 Level-1 concerns, or any combination of Level-1, 2, or 3 that will total 6. Significant concerns are indicated any instance of a student has one or more concern ratings of 4 or 5.

The Student Performance Review Feedback Forms are compiled by the Dean of Students and Assistant to Dean of Students and sent to the Records Office to be placed in the student’s academic file. The Records Office distributes a copy of the Student Performance Review Feedback Form to the student’s advisor.

Students receive their Student Performance Review Feedback Form as follows:

- Students who meet expectations or exceed expectations are sent a scanned copy of the form along with a template letter to their Richmond email address from their advisor.
- For students with emerging concerns, the Student Performance Review Feedback Form with the concerns briefly outlined is scanned, along with a template letter, and sent to the student via email by their advisor. Students with additional questions regarding the concerns expressed may request a meeting with their advisor for further details and/or support.
- For students with significant concerns, a letter is sent from the Academic Dean noting the concerns along with a copy of the proposed remediation plan (Student Performance Remediation Plan Form). The student is instructed to schedule a meeting with the advisor to review and sign the plan. A copy of the Student Performance Review Feedback Form is included with the letter.

In general, a student who is observed to have significant concerns or deficiencies will be invited to discuss the identified deficiencies with his/her faculty advisor and a plan of remediation developed. In the absence of adequate progress, the student who experiences difficulty in these areas will be subject to dismissal from the Richmond program after warning from the student’s advisor. Supervisors of clinical work provide evaluations to the Dean of Clinical Affairs/ Director of Clinical Training, and these are also incorporated into the overall student evaluation of performance. A student may be dismissed from a course and/or the Richmond program if the welfare of the student’s clientele, prospective clientele, or the functioning of the school or agency is, in the judgment of the Institute’s faculty and administration, in jeopardy as a result of the student’s behavior.

Once a student with a significant concerns receives their Student Performance Review Feedback Form, a student will be given the opportunity to accept the recommendations, to provide a written rebuttal, and/or to appeal. If he or she chooses to provide a rebuttal, the AAC will meet again to consider any new evidence presented by the student and provide written documentation of their decision. If the student wishes to appeal the faculty’s decision, appeal procedures outlined in this Catalog may be followed. Regardless of the outcome of the feedback meeting, the student’s advisor will schedule a follow-up meeting to evaluate the student’s adjustment to the review process and recommend potential sources of guidance and assistance when necessary. Students are encouraged to submit to their advisors their own ideas for remediation, which will be considered in developing the remediation plan.

The student’s advisor will document the plan using the Student Performance Remediation Plan form. The student may pre-register for the next clinical course at the normally scheduled dates while awaiting the evaluation; however, final approval for enrollment in the course is contingent upon the recommendation of the AAC. The advisor will inform the student if there is a reason he or she may not proceed with the next clinical component. If the student is not allowed to proceed with it, any fee collected specific to that course will be credited to the student’s account or reimbursed.

The remediation process will follow the written plan, which must include scheduled review dates and target dates for each issue identified. Examples of actions that may be included in the remediation plan are an increase in didactic instruction; decrease in course load; decrease, increase or temporary suspension of clinical, didactic, or supervisory responsibilities; altered supervision and/or faculty advisement; leave of absence; and individual psychotherapy. Progress must be reviewed at least once every semester (Fall and Spring) at least two weeks before registration. Additional reviews may be scheduled as necessary. After each one, a copy of the current remediation plan, with student comments and faculty signatures, must be placed in the student’s file. If progress toward remediation plan goals is viewed by the advisor and AAC as insufficient, either a change in the remediation plan or dismissal of the student will follow. The student will have an opportunity for rebuttal or appeal, as described above.

Clinical Qualifying Evaluations

Required Formal Evaluations prior to Counseling Practicum and Internship Courses

A formal evaluation is conducted at the conclusion of *Helping Relationships, Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling, Counseling Practicum, and Counseling Internship I and II* to assist in the identification of deficiencies and the development of a remediation or action plan. Receiving a passing grade in any of the clinical courses, (i.e. Helping Relationships, Applied Lab, Practicum or Counseling Internship I or II), does not necessarily allow the student to proceed with the clinical sequence. At the conclusion of the Applied Lab, Practicum, Counseling Internship I, and Counseling Internship II each student will be evaluated by a SQE/CQE committee consisting of the Dean of Clinical Affairs, Director of Clinical Training, the Dean of Student Affairs and the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

This committee will review SQE forms from the faculty for the student's clinical course, the student's advisors and feedback from supervisor evaluations on the student at the clinical practice. After considering this data and any other pertinent information, these faculty members will submit a recommendation for continuance or remediation to the Academic Affairs Committee. Each member of the Academic Affairs Committee will consider the recommendation and offer his/her evaluation of the student's performance in the classroom and other settings, both formal and informal.

The Academic Affairs Committee has three options regarding retention of the student:

Approval for Continuance into next Clinical Component:

If Academic Affairs Committee approves the student for continuance into the next clinical component without remediation, the student's advisor and the Dean of Clinical Affairs/Director of Clinical Training sign the Clinical Qualifying Evaluation Form. The Dean of Clinical Affairs/Director of Clinical Training places the form in the student's clinical file. The student's signature is not required.

Dismissal:

If the Academic Affairs Committee determines that there is a problem that warrants dismissal, the Academic Dean and the student's advisor will schedule a meeting to discuss this dismissal with the student following the Academic Affairs Meeting. This meeting will be conducted by the Academic Dean and the student's advisor, or one other faculty member and the student. The student has opportunity to appeal this decision as per the policies described below. If there is no appeal, the Office of the Academic Dean and the registrar's office issue a letter to the student confirming their dismissal and reiterating any potential conditions for later reapplication to Richmond.

Remediation:

If Academic Affairs Committee determines that there is a problem not sufficient to warrant dismissal at that time, the remediation plan suggested by the SQE/CQE Committee is reviewed and either accepted or altered. Based on the Academic Affairs Committee recommendations, along with the student's advisor will develop a written plan for remediation. The student's advisor will schedule a meeting to discuss this plan with the student following the Academic Affairs Meeting. This meeting will be conducted by the student's advisor, one other faculty member and the student. A remediation plan is a statement of grave concern about the student's ability to continue in the Richmond degree program; failure to comply with the plan fully may lead to dismissal.

After the faculty members have presented the clinical qualifying evaluation to the student and answered his or her questions, the student must sign the Student Performance Remediation Plan form indicating that the recommendations have been presented and explained. The student will be given the opportunity to accept the recommendations, to provide a written rebuttal, and/or to appeal. If the student chooses to provide a rebuttal, the Academic Affairs Committee will meet again to consider any new evidence presented by the student, and will provide written documentation of their decision within a few weeks of the date the rebuttal was received.

If the student wishes to appeal the faculty's decision, he or she may follow the appeal procedures outlined in the Graduate Catalog. Regardless of the outcome of the feedback meeting, the student's advisor will schedule a follow up meeting to evaluate the student's adjustment to the review process, and recommend potential sources of guidance and assistance when necessary.

Students are encouraged to submit their own ideas for remediation to their advisors. The advisor and the Academic Affairs Committee will consider the student's recommendations in revising and finalizing the remediation plan. The student's advisor will document the plan using the Student Performance Remediation Plan form.

The Student Performance Remediation Plan and the Student Performance Review will be placed in the student's file. The student may register for the next clinical course at the normally scheduled dates as they await their evaluation; however, final approval for enrollment in the course is contingent upon the recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee as stated in the Student Performance Review. The student's advisor will contact the student who receives a remediation. If the student is not allowed to proceed to the next clinical training course, any fee collected specific to that course will be credited to the student's account or reimbursed.

The remediation process will follow the written plan, which must include scheduled review dates and target dates for each issue identified. Examples of actions that may be included in the remediation plan are an increase in didactic instruction; a decrease in course load; a decrease, increase or temporary suspension of clinical, didactic, or supervisory responsibilities; altered supervision and/or faculty advisement; leave of absence; and individual psychotherapy. Progress must be reviewed at least once every semester for the Fall and Spring semesters, at least two weeks before registration. Additional reviews may be scheduled as necessary.

After each review, a copy of the current Remediation Plan including student comments and faculty signatures must be filed in the student's academic file. If progress against toward targets is viewed by the advisor and Academic Affairs Committee as insufficient, a change in the remediation plan or the dismissal of the student will follow. The student will have an opportunity for rebuttal or appeal, as described above.

The policy described above is designed to minimize graduating students who are not suited for professional practice of counseling. Richmond acknowledges that there are limitations in identifying every student who may not have the potential to perform effectively in the role of professional counselor.

STUDENT EVALUATION: SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Richmont students are expected to maintain the highest standards of scholarship. The minimum standard of performance is a grade of 3.0 (B). Any student who receives a term grade point average below 3.0 during a given semester will receive a letter of scholastic warning from the Records Office and placed on FSAP Probation. Should the student receive a GPA of less than 3.0 in two successive semesters, he/she will be subject to dismissal. A student dismissed for failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA may reapply after one year and must meet full admission criteria for the master's program at the time of re-application in addition to any requirements stipulated at the time of dismissal.

In addition to academic performance, social and interpersonal skills are essential to adequate performance in ministry and are actively evaluated while a student is in the School of Ministry by faculty and staff. In the absence of adequate progress, students who experience difficulty in these areas will be subject to dismissal from the Richmont program after warning from the student's advisor. Supervisors of clinical work provide evaluations to the Dean of the School of Ministry that are incorporated into the student's overall performance evaluation.

Standards of Performance

By policy, students are expected to uphold standards of academic and moral excellence consistent with the highest standards of Christian faith and scholarship. Richmont students must demonstrate readiness to meet the level of professional behavior and service expected of graduate students in professional counseling, including but not limited to:

- Exhibiting conduct consistent with his or her profession of faith as a follower of Christ
- Maintaining a minimum term GPA of 3.0 (B)
- Abiding by the formal Statement of Community
- Exhibiting adequate social and interpersonal skills
- Exhibiting emotional balance and maturity, free from any impairment that might place self or another at risk
- Conducting herself or himself with honesty and academic integrity
- Relating respectfully and professionally to faculty, staff, fellow students and others
- Responding constructively to supervision, class instruction, and other sources of constructive feedback
- Recognizing his or her limits of competency
- Translating academic preparation to ministry performance

Retention and Dismissal of Students

Because the School of Ministry seeks to graduate women and men who qualify as Christian leaders, the faculty and administration will evaluate a student's qualifications in terms of spiritual, moral, doctrinal, professional, and academic standards..

Student Qualifying Evaluation

Formal evaluations may be initiated by faculty, the Director of Mentored Growth and Development, the Assistant to the Dean of Ministry, the Director of Records, or the Dean of the School of Ministry. The results of such evaluations will generally point to one of three options: 1) affirmation of the student to continue in the course of study; 2) probationary status accompanied by appropriate remedial actions; or 3) dismissal from the degree program. Status reports for option 2 will be part of the remedial process. The status of probation for students must be removed by the end of the fifth semester in order for the student to graduate from the program.

ACADEMIC APPEALS POLICY: SCHOOLS OF COUNSELING AND MINISTRY

ACADEMIC APPEALS POLICY

Under very rare circumstances, a student and faculty member may not be able to resolve a matter through informal conversation or a student may wish to appeal a decision made by the Academic Affairs Committee of their perspective school. In those cases where a student desires to appeal a decision, the following appeal procedure should be utilized.

The notice of appeal must contain the following:

1. A copy of the decision being appealed;
2. A statement of the grounds for appeal, which at a minimum should contain a list of alleged errors in the decision or procedure and statement of why the decision or sanctions are in error;
3. Documentation (if appropriate) to support the student's position regarding the alleged errors;
4. A requested remedy; and
5. The signature of the student and date the appeal is being submitted.

The student will give a copy of the statement to the faculty member (if the appeal is related to a specific grade) and the Academic Dean of their perspective school and attempt to discuss and resolve the matter with the faculty member. If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student and faculty member, the student has the right to appeal directly to the Academic Dean. If the complaint is not resolved by the Dean to the satisfaction of the parties involved, the student has the right to request the referral of the matter to the Academic Affairs Committee. The Committee receives complaints only by referral from the Academic Dean of their perspective school. The Academic Affairs Committee will meet to discuss the student's written complaint and may request an interview with him or her to gain greater clarity. After the Committee makes their determination, the Academic Dean will respond in writing to the student and any other parties involved in the decision. All appeals must be received within 30 calendar days from the date that the grade was submitted to the CAMS Student Portal or 30 calendar days from the notification of the decision by the institution that the student desires to appeal.

If the complaint cannot be settled at the institutional level, a student at the Atlanta campus may contact:

Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220
Tucker, GA 30084-5305
770.414.3300
www.gnpec.org

A student at the Chattanooga campus may contact: Tennessee

Higher Education Commission
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900
Nashville, TN 32743-0830
615.741.5293

Reapplying to Richmond after being dismissed is not considered an appeal of the dismissal decision. In this scenario, a student would be able to apply for readmission to the institution one year after dismissal or the time frame specified in the dismissal letter. Reapplication after dismissal does not guarantee that a student will be readmitted to the institution.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

As a nurturing group of educators, Richmond maintains that all people should be treated with dignity. In those cases when the student thinks that this standard has been breached, the following procedure will apply:

A student in any Richmond program who has a grievance unrelated to academic concerns may present the complaint in writing to:

Dean of Students - Richmond Graduate University
1900 The Exchange S.E.
Building 100
Atlanta, GA 30339

The Student Grievance Committee will meet to discuss the student's written complaint and may request an interview with him or her to gain greater clarity. After the Committee makes a determination, the President will respond in writing to the student and the other parties, if any.

If a complaint is not settled at the institutional level, a student at the Atlanta campus may contact:

Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220
Tucker, GA 30084-5300
5770-414-3300
www.gnpec.org

Regarding a complaint is not settled at the institutional level, a student at the Chattanooga campus may contact:

Tennessee Higher Education Commission
404 James Robertson Parkway
Suite 1900, Parkway Towers Nashville, TN 32743-0830
615-741-5293

SELF-CARE AND SHARED PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Graduate school presents many challenges to developing professionals, leading students to occasionally neglect maintenance of an appropriate balance between professional activities and self-care. Richmond Graduate University reminds students that development of professional competencies is dependent upon effective self-care behavior (i.e., getting enough sleep, adequate nutrition and exercise, obtaining medical health and mental health care when needed, utilizing social support, church involvement, etc.).

It is the student's responsibility to maintain effective self-care behaviors while in graduate school. Students have access to their advisor, enhancement programs, mentors, and other resources while enrolled at Richmond. Students are made aware of these opportunities at their orientation and in a bi-annual email. Students also have access to a list of low-cost counselors in the greater Atlanta and/or Chattanooga areas to assist them in this regard.

Richmond's graduate training programs are a small professional community in which students support one another in developing effective self-care behaviors, much like the broader profession will be upon graduation. When a student recognizes that another student regularly neglects his/her self-care, the student should try to offer assistance to the other student in obtaining help before discussing it with a faculty member. Should the other student continue to engage in significantly unhealthy self-care behavior following peer assistance, you, as the observer, should discuss your concerns with your advisor or dean. This is your professional responsibility. Faculty may also discuss observed concerns with students regarding neglect of regular self-care.

Faculty are open to requests for accommodations in particularly distressing periods (e.g., personal or family tragedy, illness, etc.). In such situations, consistent with demonstrating professional competence, the student should bring the situation to the attention of his or advisor and other affected faculty in order to plan for how to handle the potential program hiatus (e.g., coursework, clinical cases, etc.). The Records Office can offer assistance if the need for extended absences arises that requires a Leave of Absence or Institutional Withdrawal. Students should also be sure to address financial considerations (loans, assistantships, impact on tuition fellowship, etc.) when considering a hiatus from the program.

POLICY ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

Richmont Graduate University is committed to maintaining a drug-free learning environment. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited on Richmont grounds or at Richmont activities by all students and employees. It is also a violation of Richmont policy for anyone to consume or possess alcohol in any public or private area of campus without prior University approval. The use of wine for communion is excluded from the need for prior approval.

In addition, it is a violation of Richmont policy for employees to work while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

Individuals or groups violating alcohol or substance use policies (either on- or off-campus) will be subject to disciplinary action by the University and, possibly, criminal prosecution. Any infraction of federal, state, or local laws will be reported to local law enforcement agencies. Additional detail on sanctions and penalties regarding drugs and alcohol is available in the faculty and student handbooks.

POLICY ON SEXUAL OFFENSES

Richmont educates the student community about the effects of sexual assault through classroom discussions presented by various faculty members (e.g. Institute for Sexual Wholeness classes, etc.) and by offering trainings through the CAMS Student Portal. Literature is also available through the library and through information given out at orientation each semester.

If a student is a victim of sexual assault, the first priority is to get to a place of safety. An assault can later be reported to the local police and to the Dean of Students, especially if the alleged perpetrator is enrolled in the school or if academic changes are being requested (e.g. semester withdrawal or incompletes). School personnel (e.g., the Dean of Students) can assist the student in notifying authorities if requested. In addition, referral to off-campus mental health resources is available through the Dean of Students Office; on-campus services are also available.

If the alleged perpetrator is also a student, disciplinary action can be initiated. Disciplinary proceedings are detailed in the Student Handbook. A student found guilty of violating the Richmont sexual misconduct policy could be criminally prosecuted in the state courts and may be suspended or expelled from Richmont for the first offense. Student victims have the option to change their academic situations after an alleged sexual assault, if such changes are reasonably available.

Advising the Campus Community About Sex Offenders

Convicted sex offenders are required by law to register their names and addresses with the State of Georgia Department of Corrections; likewise in the state of Tennessee. Interested persons may obtain state information on individuals registered as sex offenders by visiting the state websites. This website information will be disseminated to the students and employees of Richmont in the applicable handbooks.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Men and women of God are suited for Christian service by moral character as well as by academic achievement and spiritual gifts. Among their qualifications should be compassion for individual persons, sensitivity to the needs of the communities of which they are a part, a commitment to justice, a burden that the whole of God's will be obeyed on earth, personal integrity, a desire for moral growth, and mutual accountability. Richmont students are expected to exhibit these moral characteristics.

The ethical standards of Richmont are guided by an understanding of Scripture and a commitment to its authority regarding all matters of Christian faith and living. The Richmont community also desires to honor and respect the moral tradition of churches that entrust students to us for education. Ethical standards for counselors are also relevant, and students are also expected to learn and abide by these.

Richmont urges the practice of loving confrontation when any member of a Christian community feels that another member is living in violation of what the Bible teaches about Christian conduct. Richmont, therefore, encourages individuals to follow, where feasible, the steps of verbal confrontation and dialogue described in Matthew 18:15-22.

The use of Richmont disciplinary procedures should always be viewed as a last resort. In no way do they exempt Richmont from making every possible effort to guide the honest pursuit of truth, to encourage wholesome approaches to sexuality, to support stable family life, or to model community relationships that convey respect for people and property.

Richmont is committed to providing education and counseling resources to those of its community who are in special need; to extend Christian charity to those involved in strife, marital conflict, or the struggle for sexual identity; and to demonstrate the personal forgiveness available through Christ for all human failure.

Statement on Respect for People and Property

As a community of Christians with special commitment to acting out of love toward one another, Richmont expects community behavior that demonstrates the highest standard of respect for people and property. Scripture is replete with exhortations to look out for the welfare of others and build up each other, to be good protectors and stewards of the possessions God has given us and to be honest and keep one's word. Richmont is committed to fostering respectful interpersonal relationships regardless of gender, race, age, handicap, or national origin.

Basic standards for respectful conduct at Richmond are similar to those of other institutions of higher education in societies with the legal foundation of respect for people and property. Occasions may arise when specific standards relevant to this community are not fully recognized. Accordingly, the following examples of behaviors that are not acceptable according to the Statement on Respect for People and Property may be cause for disciplinary action. When appropriate, these may be reported to civil authorities for legal or other action.

Dishonesty: Richmond regards as unacceptable lying, misrepresentation, or deception in representations an individual makes about self or others, especially in formal statements.

Injurious or offensive action: Physical assault, infliction of psychological injury, and the spread of malicious rumors are unacceptable. Prejudicial treatment based on gender, race, age, and physical challenge is both offensive and injurious. Persistent profane or obscene language that gives offense is subject to disciplinary action.

Disruption: Acts by individuals or groups that substantially interfere with the rights of others or interfere with the normal activities of Richmond are unacceptable. Disruptive activities in classrooms, libraries, offices, or other campus meeting assembly areas are included.

Stealing or destruction of property: Theft of or damage to the property of another person or of Richmond is unacceptable. Defacing or rendering library material unusable shows little respect for people or property. Unauthorized possession or use of Richmond materials or equipment is stealing.

Purposeful violation of institutional policies: Purposeful violations include refusal to comply with contractual arrangements with Richmond offices or services and unwillingness to abide by established Richmond policies..

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS

The Dean of Students at Richmond assists the University in fulfilling its commitment to educate and serve students with disabilities who qualify for admission. This office coordinates and provides a variety of academic and support services to students. Our mission is to promote equal educational opportunities and a welcoming spiritual, academic, physical, and social environment for students with disabilities at the Richmond Graduate University. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, provides the foundation for equal access for students with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 furthers civil rights of persons with disabilities by mandating equal educational opportunity.

Richmond Graduate University will provide reasonable accommodation to the known physical and mental limitations of a qualified individual with a disability, unless to do so would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the university or unless it would fundamentally alter a degree or course requirement. A student who desires accommodations should make a direct request

with the Dean of Students. They will be asked to complete the Richmond Student Request for ADA Accommodations Form and to submit it along with the other required documentation. Additional information is located within the Student Handbook.

POLICY REGARDING GUEST AND CHILDREN

The facilities of Richmond Graduate University are restricted to use by students, faculty, staff, and guests of the university, except when all or part of the university location, its buildings, or its facilities are open to the general public for a designated time and purpose. A “guest” of the university is a person invited by an officer, employee, or student to visit the campus at a specific time and place for a designated purpose. Guests must sign in and out at the front desk. Personal guests of students are permitted as long as they restrict the length of their campus visits and abide by all appropriate guidelines and policies related to their visit, including but not limited to not disrupting the student or any other person’s work or other appropriate use of the campus. By inviting a personal guest on campus, the student assumes responsibility for that guest and should remain with the guest. Guests are not permitted to attend class with a student unless the student obtains the faculty member’s prior permission. Such permission will only be granted in very special and limited circumstances.

Arranging childcare is the personal responsibility of students who have children. Students are not authorized to bring children to a Richmond facility for extended periods of time. Frequent or lengthy visits of children are not permitted, as they may create disruptions and distractions and present a liability to the university for their safety. Minors under the age of 12 should not be left unsupervised at any time at any of Richmond’s facilities. Children may not attend class, use university equipment, or be left unattended on university property. Childcare issues frequently arise when holiday schedules of Richmond and those of the child’s school do not match, or when a child is sick and cannot attend school or daycare. Students must plan for these challenges in advance. Asking a faculty member to allow a child in class is not an option, as faculty members are not authorized to allow children to attend class.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must apply for graduation in the spring term prior to their expected participation in commencement (usually three terms). The due date for graduation applications is published in the Academic Calendar. Applications for graduation notify the Records Office to review the student’s transcript to determine that all degree requirements have been met. Application also alerts the Records Office to include the student in all communications regarding graduation and to order diplomas and regalia for each student.

Students may complete degree requirements and graduate from Richmond at the end of three different completion semesters: fall, spring and summer. The graduation date on the diploma and transcript will reflect the end of the term by which all requirements have been met. Students with requirements outstanding who are

approved to participate in the May commencement ceremony will not receive a diploma until the end of summer session. Students who graduate at the end of fall semester may choose to participate in the annual commencement ceremony that follows the date of graduation.

To participate in commencement, students will need to be approved to graduate and will be completing course requirements and/or clinical requirements by the end of the last day of summer semester. Students who will not be completing requirements by the last day of the summer semester will have the opportunity to participate in the following year's commencement, assuming course requirements, clinical requirements, and standards of performance have been satisfactorily met.

All students need to have a clear understanding of the distinction between graduation and commencement. Approved students who have any outstanding requirements, including internship hours, incompletes, and thesis work, may participate in the commencement ceremony but will not receive a diploma at the commencement and will not officially become a graduate of Richmond until the end of the term (typically summer) in which those requirements are met.

Commencement Participation

Richmont holds commencement each May. Students who are within three courses of meeting graduation requirements during the spring semester are permitted to participate in the ceremony if the courses will be complete by the final day of the subsequent summer semester. A notation will appear in the commencement program indicating that the student is participating under this policy. Degrees will not be conferred nor will diplomas and transcripts be available without completion of all coursework as dictated by the student's degree program.

FINANCIAL SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (FSAP)

This policy is required for Title IV (Financial Aid) compliance and is set in accordance with the mandates of the Department of Education. It follows guidelines the University has already established regarding GPA and degree length. This policy sets the standard for minimum financial satisfactory academic progress (FSAP). Students receiving Title IV must maintain the requirements of FSAP in order to remain eligible to receive aid. Students not receiving financial aid must still comply with all requirements of maintaining satisfactory academic progress for continuance in any academic program Richmond offers.

Evaluation Criteria for FSAP

1. Program Length: MAMFT and MACMHC programs must be completed within 5 years. The MAMin and MS programs must be completed within 3 years. Students who do not complete degree requirements within 5 years will NOT be considered in good academic standing and will not be eligible for financial aid. Students have the option to appeal, but there is no guarantee it will be granted. Students must be enrolled

for at least 6 hours every fall and spring and successfully complete these courses without making the following grades for those 6 attempted hours: *W*, *WP*, *WF*, *I*, *AU*, *IP*, and *F*.

2. Grades and Term GPA: A Term GPA below a *B* (3.0) will result in being placed on warning. Failure to make Satisfactory Academic Progress may be a result of unsatisfactory performance in classes, not attending class, unsatisfactory performance on qualifying exams, unsatisfactory research progress, or failure to meet other program requirements. Note: SAP is based on Term (not Cumulative) GPA.
3. Successful Completion of 6 hours: Students must successfully complete 6 hours of credit for each fall and spring semester.

Requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress

Grades of *W* (withdrawn), *I* (incomplete), *IP* (in progress), *WF* (withdrawn with failure), *WP* (withdrawn with passing), *AU* (audit), and/or *F* (failure) are not grades that award credit and therefore do not count toward the 6 hours needed for SAP.

In clinical courses in the School of Counseling (Practicum, Internship I, and Internship II) students must complete all requirements for each clinical class in order to earn a grade of Pass.

- Requirements include all rubrics for the course, including but not limited to completing counseling videos, community presentations, satisfactory attendance, and any other requirements specified in the syllabus for the course. Hours completed for internship to date will be turned in to assess progress and will be required to receive a Pass for Practicum and Internship I.
- If a student does not turn in all rubrics by the deadline (assigned by professor) in Practicum or Internship I, the grade assigned will be *IP*, which will not count toward the 6 hours needed for satisfactory academic progress.
- A grade of *X* implies that the student has completed all assignments for the clinical courses and only internship client hours remain. An *X* grade does count toward completed hours. An *X* grade will be turned into a Pass grade once client hours are completed.
- A grade of Pass for Internship II will not be given until ALL requirements AND hours have been successfully completed. Transfer credits are counted when measuring the maximum time frame for FSAP to complete the degree or but do not impact GPA.
- The Records Office will notify the student of any grade change (especially regarding a previous grade of Incomplete) to a traditional letter grade.

FSAP Warning Semester and Appeals

Students who fail to meet any of the requirements for FSAP will be notified and allowed one automatic Warning Semester associated with their next semester of enrollment to restore their satisfactory academic progress standing.

During the Warning Semester, students will be allowed to receive Federal financial aid, given they meet the requirements for that aid (taking 6 hours in fall or spring semester and/or other requirements placed on that student). A student is not allowed to receive consecutive Warning Semesters of Federal aid without an appeal (described below).

If a student cannot re-establish satisfactory academic standing during the Warning period, the student will become *ineligible to receive financial aid*.

Appeals

A student does have the option to appeal the loss of financial aid using the following process:

1. The student must submit the Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Appeal Form to the Records Office.
 2. The appeal will then go before the FSAP Appeal Committee.
 3. The Committee will either deny the request or allow one more Warning Semester for the student to come into compliance with the FSAP standards.
- *If the appeal is denied:* the student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for Federal aid for a subsequent semester by taking action that brings him or her into compliance with the degree length, credit hours, and GPA requirements of Richmond's SAP standard. During this time, the student will not be eligible to receive financial aid.
 - The Committee reserves the right to advise students as to their course loads, minimum grade requirements and the possible need for counseling and/or academic advisement.

Note: Being declared ineligible for financial aid does not mean the student has been academically dismissed from Richmond.

Appeals cannot be approved for students taking fewer than 6 hours for fall and spring semesters. Appeals also cannot be approved for a future semester when a student has attempted at least 6 hours but has not been able to complete those hours successfully.

Re-establishing Eligibility for Federal Financial Aid

Once the Warning Semester has concluded, the student may re-establish eligibility to be considered for Federal aid for a subsequent semester by either:

1. Taking action that brings him or her into compliance with the qualitative and quantitative components of Richmond's FSAP standard; OR
2. Meeting the specific academic plan and standards for the Warning Semester as established by the Appeals Committee.

Important note: *Students who choose to enroll while they are not making progress, waiting for the outcome of an appeal, or have an appeal denied are responsible for all charges on their account. Students will be held accountable for those charges if the courses are not dropped before the established deadlines published in the Academic catalog. Students who submit an appeal after the fall semester will not be retroactively approved for the completed term. The appeal, if approved, would be granted only for the following spring semester.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition and fees provide resources for faculty, administrative staff, theology and integration courses, clinical colloquia, supervised practice in a counseling setting, assessment consultation, community education experiences, technology tools and other special aspects of the Richmond program. Financial arrangements for payment of tuition and fees must be made by the payment deadline specified in the Academic Calendar. Students can find the Academic Calendar at the back of the Graduate Catalog. In addition, this information will be posted by the finance office before a semester begins.

Students who do not make financial arrangements by the payment deadline will be charged a \$50 late payment penalty fee. Students who have not made definitive and satisfactory arrangements to pay any outstanding balance from an earlier semester will not be able to register for the next semester. Once satisfactory financial arrangements are accepted, the student will be able to register.

All tuition and fees must be paid prior to the issuance of transcripts, grade reports, diplomas and degrees. It is the student's responsibility to see that payment arrives on time. Richmond cannot be responsible for lost, late or misdirected mail or checks. Please allow adequate time for mail delivery and processing when payment is sent.

Tuition and Fees for 2016-2017

Tuition for School of Counseling	\$645.00	per credit hour
Tuition for School of Ministry	\$470.00	per credit hour
Tuition for Certificate in Spiritual Direction	\$300.00	per credit hour
Audit Tuition for the School of Counseling	\$322.50	per credit hour
Audit Tuition for the School of Ministry	\$235.00	per credit hour
Schedule Change Fee (add/drop)	\$10.00	per transaction
Independent Study Fee	\$100.00	per credit hour
Late Registration Fee	\$50.00	
Late Payment Fee	\$50.00	
Application Fee	\$50.00	
Orientation Fee	\$25.00	
Student Fee	\$50.00	per semester
Library Fee	\$25.00	per semester
Technology Fee	\$125.00	per semester
Graduation Fee	\$150.00	
Late Graduation Fee	\$75.00	
Replacement Diploma Fee	\$30.00	
Certificate Fee	\$50.00	per Certificate
Transcript Evaluation Fee	\$10.00	per transcript
Transcript Fee	\$6.00	per transcript
Expedited Transcript Fee	\$10.00	per transcript
Overnight Transcript Delivery	\$40.00	minimum per delivery
Non-Continuance Fee	\$50.00	
CPCE Examination Fee		set by NBCC
NCC Application Fee		set by NBCC

Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. Individual courses may require additional fees at the prerogative of the instructor.

Graduation Fees

Every graduating student is assessed a graduation fee of \$150 to cover all expenses. Students who are only pursuing a certificate are assessed a \$50 fee to graduate with the certificate.

Graduation fees are assessed for all students regardless of participation in the commencement ceremony and are used to cover the cost of regalia, diploma and diploma cover, graduation reception, and graduation processing. Certificate seekers (those not pursuing a degree concurrently with a certificate) do not participate in commencement. Students who apply for graduation after the application deadline and students who change their degree, certificate program, etc. after stated deadlines will be charged a \$75 late fee to help defray the costs of reordering diplomas, regalia, and other related materials for commencement. Students who change their graduate date after the application deadline as a result of incomplete internship hours or additional coursework that the university might require will not be charged the \$75 late fee.

Financial Aid and Employment

A limited number of work-study positions are available at Richmond, and part-time jobs can be located in the Atlanta and Chattanooga areas. Due to the intensity of the Richmond program, full-time students should not plan to be employed for more than 20 hours per week. Employment opportunities are posted for students as they become available.

Loans

Some students finance their education through bank and state loans. Out-of-state students may find that these loans are more accessible through their home state.

Richmond qualifies for Federal Stafford unsubsidized and GRADPLUS loans for graduate students. Applicants for federally funded loan or grant programs must:

- Be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or residents of the Trust Territories
- Be in compliance with Selective Service laws
- Be enrolled at least half time (six hours) as regular students in a degree program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (See FSAP policy in this Catalog.)
- Not owe a refund or be in default on any Title IV loans

To apply for these loans online, visit www.studentloans.gov. Select the state of Tennessee and enter Richmond's code G33554.

Veterans' Benefits and Vocational Rehabilitation

Richmond is approved for training of veterans and for vocational rehabilitation students as an accredited training institution. Those qualified for educational benefits under these programs should contact their nearest Department of Veterans Affairs or Vocational Rehabilitation Office for more information.

Veterans and other eligible persons are required to attend classes in order to be eligible for educational benefits under these programs. Richmond is required to report promptly to the VA or Vocational Rehabilitation offices any changes in enrollment, non-class attendance or withdrawal from the institution.

A recipient may not receive benefits for any course that does not fulfill requirements for his/her stated degree and major. Audited courses, non-credit courses, and correspondence work cannot be certified.

Scholarships

Applications for the following scholarships are available online at www.richmont.edu or from the Admissions Office. The application deadline for all scholarships is May 1.

June Braund Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a student with interests in gerontological counseling. Recipients will be awarded up to \$5,000 annually with a maximum award of \$15,000 over a period of no more than three years. The recipient will be mentored by Dr. Ron Braund, Richmond alumnus who established this scholarship in honor of his mother. The recipient is required to take two approved graduate level courses in gerontology and provide service to families dealing with Alzheimer's. Detailed information is available from the Office of Student Services.

Caldwell Scholarship

Former Richmond Board member Tina Currin has chosen to honor her mother, Harriet Caldwell, with the Caldwell Scholarship. One student will be granted up to a full scholarship (tuition only) for a maximum of three years, provided the recipient maintains satisfactory performance in the program. The recipient will demonstrate strong Christian character and financial need. In addition, applicants will write a brief essay applying for the scholarship.

Harrison Griffith DeKay Scholarship

As a reflection of the donor, this scholarship program is designed to benefit first-year students who show academic merit, financial need, a love of Scripture, and a strong desire to serve God through the ministry of helping. Harrison Griffith DeKay scholarships reduce tuition by 25% per semester, with a maximum of \$750 per semester. The maximum amount awarded to a recipient during enrollment at Richmond is \$4,000.

Baird McClure Memorial Scholarship

The Baird McClure Memorial Scholarship was endowed by the late Nick Senter in honor of his cousin, Elizabeth Baird, a true Kingdom servant, known for her wit, wisdom and prayer. This scholarship is for students in the clinical mental health counseling or marriage and family therapy programs who have demonstrated financial need. Recipients will be awarded between \$1,000 and \$5,000 per academic year, as determined by the Scholarship Committee. The maximum amount awarded to a recipient during enrollment at Richmond is \$10,000 over a period of no longer than three years.

Malone Family Scholarship

This scholarship was recently endowed by a generous donor. It will assist students at the Chattanooga campus pursuing a masters degree in clinical mental health counseling or marriage and family therapy at Richmond. This scholarship is designed for students who demonstrate financial need and academic promise. Recipients will be awarded up to \$1,500 tuition assistance per academic year for two to three years.

Paul L. Walker Merit Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to students who show the highest level of academic and professional potential. Awards may be granted as full scholarships, covering tuition, fees and books for students in the two-year clinical mental health counseling program. Partial awards also may be granted annually.

Willingham Rollinson Scholarship Fund

The Mary and Windy Willingham and Ann Rollinson Scholarship Fund will assist students pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling or marriage and family therapy at Richmond. The scholarship is designed for students in the Chattanooga area who demonstrate financial need and who desire to work in an inner-city ministry upon the completion of their graduate studies.

ADD/DROP/WITHDRAWAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

All students should be pre-registered by orientation/registration day and have all account holds cleared. (Please see the Registration Procedures section of this Catalog for additional registration information.)

Late Payment Fee

Students who have not paid or made financial arrangements by the date posted in the Academic Calendar will be charged a \$50 late payment fee.

Late Registration

Students whose holds are not cleared or who choose to register on or after the first day of classes will be assessed a \$50 late registration fee. This also applies to students not otherwise enrolled in Richmond who are registering for intensive classes on or after the first day of classes.

Add/Drop/Withdrawal

Through the first Friday of the semester, classes may be dropped or added upon receipt of a completed add/drop/withdrawal form by the Records Office. A \$10 schedule change fee per transaction will be assessed.

After the first Friday of the semester, the student must withdraw from the class in question using the add/drop/withdrawal form. A \$10 schedule change fee per transaction will be assessed. A student who withdraws from a weekly class will receive a refund according to the schedule published by the Business Office and included in the Academic Calendar. Online hybrid courses will be treated like weekly classes where refunds are concerned.

Intensive-format courses can be dropped until close of business on the day before the class begins, using the same procedure outlined above for dropping and adding weekly classes. Students who drop an intensive class prior to the close of business on the day before the course begins will receive a full refund minus a \$10 schedule change fee per transaction. After that time, no refunds will be given.

Institutional Withdrawal

Students withdrawing from Richmond, either for the semester or indefinitely, must complete the Institutional Withdrawal Form available from the Records Office. They will receive refunds based on the same schedule for individual course withdrawals.

Refund Policy and Assessed Fees

Following is a general description of how Richmond's refund policy is structured. Please note that all non-tuition fees are non-refundable. Tuition refunds for drop/add and institutional withdrawal:

Before add/drop deadline	100% refund
After add/drop deadline to 10% point in term	90% refund
Beyond 10% to 25% point in term	75% refund
Beyond 25% to 50% point in term	50% refund
After 50% point in term	no refund
Drop/add fee	\$10.00 per transaction
Late registration fee	\$50.00

These dates will be calculated for each term, consistent with the length of the term.

The date used for calculation of a refund for withdrawal or add/drop is the date on which the Records Office receives the completed form signed by all required personnel. All students must follow the procedures for withdrawal and add/drop to receive a refund. The student has the final responsibility for submitting the form to the Records Office for processing and is responsible for fees and penalties incurred for late submission.

Financial Exceptions

A student seeking an exception of any kind on his or her financial record may complete a Petition for Financial Exception to be reviewed by the Financial Affairs Committee. This form is available from the Business Office on both campuses and on the Richmond website.

In the event of a student's injury, prolonged illness, death of a family member, or similar circumstances that interrupt or preclude the completion of a course or courses, the student may choose to withdraw from one or more classes for the semester, or if necessary withdraw from the University. In either event, the student will receive a tuition refund based on the refund schedule. The student will follow the procedures for course withdrawal or institutional withdrawal, depending on the situation. In the event of the death of a student, the family will receive a full tuition refund for the semester.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The following certificate programs are available through the School of Counseling and students may choose to engage in additional coursework in the following areas:

- Addictions Counseling
- Child and Adolescent Counseling
- Christian Sex Therapy
- Spirituality in Counseling Practice
- Trauma Counseling

Students pursuing certificates must take a minimum of three courses depending on the certificate program, and prerequisite courses may be required. Certain restrictions are noted for certificate programs with the M.S. degree. Once a student has added a certificate, the student's program of study will be updated with the required coursework to complete the certificate.

Addictions Counseling

Dr. William Doverspike, Coordinator

The addictions counseling certificate is designed to provide specialized training for students who wish to work with individuals in the broad area of addictions. These students will be trained to work with a wide range of issues but will receive specific training related to human addictions that is grounded in Christian theology. It is also recommended for students in this certificate program to complete at least one rotation (i.e. 3 months) of Practicum, Internship I, or Internship II at a site that primarily focuses on addictive disease treatment. For this certificate, five of the following courses are needed, 4 of which are required. One of the five courses may be original, independent studies.

CED6832	Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment (required)
CED7832	Advanced Addictions Counseling (required)
CED7161	Introduction to Psychopharmacology for Counselors (required)
CED7171	Advanced Psychopharmacology for Counselors (required)
CED7582	Advanced Sexual Addictions Counseling (prerequisites apply)
CED7852	Eating Disorders: Etiology, Assessment, and Counseling Interventions
CEDI7802	Original Independent Study (may be repeated once)

Child and Adolescent Counseling

Dr. William McGee, Coordinator

The child and adolescent counseling certificate is designed to provide specialized training for those students planning to work primarily with children and teens. These students still fulfill all licensure requirements and also are trained in working with adults. However, they receive systematic training in important areas needed to provide Christian counseling to children and adolescents. For this certificate, the following courses are required:

CED6412	Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (prerequisite)
CED6422	Counseling Children
CED7432	Counseling Adolescents
CED7442	Advanced Child and Adolescent Counseling (required prereqs: CED6412, CED6422, CED7432)

Christian Sex Therapy

Dr. Vanessa Snyder, Coordinator

The Christian sex therapy certificate is designed to provide specialized training for students who wish to work with individuals in the broad area of sexuality. These students will be trained to work with a wide range of issues but will receive specific training related to human sexuality that is grounded in Christian theology. For this certificate, at least four of the following courses are required:

CED6512	Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration (required)
CED6522	Basic Issues in Sex Therapy
CED7532	Sexual Dysfunctions, Addictive, Compulsive and Paraphilic Sexuality
CED7542	Sexuality: Medical Issues, Trauma and Abuse
CED7552	Advanced Sex Therapy (required prereq: 6512 and 7532)
CED7562	Seminar in Sex Therapy
CED7572	Advanced Sexual Trauma and Abuse
CED7582	Advanced Sexual Addiction Counseling
CED7592	Sexual Orientation and Sexual Identity
CEDI750X	Original Independent Study in Sex Therapy

Spirituality in Counseling Practice

Dr. Timothy Sisemore, Coordinator

The Spirituality in Counseling certificate is designed to provide specialized training for students who desire to develop greater competence in addressing client spirituality and faith in counseling, and increasing awareness of the impact the spiritual values of the counselor have in session. Courses are designed to give detail to spiritual competencies as determined by ASERVIC and supplemented by focus on integrating the Christian faith in counseling. For this certificate, at least four of the following courses are required:

CED7222	Evidence-Based Interventions for Spirituality
CED6282	Family and Community in Counseling and Spirituality
CED6232	Assessment and Integrating Spirituality into Counseling
CED6242	Counseling for Non-Christian Spiritualities
CED7262	Spiritual Direction: Practice and Application
CED7282	Church-Based Counseling
CED7212	Religion, Spirituality, and Mental Health (required)
CEDI720x	Original Independent Study in Spirituality in Counseling

Trauma Counseling

Dr. Jama White, Coordinator

The trauma counseling certificate is designed to provide specialized training for those students who wish to work with individuals who have experienced trauma. These students will be trained to work with a wide range of issues but will receive specialized training in the biology and development of trauma and interventions for both children and adults. For this certificate, the following courses are required:

CED6802	Trauma in Developmental Context
CED6812	Trauma and Biology
CED7802	Adult Trauma Intervention
CED7812	Child Trauma Intervention

Certification Programs with the M.S. Degree

Students enrolled in the M.S. program may pursue any of the certificate programs offered at Richmond if they hold a license-eligible degree in counseling or related discipline that is substantially equivalent in content to the MACMHC or MAMFT degrees that Richmond offers. The student's transcript must be evaluated through the Office of the Dean of the School of Counseling. Students may be required to take prerequisites before pursuing a certificate. The certificate will be documented on the student's transcript.

All M.S. students, including those who have not earned a licensure-eligible graduate degree in counseling, are welcome to take classes that are a part of a certificate curriculum. However, unless an M.S. student has a licensure-eligible degree and has been approved by the Dean of the School of Counseling to pursue a certificate, transcripts and diplomas will not reflect one.

Multiple Certificate Programs

Students may pursue multiple certificates, but no two certificates may hold more than one course in common. For example, students who seek a certificate in addictions counseling and Christian sex therapy must take a total of seven courses in their certification although these two certificates hold two courses in common.

THESIS OPTION

Richmont offers students the option of pursuing a thesis while in their programs. Theses can be empirical or theoretical, either conducting an original research study or developing a thesis statement that is theoretical based on an exhaustive review of the relevant literature. The thesis track is a sequence of 4 courses, each 1 hour of credit, beginning in Spring semester, typically after Methods of Research is taken in the Fall. Approval of the instructor for the Methods of Research class is required for admission to the Thesis Track. Once a student has been admitted to the Thesis Track, the student's program of study will be updated to reflect the required coursework to complete the thesis.

Students have the option of pursuing a topic of personal interest or to participate in ongoing programmatic research at Richmond or the research of individual professors. The range of possible topics is broad, but limited to those that impinge on the program of study (counseling-related issues and topics of faith in practice). Details of the thesis are available in the Thesis Manual which is on the Richmond website and available from the Records Office or the Director of Research. This explains the steps and deadlines of the process in detail, culminating with a presentation of the thesis in a Community Time and also submission to a professional conference for poster or presentation. Questions about the thesis option that are not addressed in the manual may be sent to the Director of Research. Interested students should consult with their advisors or contact the Director of Research.

THE SCHOOLS OF RICHMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

The history of Richmond Graduate University is one of God's remarkable providence through faithful individuals who were, and are, committed to serving him. Richmond is called to serve God by reaching hurting people, and preparing individuals to serve in a variety of ways through excellence in scholarship and a strong foundation of faith in Christ. As we have traveled this journey so far, we have become more and more aware of the passage from 1 Corinthians 2:9:

*No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love him.*

In 1933, when Richmond's history began, no one could have conceived of an internationally known graduate program in clinical mental health counseling. As this graduate program in mental health counseling became a reality, God began to broaden the vision of what Richmond could become in the future. The result of this expanded vision became the foundation for the schools of Richmond Graduate University.

Richmont Graduate University is comprised of the School of Counseling and the School of Ministry. Trustees, faculty, staff and students of Richmond Graduate University are committed to pursuing excellence in integrating faith and practice. Having seen the providence of God in Richmond's history, we also are committed to remaining open to where he may lead us in the future.

SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

Mission Statement for Richmond Graduate University School of Counseling

Richmont Graduate University School of Counseling provides graduate programs that integrate counselor education and Christian faith. We are committed to academic and clinical excellence through educating counselors to be spiritually sensitive practitioners.

The School of Counseling offers two licensure-eligible graduate degrees:

- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

All students in the School of Counseling complete coursework in Biblical studies, practical theology, and the integration of Christian faith and mental health counseling. Students are involved in laboratory experiences, practicum and internship training from the beginning of their graduate education experience. The goal of these experiences is to provide Biblical and scientific data from which the student can build a model of counseling.

Richmont seeks to equip students with knowledge and skills to enhance their ability to provide clinical mental health counseling and or marriage and family therapy to address a variety of personal and interpersonal issues. The M.A. curriculum is designed to offer coursework deemed crucial for the academic requirements of licensure as a professional counselor (LPC) and/or marriage and family therapist (LMFT). This facet of the curriculum (clinical mental health counseling focus) is fashioned to develop a broad range of understanding of human behavior and personality, clinical intervention strategies, and standards of professional therapeutic practice.

Richmont seeks to attract academically minded students who have a heartfelt desire to integrate mental health counseling and Christian faith. Typical graduates of the M.A. program will pursue licensure as a mental health professional and become employed in a church, agency or private setting. Richmont alumni live and work throughout the United States, with some practicing in international settings.

Program Sequencing

The master's programs in clinical mental health counseling and marriage and family therapy are sequenced on a two- and three-year cycle.

Students may choose to attend full-time and complete the degree in two years or proceed at a more comfortable pace and complete the degree in three years. Students in the marriage and family therapy program pursuing a certificate and those completing the thesis option are encouraged to consider the three-year sequence because of the demands of the program. Richmont also offers the M.A. degree on a schedule that may be completed in four years. Other timelines also are possible.

Students may begin any degree program at the beginning of fall, spring, or summer semester. However, the ideal time to begin is fall. Students are given five years to complete the MAMFT and MACMHC degrees offered by Richmont. The two- and three-year sequences are listed in this Catalog; four-year degree plans are available from faculty advisors or the Records Office. Students are given up to three years to complete the MS degree.

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MACMHC) is designed to provide specialized graduate training in proven counseling methods combined with sound theological principles. This degree fulfills the academic requirements in most states for licensure as a professional counselor (LPC) and certification as a national certified counselor (NCC).

The basic M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program consists of 67 semester credit hours, inclusive of a counseling practicum and clinical internship.

Clinical Mental Health Counselors serve in a wide variety of capacities from traditional local church and denominational ministries to hospital, community mental health centers, human service agencies, private counseling practices and beyond. They utilize counseling and psychotherapy to evaluate and treat emotional, relational, and mental problems and conditions. Furthermore, Clinical Mental Health Counselors focus on prevention, consultation, education, and advocacy, as well as the management of programs and networks that promote mental health in a multicultural society.

Richmont students are mentored to identify actively with the counseling profession. The distinguished Richmont faculty teach students to integrate a sound Christian theology, clinical counseling, and their personal spirituality to address the whole person; and faculty members are committed to the highest standards of graduate counselor education. The MACMHC program is delivered through a traditional day program over two or three years, or through a more versatile schedule over four years.

In addition to the MACMHC, students can pursue a certificate to strengthen their ability to work with specific client populations. The following certificates are offered in addition to the MACMHC program:

- Addictions Counseling
- Child and Adolescent Counseling
- Christian Sex Therapy
- Spirituality in Counseling Practice
- Trauma Counseling

Certificates, which are above and beyond the basic degree program, are documented on the graduate's transcript. Students who apply to graduate from a certificate program receive a paper certificate displaying the earned credential.

MACMHC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1

Theoretical and Clinical Knowledge

Students will

- gain knowledge of theoretical and empirical foundations of the field of clinical mental health counseling and its practice in a multicultural and pluralistic society.
- gain theoretical and practical knowledge in the history of counseling, professional orientation and ethical practice, social and cultural diversity and advocacy, human growth and development, psychopathology and diagnosis of mental disorders, helping relationships, group dynamics and group counseling, clinical assessment and appraisal, research and program evaluation, counseling prevention and intervention, career planning and Lifestyle and Career Development, crisis intervention and emergency response, and clinical and integrative theology.

OBJECTIVE 2

Counseling Clinical Skills

Students will

- acquire the skills of clinical assessment and intervention in counseling cases.
- learn how to design and apply treatment plans and how to apply the techniques of various models of counseling.
- learn the helping relationship skills required of an effective counselor.

These skills are acquired through direct counseling practice in the clinical training sequences of courses, including supervised counseling practicum and internships.

OBJECTIVE 3

Professional Identity and Ethical Character

Students will

- develop a practical understanding of the ethical, legal and professional standards of counselors.
- subscribe to the codes of ethics as outlined by ACA and CAPS.
- understand licensure standards, professional society functions and standards, and other business and professional identity process related to professional counseling.

OBJECTIVE 4

Preparation for Licensure as a Professional Counselor

- Graduates with the M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling will meet academic eligibility requirements for licensure as an LPC in Georgia, Tennessee, and most other states. Required content area courses for licensure as a professional counselor are listed in this Graduate Catalog.

OBJECTIVE 5

Theological Understanding

Students will

- gain knowledge in historical, systematic, biblical and philosophical theology relevant to issues of the nature of God and man within the context of counseling.
- gain knowledge in biblical literature, church history, the relationship between counseling and Christian faith, and methods and models of integrating Christian theology with the clinical practice of mental health counseling.

OBJECTIVE 6

Personal and Spiritual Formation

Students will

- gain insight into the unique personal and spiritual demands of the life and work of the professional counselor.
- understand the interpersonal aspects of theodicy, the dynamics of spiritual direction, and means by which to address spirituality in counseling.

LPC Content Area Courses

Human Growth and Development

- CED7113 Human Growth and Development

Social and Cultural Foundations

- CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling

The Helping Relationship

- CED6113 Helping Relationships

Group Dynamics, Processing and Counseling

- CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice

Lifestyle and Career Development

- CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development

Psychopathology

- CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling
- CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders
- CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling

Appraisal of Individuals

- CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling

Research and Evaluation

- CED7713 Methods of Research

Professional Identity

- CED6123 Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling
- CED6212 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Degree Requirements

** *Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.*

*** *Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.*

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

The M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling curriculum consists of 67 semester hours.

Core Counseling Curriculum (40 hours)		Semester Credit Hours
CED5102**	Introduction to Counseling	
CED6112	Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
CED6113	Helping Relationships	3
CED6123	Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy	3
CED6133	Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
CED6143	Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
CED6163	Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
CED6612	Family Systems Theory	2
CED6832	Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
CED7113	Human Growth and Development	3
CED7123	Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
CED7132	Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
CED7143	Lifestyle and Career Development	3
CED7152	Counseling and Spirituality	2
CED7153	Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
CED7713***	Methods of Research	3
Clinical Intervention Curriculum (8 hours)		
CED6622	Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling	2
CED6813	Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	3
CED7891	Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
CED7822	Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
Integration Curriculum (11 hours)		
CED6322	Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
CED6342	Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
CED7313	Hermeneutics and Application	3
CED7362	Integrative Theology for Counselors	2
CEDx2x2	Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2
Clinical Training Curriculum (8 hours)		
CED6912	Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
CED6922	Counseling Practicum	2
CED7932	Counseling Internship I	2
CED7942	Counseling Internship II	2

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Basic Degree Program Sequence

Two-year cycle (three-year program sequence on next page; four-year program sequence available from the Records Office)

** *Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.*

Fall Semester I***	Semester Credit Hours
• CED5102 Introduction to Counseling**	
• CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED6113 Helping Relationships	3
• CED6123 Ethical, Legal, and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy	3
• CED6322 Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital, and Family Counseling	2
• CED7713 Methods of Research	3
	TOTAL 15

*** *Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.*

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

Spring Semester I	
• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
• CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED6612 Family Systems Theory	2
• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	3
• CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
• CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
	TOTAL 16

Summer Semester I	
• CED6342 Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
• CED6832 Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
• CED6922 Counseling Practicum	2
• CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
	TOTAL 9

Fall Semester II	
• CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
• CED7113 Human Growth and Development	3
• CED7152 Counseling and Spirituality	2
• CED7313 Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CED7932 Counseling Internship I	2
	TOTAL 13

Spring Semester II	
• CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
• CED7132 Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
• CED7362 Integrative Theology for Counseling	2
• CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
• CED7942 Counseling Internship II	2
• CEDx2x2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2
• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
	TOTAL 14
	DEGREE TOTAL 67

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Basic Degree Program: Three-Year Sequence

** *Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.*

*** *Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.*

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

Many students at Richmond find it helpful and necessary to extend their studies over three and four years. Advisors encourage students to consider this possibility in order to have time to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to practice as a counselor and in order to ensure their own health and wellbeing throughout the rigors of graduate school.

Below is the suggested sequence of courses for a student pursuing the basic M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. With the help of an advisor, it can be adapted for students who are also obtaining a certification.

Fall Semester I***	Semester Credit Hours
• CED5102** Introduction to Counseling	2
• CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED6123 Ethical, Legal, and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy	3
• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital & Family Counseling	2
• CED7713 Methods of Research	3
	TOTAL 10
Spring Semester I	
• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
• CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED6612 Family Systems Theory	2
• CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
	TOTAL 11
Summer Semester I	
• CED6832 Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
• CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
	TOTAL 5
Fall Semester II	
• CED6113 Helping Relationships	3
• CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
• CED6322 Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED7113 Human Growth and Development	3
	TOTAL 11
Spring Semester II	
• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	3
• CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
• CED7132 Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
• CEDx2x2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2
	TOTAL 9
Summer Semester II	
• CED6342 Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
• CED6922 Counseling Practicum	2
	TOTAL 4
Fall Semester III	
• CED7152 Counseling and Spirituality	2
• CED7313 Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CED7932 Counseling Internship I	2
	TOTAL 7
Spring Semester III	
• CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
• CED7362 Integrative Theology for Counseling	2
• CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
• CED7942 Counseling Internship II	2
• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
	TOTAL 10
	DEGREE TOTAL 67

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Evening Program: Three-Year Sequence

Many students at Richmond find it helpful and necessary to extend their studies over three and four years. Advisors encourage students to consider this possibility in order to have time to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to practice as a counselor and in order to ensure their own health and wellbeing throughout the rigors of graduate school.

Below is the suggested sequence of courses for a student pursuing the basic M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in the evening program. With the help of an advisor, it can be adapted for students who are also obtaining a certification.

Fall Semester I***

	Semester Credit Hours
• CED5102** Introduction to Counseling	2
• CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED6123 Ethical, Legal, and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Therapy	3
• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital & Family Counseling	2
• CED7713 Methods of Research	3
	TOTAL 10

Spring Semester I

• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
• CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED6612 Family Systems Theory	2
• CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
	TOTAL 10

Summer Semester I

• CED6832 Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
• CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
	TOTAL 5

Fall Semester II

• CED6113 Helping Relationships	3
• CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
• CED6322 Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED7113 Human Growth and Development	3
	TOTAL 11

Spring Semester II

• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
• CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
• CED7132 Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
• CEDx2x2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2
	TOTAL 8

Summer Semester II

• CED6342 Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
• CED6813 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	3
• CED6922 Counseling Practicum	2
	TOTAL 7

Fall Semester III

• CED7152 Counseling and Spirituality	2
• CED7313 Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CED7932 Counseling Internship I	2
	TOTAL 7

Spring Semester III

• CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
• CED7362 Integrative Theology for Counseling	2
• CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
• CED7942 Counseling Internship II	2
	TOTAL 8

DEGREE TOTAL 67

** Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.

*** Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

The MAMFT is designed to provide specialized training for students who desire to work specifically with couples and families, as well as individuals in the context of the family. This degree fulfills the academic requirements in most states for licensure in marriage and family therapy (LMFT), licensure as a professional counselor (LPC), and clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). MAMFT students are strongly encouraged to become student members of AAMFT upon acceptance to Richmond.

Using both a systems theory perspective and a Christian theology integrationist perspective, students develop the knowledge and skills to practice marriage and family therapy. Marriage and family therapists serve the church, community and society at large in a variety of roles such as education, administration, marriage and family therapist, minister of family life and counseling, parent trainer, youth minister, pastor or teacher, business leader, public relations, and many varied settings in which counseling is needed. Marriage and family therapists work with a varied population presenting problems such as family crisis, conduct disorder, eating disorders, marital distress, sexual issues, bereavement, family trauma, various forms of addictions, anxiety and depression, financial and occupational issues, and spiritual concerns. The MAMFT is provided through a traditional day program over two, three or four years.

The demand for well-trained, competent MFTs is expected to increase with the mounting pressures facing couples and families. The distinguished Richmond faculty help students gain competence in Christian theology, counseling psychology, and formation to address the whole person and to move the hurting family system toward healthy functioning.

Beyond the theological and integration training offered in all Richmond graduate degrees, the MAMFT includes significant training in professional marriage and family therapy.

In addition to the MAMFT, students can pursue a certificate program to strengthen their ability to work with specific client populations. The following certificates are offered in addition to the MAMFT program:

- Addictions Counseling
- Child and Adolescent Counseling
- Christian Sex Therapy
- Spirituality in Counseling Practice
- Trauma Counseling

Students may pursue multiple certificates, but no two certifications may hold more than one course in common. For instance, students who seek the certificate in addictions counseling and Christian sex therapy must take a total of seven courses in their certificate programs, although these two certifications hold two courses in common.

MAMFT Program Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1

Theoretical and Clinical Knowledge

Students will

- gain knowledge of the theoretical and empirical foundations of the field of marriage, couple and family counseling, clinical mental health counseling, and its practice in a multicultural and pluralistic society.
- gain theoretical and practical knowledge in the history of counseling, family systems theory, professional orientation and ethical practice, social and cultural diversity and advocacy, human sexuality and development, psychopathology and diagnosis of mental disorders, helping relationships, group dynamics and group counseling, clinical assessment and appraisal, research and program evaluation, counseling prevention and intervention, career planning and Lifestyle and Career Development, crisis intervention and emergency response, and clinical and integrative theology.

OBJECTIVE 2

Counseling Clinical Skills

Students will

- acquire the skills of clinical assessment and intervention in counseling cases.
- learn how to design and apply treatment plans and how to apply the techniques of various schools of counseling.
- learn the helping relationship skills required of an effective counselor. These skills are acquired through direct counseling practice in the clinical training sequences of courses including supervised counseling practicum and internships.

OBJECTIVE 3

Professional Identity and Ethical Character

Students will

- develop a practical understanding of the ethical, legal and professional standards of marriage, couple, and family counselors.
- subscribe to the codes of ethics as outlined by ACA, AAMFT, and CAPS.
- understand licensure standards, professional society functions and standards, and other business and professional identity processes related to marriage, couple, and family counseling.

OBJECTIVE 4

Preparation for Licensure as a Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist

Graduates with the M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy will meet the academic eligibility requirements for licensure as an LPC and LMFT in Georgia, Tennessee, and most other states. LPC and LMFT required content area courses are listed in this Graduate Catalog.

OBJECTIVE 5

Theological Understanding

Students will

- gain knowledge in historical, systematic, biblical and philosophical theology relevant to issues of the nature of God

and man within the context of marriage, couples, and family counseling.

- gain knowledge in biblical literature, church history, relationship between counseling and Christian faith, and methods and models of integrating Christian theology with the clinical practice of professional counseling.

OBJECTIVE 6

Personal and Spiritual Formation

Students will

- gain insight into the unique personal and spiritual demands of the life and work of the marriage, couple, and family counselor.
- understand the interpersonal aspects of theodicy, the dynamics of spiritual direction, and means by which to address spirituality in counseling.

LMFT Content Area Courses

Theoretical Knowledge

- CED6612 Family Systems Theory
- CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marriage and Family Counseling
- CED6632 Healthy Family Functioning
- CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions

Clinical Knowledge

- CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- CED7623 Structural & Behavioral MFT
- CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling
- CED7613 Brief, Solution-Focused and Communication Approaches to Marriage & Family Counseling
- CED7633 Contextual, Narrative and Interpersonal Models of Counseling
- CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling

Individual Development and Family Relations

- CED6512 Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration
- CED7113 Human Growth and Development

Professional Identity and Ethics

- CED6123 Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling
- CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor
- CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage & Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Research

- CED7713 Methods of Research

Appraisal

- CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders
- CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling
- CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling
- CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development

For additional courses, see degree programs and certifications.

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

Basic Degree Requirements

** *Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.*

*** *Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.*

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

The basic M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy consists of 77 semester hours.

	Semester Credit Hours
Core Counseling Curriculum (21 hours)	
• CED5102** Introduction to Counseling	3
• CED6113 Helping Relationships	3
• CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
• CED6832 Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
• CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
• CED7132 Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
• CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
• CED7152 Counseling and Spirituality	2
Professional Identity and Ethics (6 hours)	
• CED6123 Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling	3
• CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage & Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
Individual Development and Family Relations (5 hours)	
• CED6512 Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration	2
• CED7113 Human Growth and Development	3
Marriage and Family Therapy: Theoretical Knowledge (7 hours)	
• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
• CED6612 Family Systems Theory	2
• CED6632 Healthy Family Functioning	2
Marriage and Family Therapy: Clinical Knowledge (16 hours)	
• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital & Family Counseling	2
• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	3
• CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
• CED7613* Brief, Solution-Focused, Communication Approaches to MFT	3
• CED7623 Structural and Behavioral Marriage and Family Therapy	3
• CED7633* Contextual, Narrative and Interpersonal Models of Counseling	3
• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
Research (3 hours)***	
• CED7713 Methods of Research	3
Integration Curriculum (11 hours)	
• CED6322 Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED6342 Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	3
• CED7313 Hermeneutics and Application	2
• CED7362 Integrative Theology for Counselors	2
• CEDx2x2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2
Clinical Training Curriculum: Supervised Clinical Experience (8 hours)	
• CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
• CED6962 Counseling Practicum	2
• CED7962 Counseling Internship I	2
• CED7972 Counseling Internship II	2

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

Basic Degree Program Sequence

Two-year cycle (three-year program sequence on following page; four-year program sequence available from the Records Office)

** Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.

Fall Semester I***

	Semester Credit Hours
• CED5102** Introduction to Counseling	
• CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED6113 Helping Relationships	3
• CED6123 Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling	3
• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital & Family Counseling	2
• CED6632 Healthy Family Functioning	2
• CED7713 Methods of Research	3

*** Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

TOTAL 15

Spring Semester I

• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
• CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED6322 Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED6612 Family Systems Theory	2
• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	3
• CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
• CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3

TOTAL 18

Summer Semester I

• CED6342 Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
• CED6832 Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
• CED6962 Counseling Practicum	2
• CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
• CED7623 Structural and Behavioral Marriage & Family Therapy	3

TOTAL 12

Fall Semester II

• CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
• CED6512 Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration	2
• CED7113 Human Growth and Development	3
• CED7152 Counseling and Spirituality	2
• CED7313 Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CED7613 Brief, Solution-Focused, and Communication Approaches to Marriage & Family Counseling (one of two options)*	(3)
• CED7962 Counseling Internship I	2

TOTAL 15 -18

Spring Semester II

• CED7132 Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
• CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
• CED7362 Integrative Theology for Counselors	2
• CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage & Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
• CED7972 Counseling Internship II	2
• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
• CEDx2x2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2

TOTAL 14

Summer Semester II

• CED7633* Contextual, Narrative and Interpersonal Models of Counseling (one of two options)	(3)
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TOTAL 0-3

DEGREE TOTAL 77

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

Basic Degree Program: Three-Year Sequence

* Students may either take CED7613 or CED7633

** Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.

*** Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

Many students at Richmond find it helpful and necessary to extend their studies over three and four years. Advisors encourage students to consider this possibility in order to have time to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to practice as a counselor and in order to insure their own health and wellbeing throughout the rigors of graduate school.

Below is the suggested sequence of courses for a student pursuing the basic M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy. With the help of the Records Office staff, it can be adapted for students who are also obtaining a certification.

Fall Semester I***	Semester Credit Hours
• CED5102** Introduction to Counseling	2
• CED6112 Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED6123 Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling	3
• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital & Family Counseling	2
• CED6632 Healthy Family Functioning	2
• CED7713 Methods of Research	3
TOTAL 12	
Spring Semester I	
• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	3
• CED6143 Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED6612 Family Systems Theory	2
• CEDx2x2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective	2
TOTAL 10	
Summer Semester I	
• CED6832 Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment	2
• CED7123 Group Counseling Theory and Practice	3
• CED7623 Structural and Behavioral Marriage & Family Therapy	3
TOTAL 8	
Fall Semester II	
• CED6113 Helping Relationships	3
• CED6163 Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling	3
• CED6322 Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED6512 Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration	2
• CED7113 Human Growth and Development	3
TOTAL 13	
Spring Semester II	
• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	3
• CED6912 Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling	2
• CED7153 Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling	3
• CED7132 Theodicy and Trauma Counseling	2
TOTAL 10	
Summer Semester II	
• CED6342 Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
• CED6962 Counseling Practicum	2
• CED7633* Contextual, Narrative and Interpersonal Models of Counseling (one of two options)	(3)
TOTAL 4-7	
Fall Semester III	
• CED7152 Counseling and Spirituality	2
• CED7313 Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CED7962 Counseling Internship I	2
• CED7613* Brief, Solution-Focused, and Communication Approaches to Marriage & Family Counseling (one of two options)	(3)
TOTAL 7-10	
Spring Semester III	
• CED7143 Lifestyle and Career Development	3
• CED7362 Integrative Theology for Counselors	2
• CED7891 Professional Seminar in Marriage & Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling	1
• CED7972 Counseling Internship II	2
• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	2
TOTAL 10	
DEGREE TOTAL 77	

Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies

The Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies (M.S.) degree was created to serve those who, already possessing a clinical degree, desire to integrate their faith in their practice as clinicians.

All Richmond students complete coursework in biblical studies, practical theology, and the integration of applied psychology and practical theology. Through the pursuit of the M.S. degree, the integration component may be taken in. Although this degree is not designed to lead to licensure as a counselor, M.S. graduates may pursue further study in counseling elsewhere or use this training to supplement training received at another institution.

The M.S. in Christian Psychological Studies is designed to meet the needs of the following students:

- Those seeking primarily theoretical training in the integration of psychology and theology. These may be students who are interested in research or preparation for a more advanced degree or who have already earned a graduate degree in a related field.
- Professionals who wish to integrate their faith and practice. These are people who already have training and are counseling in some context but wish to more explicitly integrate their Christian faith in their counseling. These people also may be motivated by seeking a credential to demonstrate to managed care organizations that they are qualified to list “Christian counseling” as a specialization of their practice.
- Those who are concurrently receiving training at another institution in a program that leads to a counseling-related credential and who wishes to formalize their training in integration.
- Pastors who counsel as part of their ministry and wish to formalize their training in integration..

Although the M.S. degree is NOT designed to lead to licensure or to any independent practice of counseling, it essentially pulls the integrative track out of the M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with minor alterations and additions. It requires 31 hours of coursework as outlined in the program sequence. The M.S. degree can be completed in a minimum of three semesters but cannot extend past three academic years from the time of matriculation.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The following certificates are available for the M.S. degree for any student who has already earned a licensure-eligible degree and the certification will be noted on their transcript along with receiving a diploma.

- Addictions Counseling
- Child and Adolescent Counseling
- Christian Sex Therapy
- Spirituality in Counseling Practice
- Trauma Counseling

All M.S. students, including those who have not earned a licensure-eligible graduate degree in counseling, may take classes that are a part of a certification curriculum. However, unless an M.S. student has a licensure-eligible degree and has been approved by the Dean of the School of Counseling to pursue a certificate, transcripts and diplomas will not reflect a certificate.

Students who choose a certificate program may not be able to complete the degree in one year. Students may pursue multiple certificates, but no two certificates may hold more than one course in common. For instance, students who pursue certificates in addictions counseling and Christian sex therapy must take a total of seven courses in their certificate programs, although these two certificates hold two courses in common.

MS Program Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1

Graduates understand the methods and models of integrating psychology and Christian theology.

Courses such as CED6322: Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling, CED7362: Integrative Theology for Counseling, and the various clinical theology courses are designed to assist the student in the integration of psychology and Christian theology. Christian faith is viewed as the primary source to identify and enlighten a healthy psychology. The skills of integration are seen as fundamental to the other areas of the program. A growing awareness and intent toward a healthy personal spiritual formation is expected of each graduate.

OBJECTIVE 2

Graduates understand integrating their faith and profession in their personal lives in an experiential sense.

Integration is not taught as a merely intellectual enterprise but is addressed as a part of personal integrity. CED6112: Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor and clinical theology courses teach students to examine how psychological and theological truths impact their personal lives and can be integrated into their identity. Course requirements include experiential elements to facilitate this aim.

OBJECTIVE 3

Graduates bring relevant information from the traditional theological areas of biblical studies, theology and church history to their counseling.

Biblical studies are addressed in CED7313: Hermeneutics and Application and CED7362: Integrative Theology for Counseling. Elements of systematic theology are covered in CED7362: Integrative Theology for Counseling and in some electives. Church history is surveyed in CED6342: Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling. This set of courses is designed to draw explicit implications from these pivotal sources for Christian faith and practice and to relate them to psychology and counseling.

OBJECTIVE 4

Graduates are equipped to interpret issues of mental health and disorder from a consistently Christian worldview.

Given that human well-being and alleviation of suffering are foci of the study of psychology, the application of integrative perspectives to mental health is a focus of the curriculum. Students learn to distinguish between mental and spiritual health and spiritual versus psychological problems. The role of biology in mental and spiritual conditions is covered, and students are encouraged to develop a worldview to incorporate these dimensions.

OBJECTIVE 5

Graduates who practice counseling are sensitive to faith and spirituality issues in their counseling.

Students who complete this degree and are qualified to practice counseling will be able to address spirituality and faith issues in the counseling room and to do so in ways consistent with professional ethics.

Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies

Basic Degree Requirements

The curriculum for the M.S. in Christian Psychological Studies consists of 31 semester hours.

Core Integration Curriculum (17 hours) Semester Credit Hours

• CED6322	Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CEDx2x2	Counseling and Spirituality Integration elective (3 courses)	6
• CED6112	Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED7313	Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CED6342	Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
• CED7362	Integrative Theology for Counselors	2

Clinical Curriculum (8 hours required)

• CED6143	Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
OR [• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling	
	• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	
	• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	2-3
OR [• CED7623 Structural and Behavioral Marriage & Family Therapy	
	• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling	
	• CEDxxxx Additional MFT course	2-3

Electives 6

* Students may either take CED7613 or CED7633

** Intro is required only for students with less than 12 credit hours in psychology or closely related field.

*** Students in the thesis option must plan their course sequence in consultation with their advisors.

Note: Students should contact their State Board of Examiners to determine whether additional work is required for licensure eligibility.

Master of Science in Christian Psychological Studies

Basic Degree Program Sequence

Fall Semester I Semester Credit Hours

• CEDx2x2	Counseling and Spirituality Integration elective	2
• CED6112	Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor	2
• CED7313	Hermeneutics and Application	3
• CEDxxxx	Elective	2
• CEDxxxx	Elective	2
OR [• CED6622 Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Therapy	2
	• CEDxxxx Additional MFT course (may be taken in Summer Semester I)	(2-3)

TOTAL 14-15

Spring Semester I

• CEDx2x2	Counseling and Spirituality Integration elective	2
• CED6322	Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling	2
• CED6143	Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	3
• CED7362	Integrative Theology for Counselors	2
OR [• CED7822 Psychodynamic Theories and Psychotherapy	
	• CED6813 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	
	• CED6133 Counseling Systems and Interventions	2-3
• CEDxxxx	Elective	2
• CEDx2x2	Counseling and Spirituality Integration elective	2

TOTAL 14-15

Summer Semester I

CED6342	Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling	2
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**TOTAL 2
DEGREE TOTAL 31**

School of Ministry

Mission Statement for Richmond Graduate University School of Ministry:

To advance the Gospel of Christ by increasing the capacities of students to understand God's Word, to become whole and holy people, and to lead and serve effectively.

The vision of the School of Ministry is:

To prepare more women and men to fulfill God's call to transforming ministry.

Online Learning Objectives:

Online degree programs will relentlessly pursue the following objectives:

- Maintain high quality faculty who will provide the same level of Christ-centered education and research that characterize the classroom coursework offered in the School of Ministry.
- Ensure that the programs create a robust community of learning that welcomes diversity, deepens mutual understanding, enhances authenticity, and encourages mutual growth.
- Embed the programs with principles of adult education that students acquire life-long learning skills, self-manage at increasingly mature levels, increase their capacities to serve and lead effectively, and live out their callings with joyful obedience to Christ.

Master of Arts in Ministry

Basic Degree Requirements

The basic M.A. in Ministry consists of 40 semester hours.

	Semester Credit Hours
Bible History and Theology (12 hours)	
• MIN5113 Hermeneutics and Exegesis	3
• MIN5133 Church History	3
• MIN6113 Biblical Themes	3
• MIN6123 The Trinity	3
DOING: Ministry Skills (12 hours)	
• MIN5313 Authentic Leadership	3
• MIN5323 Pastoral Care	3
• MIN5333 Practical Aspects of Ministry	3
• MIN6323 Communication in Ministry	3
BEING: Spiritual Formation (12 hours)	
• MIN5213 Essentials of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN5223 Practices of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN6213 Traditions of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN6223 Applications of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN7263 Spiritual Direction: Practice and Application	3
Personal Development (4 hours)	
• MIN5231 Retreat	1
• MIN5411 Mentored Growth and Development I	1
• MIN5421 Mentored Growth and Development II	1
• MIN6231 Final Integrative Project	1

Master of Arts in Ministry

Basic Degree Program Sequence

Two-year cycle (three-year and four-year program sequence available from the Office of the Dean of the School of Ministry)

Fall Semester I		Semester Credit Hours
• MIN5113	Hermeneutics and Exegesis	3
• MIN5213	Essentials of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN5313	Authentic Leadership	3
		TOTAL 9
Spring Semester I		
• MIN5133	Church History	3
• MIN5223	Practices of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN5323	Pastoral Care	3
• MIN5411	Mentored Growth and Development I	1
		TOTAL 10
Summer Semester I		
• MIN5231	Spiritual Formation Retreat	1
• MIN5421	Mentored Growth and Development II	1
		TOTAL 2
Fall Semester II		
• MIN6133	Biblical Themes	3
• MIN6213	Traditions of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN5333	Practical Aspects of Ministry	3
		TOTAL 9
Spring Semester II		
• MIN6123	The Trinity	3
• MIN6223	Applications of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN6323	Communication in Ministry	3
• MIN6231	Final Integrative Project	1
		TOTAL 10
		DEGREE TOTAL 40

Master of Arts in Ministry Online

Basic Degree Program Sequence

Two-year cycle (three-year and four-year program sequence available from the Office of the Dean of the School of Ministry)

	Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester I	
• MINO6123 The Trinity	3
• MINO5223 Practices of Spiritual Formation	3
TOTAL 6	
Spring Semester I	
• MINO5113 Hermeneutics and Exegesis	3
• MINO5213 Essentials of Spiritual Formation	3
• MINO5411 Mentored Growth and Development I	1
TOTAL 7	
Summer Semester I	
• MINO5133 Church History	3
• MINO5323 Pastoral Care	3
• MINO5231 Spiritual Formation Retreat	1
TOTAL 7	
Fall Semester II	
• MINO5421 Mentored Growth and Development II	1
• MINO6133 Biblical Themes	3
• MINO6223 Applications of Spiritual Formation	3
TOTAL 7	
Spring Semester II	
• MINO5313 Authentic Leadership	3
• MINO6323 Communication in Ministry	3
TOTAL 6	
Summer Semester II	
• MINO5333 Practical Aspects of Ministry	3
• MINO6213 Traditions of Spiritual Formation	3
• MINO6231 Final Integrative Project	1
TOTAL 7	
DEGREE TOTAL 40	

Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction

Core Courses Number and Title	Hours
Bible, History, and Theology	
• MIN5113: Hermeneutic and Exegesis	3
• MIN5133: Church History	3
• MIN5323: Pastoral Care	3
• MIN6123: The Trinity	3
	TOTAL 12
Spiritual Formation	
• MIN5213: Essentials of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN5223: Practices of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN6213: Traditions of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN6223: Applications of Spiritual Formation	3
• MIN7263: Spiritual Direction: Practice and Application	3
	TOTAL 12
Spiritual Direction	
• SPD7253: Perceiving a Holy Invitation	3
• SPD7263: Preparing an Available Self	3
• SPD7273: Developing a Listening Ear	3
• SPD7283: Discerning and Knowing God	3
• SPD7293 Arranging a Sacred Space	3
	TOTAL 15
Capstone	
• MIN6231: Final Integrative Project	1
	TOTAL HOURS 40

Certificate in Spiritual Direction

Christian spiritual direction is a ministry of holy listening in which one person helps another notice the Triune God's active presence and perceives the Holy Spirit's movement in their ordinary life. Spiritual directors journey with directees, assisting as they deepen their lived intimacy with Christ, the One True Director. The Certificate in Spiritual Direction consists of five 3-credit hour courses for a total of 15 credit hours. Each course is designed where two-thirds is focused on content and one-third is focused on practical application. The practical component will include supervision while offering or giving spiritual direction individually or in small groups. Coursework will be taught both online and through residential modules.

Basic Certificate Requirements

The Certificate in Spiritual Direction consists of 15 semester hours.

Spiritual Direction Certificate Curriculum (15 Hours)	Semester Credit Hours
• SPD7253 Perceiving a Holy Invitation	3
• SPD7263 Preparing an Available Self	3
• SPD7273 Developing a Listening Ear	3
• SPD7283 Discerning and Knowing God	3
• SPD7293 Arranging a Sacred Space	3
	TOTAL 15

COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Courses are designated by the following prefixes:

- CED Counselor Education
- CEDI Independent Study in Counselor Education
- MIN Ministry
- MINO Ministry Online
- MINI Independent Study in Ministry
- SPD Spiritual Direction

Course numbers consist of four digits:

First digit

5-7 Master's degree program with advanced courses represented by higher course numbers

Second digit

- 1 Core Counseling Curriculum
- 2 Counseling and Spirituality Integration Curriculum
- 3 Counseling and Theology Integration Curriculum
- 4 Child and Adolescent Counseling Curriculum
- 5 Christian Sex Therapy Curriculum
- 6 Family Studies and Marriage & Family Counseling Curriculum
- 7 Research Curriculum
- 8 Advanced Counseling Intervention Curriculum
- 9 Applied Clinical Counseling Training Curriculum

Third digit

0-9 Sequential order of the course in the specific curriculum

Fourth digit

1-4 Number of semester credit hours

NOTE: For the purposes of course descriptions, no distinction is made between the terms counseling and psychotherapy.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RICHMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

Core Counseling Curriculum

CED5102: Introduction to Counseling

2 hours. A survey course designed to introduce students to the counseling profession. Students learn the history, systems, and foundations; personalities, terminology, and theories; and basic research methods of the field of counseling. Specialties within the field of counseling and other mental health disciplines also are reviewed. Required for all students who have not completed a minimum of 12 hours in counseling, psychology or a closely related field prior to admission. *Fall, Spring*

CED610x: Special Topics in Counseling

Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area which are not a part of the standard curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6112: Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor

2 hours. This course is a prerequisite for CED7362: Integrative Theology. Examines the process of Christian formation from historical and personal perspectives. Attention given to unique personal and spiritual demands of the life and work of the counselor, historical figures of the Church, and contributions of modern-day scholars. Students are encouraged to focus on their own personal and spiritual formation and to view this dynamic as being foundational to the counseling process. Graded Pass/Fail. *Fall, Spring*

CED6113: Helping Relationships

3 hours. This course is a prerequisite for CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab. An introduction to basic counseling methods with emphasis on the helping skills of attending, responding and personalizing as presented in the Carkhuff model. Develops empathy and self-awareness skills essential to the helping relationship. Opportunity provided for students to experience themselves in therapeutic relationship with practice clients of different ages, gender, and/or backgrounds. Students must earn *B-* or higher to continue in clinical sequence. Students must receive approval on the Student Qualifying Evaluation for continuance in the clinical sequence. *Fall*

CED6123: Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling

3 hours. This course is a prerequisite for CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab. Students survey and develop an understanding of the ethical, legal and professional issues facing the professional counselor and the marriage and family therapist, including a history and philosophy of the counseling profession, noting significant factors and events. Importance of membership in ACA, IAMFC, ASERVIC, AMHCA and other ACA Divisions is stressed. Presents additional information on other professional societies such as APA, AAMFT and CAPS. Students

learn and apply the ACA, AAMFT and CAPS codes of ethics. Topics include the process of ethical decision-making, application of ethics within clinical practice, professional identity, client advocacy and relationships with other human service providers, scope of practice, licensure and certification, business aspects of the counseling practice, and foundation of the clinical mental health counselor's and the professional marriage and family therapist's role as consultant and advocate in public and private policy processes and legal issues. Students must earn *B-* or higher to continue in clinical sequence. This course is part of the Richmond Career Mapping sequence. *Fall*

CED6133: Counseling Systems and Interventions

3 hours. This course is a prerequisite for CED6813, CED7852, CED7891, and CED7822. Survey of the major systems/models of counseling and marriage and family therapy in modern Western civilization with content related conceptually to clinical concerns. Addresses history and philosophy of the counseling profession and current trends in community counseling, along with emphasis on theory and application. Culminates with overview of Christian approaches. *Spring*

CED6143: Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders

3 hours. This course is a prerequisite for CED6922/CED6962 and CED6832. A comprehensive survey of the major psychological and behavioral disorders as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5/ICD-10). Diagnosis, etiology and treatment are major areas of study. Students acquire knowledge of the DSM-5/ICD-10 classification system, diagnostic categories, and primary treatment options for major mental disorders. Includes an examination of psychobiology and psychopharmacology. Emphasizes spirituality of the client as a factor in beliefs, values and diagnosis. *Spring*

CED6163: Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling

3 hours. Students learn appraisal and assessment techniques for measuring skills and traits associated with performance in clinical, educational, vocational and social settings. Training provided in conducting diagnostic interviews, mental status examinations, symptom inventories, psychoeducational and personality assessment. Standard screening for substance use disorders is taught. Students gain understanding in validity and reliability of procedures, statistical concepts, and strategies for using and interpreting a variety of assessment and evaluation instruments. Covers pertinent ethical, legal and diversity issues. *Fall*

CED7113: Human Growth and Development

3 hours. A survey of theories of human, cognitive, social, learning, and personality development with comparative review and emphasis on roles of family, school and community. Includes significant content on individual development within the context of family development across the lifespan. *Fall*

CED7123: Group Counseling Theory and Practice

3 hours. This course is a prerequisite or co-requisite of CED6922/CED6962. Students study both theoretical and experiential understandings of group purpose, development, dynamics, group counseling theories, group counseling methods and skills, group leadership, and various group approaches. Students examine critical aspects of successful group counseling including such components

as selection criteria, group membership characteristics, phases of group process, methods of group leadership and methods of evaluation of group counseling effectiveness. Students participate in a group process for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the semester. *Summer*

CED7132: Theodicy and Trauma Counseling

2 hours. Examination of theodicy as it relates to life of the counselor and its application to counseling, with special attention given to trauma and recovery. Impersonal aspects of theodicy and the application of a theology of hope are emphasized. To live as a human being is to be confronted with the vexing problem of evil and human suffering. Evil constitutes a major philosophical and theological problem for theists. Philosophically and biblically explores the nature of the problem of evil and examines ways of coping with evil and suffering in human experience and in Christian life. Treats the theological and philosophic effects of crises, disasters, and other trauma-causing events on persons of all ages, as embodied in the theological/philosophical problem of theodicy. *Spring*

CED7143: Lifestyle and Career Development

3 hours. An examination of various factors influencing career choice and career development over the lifespan, including individual, cultural and sociological factors. Emphasis placed on approaches that aid conceptualization of healthy development in career planning and decision making. Addresses counseling strategies to address career struggles, including interrelationships between work, family and life roles. Also includes use of career information systems, computer-based information systems; and vocational assessment instruments. The counselor's role as an advocate for the professional so is addressed. At the discretion of the professor, students may be required to pay a nominal fee for individual vocational assessments. This course is a part of the Richmond Career Mapping sequence. *Spring*

CED7152: Counseling and Spirituality

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6322) This course trains students in the practical integration of spirituality into counseling. It examines the life impact of religion and spirituality and explores the crucial concepts of spiritual formation, soul care, and the Biblical basis for Christian counseling. It tackles the issues arising from several models of integrative counseling and surveys a variety of tools used. The crucial importance of the spiritual life of the counseling and understanding the spirituality of the counselee are highlighted. Graded Pass/Fail. *Fall, Spring*

CED7153: Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling

3 hours. This course is a prerequisite for CED6922/CED6962. Provides an overview of cultural context of relationships, issues, and trends in a multicultural society and relates these to the professional field of counseling. Presents theories of multicultural counseling, identity development, and social justice. Includes experiential learning activities and significant content material on multicultural competencies, including diversity, diversity and pluralistic issues, social barriers that impede equity and success for clients; detrimental culturally supported behaviors; gender and power issues; bias and prejudice; and religious and spiritual issues in counseling and relates these concepts to the counselor's roles in developing cultural awareness. *Spring*

CED710x: Original Independent Study in Counseling
Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Will require prerequisites as determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies.

Counseling and Spirituality Integration Curriculum

CED620x: Special Topics in Counseling and Spirituality
Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area which are not a part of the ongoing curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6232: Assessment and Integrating Spirituality into Counseling
2 hours. Covers assessing spirituality and religion, with focus additionally on more systematic approaches to integration, such as Pargament's Spirituality Integrated Psychotherapy and other comprehensive approaches and how to modify techniques to accommodate counselee spirituality. *Spring*

CED6242: Counseling for Non-Christian Spiritualities
2 hours. Surveys world religions and atheism with a focus on how these may be incorporated ethically into counseling. Include Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and modern spiritualities. Further attention given to the intersection of the counselor's awareness of his or her personal faith with these various traditions. *Every other Spring*

CED6282: Family and Community in Counseling and Spirituality
2 hours. Considers the family context of spiritual and religious beliefs and values and how this impacts the system and individuals in it. Further explores the place of the counselee in religious or spiritual community as a resource or possible hindrance to personal well-being. Discusses counselor relationships with churches and other spiritual communities and possibilities for counseling inside those communities. *Every other Summer*

CED7212: Religion, Spirituality, and Mental Health
2 hours. Covers many areas of ACA competencies including culture and worldview by looking at nature of religion/spirituality across cultures and groups, human and spiritual development by considering spirituality across the lifespan and its role in families and communities, and addresses spiritual experience and compares it to pathology, recognizing spirituality as potentially positive or negative. *Every other Spring*

CED7222: Evidence-Based Interventions for Spirituality
2 hours. Detailed training in using spiritual resources and disciplines in counseling that have been shown to have an evidence base. Include prayer, meditation, meaning, community, volunteering, forgiveness, learning from spiritual models, and appreciating sacredness of life. *Every other Spring*

CED7262: Spiritual Direction: Practice and Application
2 hours. This course provides a conceptual and practical understanding of a model of spiritual direction that builds on evangelical theology but draws freely from other Christian traditions. The format focuses on developing categories for understanding the vision of what the Spirit longs to accomplish in a Jesus follower, the obstacles posed particularly by the flesh (flesh dynamics), and the process of the Spirit in achieving His purposes, a process that directs spiritual direction. Class interaction illustrates the model of spiritual direction that is presented. Graded Pass/Fail. *Spring, Fall*

CED7282: Church-Based Counseling
2 hours. This course provides training in a powerfully effective method of clinical service delivery. It is designed to bridge the gap between student preparation to be a spiritually integrative counselor practically using that preparation to deliver services in church-based settings. Students will be trained in the need for increased access to spiritually integrative counseling services, the calling upon that church to meet that need, and the practical, clinical, ethical, and advantageous aspects of providing church-based counseling services. Graded Pass/Fail. *Every other Summer*

CED720x: Original Independent Study in Counseling and Spirituality
Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Will require prerequisites as determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies.

Counseling and Theology Integration Curriculum

CED630x: Special Topics in Counseling and Theology Integration
Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area which are not a part of the ongoing curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6322: Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling
2 hours. (Prerequisite for CED7152) A study of the philosophical and theoretical issues that are basic to relating science and Christian faith in general and psychology and Christian faith in particular to the field of counseling. This course provides a brief history of Christian counseling as a distinct discipline and lays the foundation for approaching practical integration in subsequent courses. *Fall, Spring*

CED6342: Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling
2 hours. Overview of Church history with the intent of helping students gain a greater appreciation for ecumenical differences of the various Christian traditions and denominations as they present in the counseling office. This course is a part of the Richmond Career Mapping sequence. *Summer*

CED7313: Hermeneutics and Application

3 hours. Focuses on the analysis and synthesis of principles of biblical hermeneutics, exegesis and counseling practice. Teaches basic skills in the inductive method of observing, interpreting and applying the Christian Scriptures, with emphasis given to student preparation of exegetical papers. Consideration of biblical exegesis in clinical settings with analysis, critique and synthesize of role plays and demonstration of application skills. *Fall*

CED7362: Integrative Theology for Counselors

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6112) Consideration of historical, systematic, biblical and philosophical theology as relevant to issues of the nature of God and man. Students examine the implications of theology upon the counseling context and receive additional training in explicit integration. *Spring*

CEDI730x: Original Independent Study in Counseling and Theology Integration

Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Will require prerequisites as determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies.

Child and Adolescent Counseling Curriculum

CED640x: Special Topics in Child and Adolescent Counseling

Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area which are not a part of the standard curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6412: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

2 hours. (Prerequisite for CED6422, CED7432, and CED7442). Provides an overview of the etiology, diagnoses, and treatment of mental disorders in the childhood and adolescent years. Disorders specific to childhood and adolescence in the DSM-5 are reviewed along with other disorders manifested in youth. Particular attention is given to developmental psychopathology. *Fall*

CED6422: Counseling Children

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6412) Surveys the major treatment approaches to childhood disorders and a critique from a Christian framework with special attention paid to empirically derived factors in therapeutic change. Ethical concerns particular to work with children and the role of work with parents in child therapy are discussed. *Spring*

CED7432: Counseling Adolescents

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6412) Examines the general needs of adolescents in counseling, with particular attention given to developmental changes in adolescence and the influence of sociocultural factors on youth symptomatic behavior. Additionally, focuses on specific counseling issues common in adolescent clients (e.g. mood and anxiety disorders, trauma, eating disorders, substance abuse, self-harm) and discusses various treatment modalities, with an emphasis on using evidence-based practice models. *Fall*

CED7442: Advanced Child and Adolescent Counseling

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6412, CED6422, and CED7432) Designed to allow students to develop a deeper understanding of specific counseling approaches with specific groups of children and adolescents, concurrently teaching the skills of how to read and apply more detailed literature about counseling methods. Case formulation and presentation skills are also developed within the course. *Spring*

CEDI740x: Original Independent Study in Child and Adolescent Counseling

Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Will require prerequisites as determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies.

Christian Sex Therapy Curriculum

CED650x: Special Topics in Christian Sex Therapy

Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies that are not part of the standard curriculum schedule in this content area. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6512: Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration

2 hours. (Prerequisite for CED6522, CED7532, CED7542, CED7552, CED7562, CED7572, CED7582, and CED7592) Provides a basic introduction to counseling for sexual issues. Students are introduced to a theology of sexuality, a foundational model of addressing sexual issues in counseling, basics of sexual biology and psychology, sexual development, sexual dysfunction, and intervention techniques for sexual problems. Students also are challenged in their own growth and development in this area. *Fall/Spring*

CED6522: Basic Issues in Sex Therapy

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6512) Designed to provide an introduction to the field of sexology. Focuses on the profession of sex therapy, exploring historical, ethical, social/cultural and current research issues in human sexuality. Students also examine sex therapy with specific populations. *Spring/even years*

CED7532: Sexual Dysfunctions, Addictive, Compulsive and Paraphilic Sexuality

2 hours. (Prerequisite: 6512) Teaches students classical and current theories and techniques in treating sexual dysfunction, sexual addiction and compulsivity, and paraphilias. *Summer*

CED7542: Sexuality: Medical Issues, Trauma and Abuse

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6512) Covers the two main subject areas of advanced physiological issues (primarily hormones and medications) and counseling for sexual trauma and abuse. Students explore current theories and research in these subject areas as well as continue to develop their theory of sexuality in these subject areas. Special attention also is given to exploring the problem of pain and self care of the therapist when working with trauma. *Spring/odd years*

CED7552: Advanced Sex Therapy

2 hours. (Prerequisites: CED6512 and CED7532) This certificate course takes an in-depth look at treatment for sexual dysfunction. Areas of primary focus include diagnosis and treatment of sexual dysfunctions specific to desire, pain, arousal and orgasm. *Fall/odd years*

CED7562: Seminar in Christian Sex Therapy

2 hours. Designed to address a variety of selected topics in sex therapy.

CED7572: Advanced Sexual Trauma and Abuse

2 hours. (Prerequisites: CED6512) Students examine the topic of sexual trauma and abuse. Current thinking in the treatment of people with a history of sexual trauma and abuse in the context of sex therapy is explored in depth. *Fall/odd years*

CED7582: Advanced Sexual Addiction Counseling

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6512) An in-depth and advanced look at current theories and treatment approaches to addressing sexual addiction. Students will explore the diagnosis, etiology, disease process, treatment, recovery process, and current research findings for sexual addictions in males and females. *Fall/even years*

CED7592: Sexual Orientation and Sexual Identity

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6512) Students examine the myriad of issues involved in providing counseling to clients who experience same-sex attraction. Based in Christian principles, sound clinical theory, and empirical research, this course provides critical training to counselors seeking to provide support to this population. *Fall/even years*

CEDI750x: Original Independent Study in Christian Sex Therapy

Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Requires prerequisites as determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies.

Family Studies and Marriage & Family Counseling/Therapy Curriculum

CED660x: Special Topics in Family Studies

Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area which are not a part of the standard curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6612: Family Systems Theory

2 hours. (Prerequisite for CED7623, CED7613, and CED7633). Examination of the philosophy, theoretical and practical foundations of the family systems approach to marital and family counseling/therapy. The major theorists, theories, various models, and practices are examined. The primary focus is upon the theories, principles, and language that support the numerous marriage and family therapy models. Among other theoretical models, Bowen Family Systems Theory is delineated. *Spring*

CED6622: Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling

2 hours. Prerequisite for CED6912/CED6952, CED7613, CED7623, and CED7633. Enables students to assess marital and family systems in order to engage in effective individual, marriage and family counseling and treatment planning. An examination of current family demographics, characteristics of dysfunctional families, formal marriage and family clinical assessment strategies and instruments, and interviewing techniques are included. Special attention is given to initial use of the DSM for diagnosis, treatment planning and practice. Assessment and treatment strategies related to depression, crisis intervention and psychological first aid, anxiety, eating disorders, marital conflict, sexual dysfunction, personality disorders and behaviors that impede individual, couple and family functioning. Lectures, discussions, in-class assessments, and other methods aid students in acquiring a critical understanding of the contextual/systemic aspects of a comprehensive assessment process and the resulting treatment plan. *Fall*

CED6632: Healthy Family Functioning

2 hours. Designed to provide an integrative analysis of the characteristic behaviors of healthy families and marriages derived from five primary sources: direct observation of healthy families, the literature from major family therapy theorists, empirically based schemas of optimal family health, the research of behavioral correlates of healthy functioning, and empirically based models of healthy marital and family functioning. Informs the graduate student about optimal families and to relate this material conceptually to clinical assessment and interventions. Students examine healthy functioning across the family developmental stages. Students who complete this course will gain a perspective to balance their exposure to the significant literature and training for marriage and family therapists that is skewed toward pathology. *Fall*

CED7613: Brief, Solution Focused, and Communication Approaches to Marriage & Family Counseling

3 hours. (Prerequisites: CED6612 and CED6622) Students examine theoretical foundations, basic principles, assessment techniques, and intervention strategies of three major schools of marriage and family therapy: Brief, Solution-Focused, and the Communication Approach to marriage and family counseling. Taught from a systems theory perspective and in the context of a Christian worldview. *Fall*

CED7623: Structural and Behavioral Marriage & Family Therapy

3 hours. (Prerequisites: CED6612 and CED6622) Students examine theoretical foundations, basic principles, assessment techniques, and intervention strategies of two major schools of marriage and family therapy: Structural MFT and Behavioral MFT. The role of the marriage and family counselor in a variety of practice settings and in relation to other helping professions is discussed. Taught from a systems theory perspective and in the context of a Christian worldview. *Summer*

CEDI760x: Original Independent Study in Family Studies or Marital and Family Counseling

Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Will require prerequisites as determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies.

CED7633: Contextual, Narrative and Interpersonal Models of Counseling

3 hours. (Prerequisites: CED6612 and CED6622) Students examine theoretical foundations, basic principles, assessment techniques, and intervention strategies of three major schools of counseling: Contextual Marriage and Family Therapy, Narrative Therapy, and Interpersonal Therapy. Taught from a systems theory perspective and in the context of a Christian worldview. *Summer*

Research and Writing Curriculum

CED5062: Introduction to Graduate Writing, and Research Skills
2 hours. This course aims to provide a comprehensive overview of basic writing and research skills for graduate studies. Significant focus is placed on locating scholarly materials through online resources, analyzing professional writing, writing an academic paper, and understanding how to utilize APA format. For those students required to take this course, it will be used as an evaluation to determine their readiness for additional graduate coursework. *Fall, Spring*

CED670x: Special Topics in Research and Writing
Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area which are not a part of the ongoing curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED7713: Methods of Research
3 hours. Students learn basic strategies for research in the areas relevant to counseling. Students gain knowledge in the various research designs, research procedures, basic statistical concepts, and how to access, read and evaluate research in the literature. The use of research to inform evidence based practices and the use of technology in conducting research and statistical analysis are presented. Includes information regarding community and program evaluation as methods to improve counseling. *Fall*

CED7761: Research Group I
1 hour. (Prerequisite: CED7713 and permission of instructor) Students in Thesis Track begin developing their research idea or determine how they will connect to ongoing research projects. By end of the course, the proposal is approved by the Director of Research and, if needed, IRB. A faculty mentor for the project is identified. *Spring*

CED7771: Research Group II
1 hour. (Prerequisite: CED7761 and permission of instructor). A continuation of Research Group I as student begins data collection and continues writing of thesis. By end of course, most data is in and minimally the introduction to the thesis is written. *Summer*

CED8711: Thesis I
1 hour. (Prerequisite: CED7771) Thesis data is in and data analysis is run. First full draft of the thesis is due to the mentor by end of the course. *Fall*

CED8721: Thesis II
1 hour. (Prerequisite: CED8711) Thesis is reviewed by mentors, finalized by Director of Research, and printed. The thesis is presented in a Richmond Community Time, and most often in a presentation and/or poster at a counseling-related conference. *Spring*

Advanced Clinical Counseling Intervention Curriculum

CED680x: Special Topics in Advanced Counseling Intervention
Hours may vary. Provides an opportunity for students to participate in additional studies in this content area that are not part of the standard curriculum schedule. Unless specifically noted in course announcements, special topics courses will not count toward degree requirements. Depending on the nature of the course offering, prerequisites may apply. May be repeated for credit.

CED6802: Trauma in Developmental Context
2 hours. (Prerequisite for CED7802 and CED7812). Focuses on the impact of trauma exposures on the developing child and ways these impacts may continue to manifest through the lifespan. Includes a review of normative development and impact of trauma on developmental tasks; an overview of the attachment system and variations in attachment formation; and discussion of the functional nature of behaviors. Implications for treatment will be briefly discussed. *Fall*

CED6812: Trauma and Biology
2 hours. Reviews physiological impacts of traumatic experiences, including psychobiology of the acute trauma response; impact of chronic traumatic stress on a functional and anatomical neurological level; and physiological markers of the chronic stress response and their behavioral manifestations. Reviews current research regarding the intersect between trauma and the body. Implications for treatment will be briefly discussed. *Spring*

CED6813: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
3 hours. (Prerequisites: CED6622 and CED6133) Develops students' knowledge and skill in the cognitive-behavioral approach to counseling with applications to mental health counseling and marital and family counseling. Students examine theoretical foundations, research findings, basic principles, assessment techniques, and intervention strategies of CBT with particular emphasis on a family systems perspective. Practical applications of this therapy are examined, and executive skills required of the cognitive-behavioral therapist are instilled. Students will demonstrate skills in this approach of counseling in class. These examinations are applied to a wide variety of problems in living and are framed within a Christian theological context. *Spring, Summer*

CED6821: Introduction to Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)
1 hour. The purpose of this course is to develop students' knowledge and skill in Dialectical Behavior Therapy with applications to individual and group mental health counseling. Students examine theoretical foundations, research findings, basic principles, and the intervention strategies of Dialectical Behavior Therapy with emphasis on group skills' training. Emphasis is also placed on studying Borderline Personality Disorder with particular attention paid to theories of etiology and development. Strategies

for applying a Christian theological framework to the theories of this approach and application of skills in counseling will also be discussed. *J-Term, M-Term*

CED6831: Introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)

1 hour. This course surveys the philosophical and empirical foundations of ACT, introduces the basic ACT hexaflex model, and presents basic techniques for each of the dimensions of the hexaflex: cognitive defusion, acceptance, being present, self-as-context, defining valued directions, and willingness. All which work toward the core skill of psychological flexibility. Some of the empirical support for ACT will be presented, and the model will be interpreted for use with Christian counselees. *J-Term, M-Term*

CED6832: Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6143) Introduces students to treatment literature and practices relevant to a wide variety of impulse control disorders. Treatment programs (inpatient and outpatient settings) that focus on substance abuse will receive the majority of attention. Instructors provide direct applications to mental health and marital and family counseling. *Summer*

CED7832: Advanced Addictions Counseling:

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6832). This course builds on the Addictions Counseling course (CED6832). This course provides more depth in the assessment and treatment of substance-related disorders and some process addictions. The course focuses on integration of etiological, clinical, theoretical, and research-based information. Transtheoretical models will be used to focus on assessment and a treatment strategies approach to specific stages of change. Student presentations will be used to promote discussion of the integration of spirituality as an essential component of recovery.

CED7802: Child Trauma Intervention

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6802) Provides an overview of clinical assessment and treatment of children who have experienced traumatic stress. The process of clinical evaluation of this population will be discussed, with review of most commonly used evaluation tools. Treatment will be conceptualized in a core components manner, with identification of key goals of intervention with children who have experienced trauma. Reviews evidence-based and promising practices for treatment of child trauma, as well as the range of alternative interventions (i.e., expressive, body-based, sensory) which show promise for this population. *Spring*

CED7812: Adult Trauma Intervention

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6802) Provides an overview of clinical assessment and treatment of adults who have experienced traumatic stress. The process of clinical evaluation of this population will be discussed, with review of most commonly used evaluation tools. Reviews the construct of phase-oriented models of treatment and provides an overview of key goals and the range of practices which may be used to address these goals. *Fall*

CED7822: Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6622 and CED6133) Provides an opportunity to explore the contribution of psychoanalytic theory for the understanding of persons and the practice of counseling. Psychoanalytic traditions examined include classical drive theory,

ego psychology, Interpersonal theory, object relations theory, and self-psychology. Special attention also given to the contributions of psychoanalytic theory to the understanding of character pathology and clinical diagnosis. *Spring*

CED6842: Adventure-Based Counseling

2 hours. Introduction to facilitating adventure/challenge experiences as a context for counseling. Emphasis on understanding the dynamics of adventure experiences, their therapeutic application, and effective facilitation and processing, particularly leadership concerns and sequencing of activities in developing an adventure therapy/education program. Students will develop an understanding of theories of group dynamics and how they relate to the adventure education experience.

CED6851: Grief and Bereavement

1 credit hour. This course provides exploration of the grief and bereavement process from psychological, interpersonal, cultural, historical, developmental, systemic, and integrative perspectives. Students will learn introductory level assessment and treatment of normal, pathological, and traumatic grief by health care professionals. Students will explore components of a theology of suffering. The significance of therapist self-awareness, discernment, and self-care will also be discussed. *J-Term*

CED7831: Introduction to Tele-Mental Health for Counselors

1 hour. This course meets the minimum standards required for the delivery of services by a licensed Professional Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist or psychologist using technology-assisted media, in accordance with Georgia Composite Board Rule 135-11-.01 TeleMental Health. Addresses telemental health counseling training - the mode of delivering services via technology-assisted media, such as but not limited to, a telephone, video, internet, a smartphone, tablet, PC desktop system or other electronic means using appropriate encryption technology for electronic health information (both asynchronous and synchronous). Addresses telemental health supervision - the delivery of supervision via technology-assisted media by a supervisor at one site while the supervisee is located at a distant site (both asynchronous and synchronous). Provides ethics training surrounding confidentiality and social media in telemental health counseling, as well as legal considerations, licensure & certification and online supervision ethics. *M-Term, J-Term*

CED7852: Eating Disorders: Etiology, Assessment, and Counseling Interventions

2 hours.(Prerequisites: CED6622 and CED6133) Examination of the etiological and associated factors of eating disorders, diagnosis and assessment issues, and the treatments and general management strategies of the client with an eating disorder. Special emphasis placed on individual, family and hospital-based intervention methods. *Every other Summer*

CED7862: Cross-Cultural Counseling in Christian Settings

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED7153 or permission of instructor) Explores issues of acculturation and diversity pertinent to Christian ministry. Students will have opportunity to study the emotional impact of cross-cultural experience on individuals, families, and groups working in the field of Christian ministry. Uniqueness of the counselor's role in cross-cultural ministry settings will be addressed, with particular attention to issues of advocacy, conflict resolution and cultural self-awareness. Students will choose between several experiential learning activities designed to facilitate increased cultural sensitivity. *Fall*

CED7871: International Counseling Competence

1 hour. This course will provide an introductory overview of the set of attitudes and behaviors indicative of the ability to establish, maintain and successfully conclude a helping relationship with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds locally and internationally. Students will be exposed to helping strategies and techniques that are consistent with the Christian faith and the cultural worldview of individuals living in different regions of the world. The course will challenge students to develop a Christian culture-sensitive counseling theory and practice worldview.

M-Term, J-Term

CED7891: Professional Seminar in Marriage & Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling

1 hour. (Prerequisites: CED6622 and CED6133) Designed to assist students in the integration of their graduate experiences, to prepare them for clinical practice, and to assess their current level of competency across 14 content areas. To assess the students, the instructors will administer the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination. Strengths and weaknesses will be identified. Remedial work may be assigned and required before graduation. Students are provided with information regarding professional identity with ACA and other professional societies.

Spring

CEDI780x: Original Independent Study in Advanced Counseling Interventions

Hours may vary. Designed for advanced students who wish to create an independent study for a topic not offered by Richmond. Prerequisites determined by the professor guiding the study. Original independent studies follow the same proposal and approval procedures as other independent studies..

Psychopathology and Treatments Curriculum

CED6143: Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders

3 hours. Comprehensive survey of major psychological and behavioral disorders as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5/ICD-10). Diagnosis, etiology and treatment are the major areas of study. Students acquire knowledge of the DSM-5/ICD-10 classification system, the diagnostic categories, and the primary treatment options for the major mental disorders. Included is an examination of psychobiology and psychopharmacology. Emphasis is placed on the spirituality of the client as a factor in beliefs, values and diagnosis. *Spring*

CED6152: Personality Disorders: Diagnosis and Treatment

2 hours. (Prerequisite: CED6143) Focuses on diagnosis, etiology and treatment of the personality disorders as delineated in DSM-5/ICD-10. A continuation of CED6143: Psychopathology. *Fall*

CED6412: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

2 hours. Provides an overview of the etiology, diagnoses, and treatment of mental disorders in the childhood and adolescent years. Disorders specific to childhood and adolescence in the DSM-5 are reviewed along with other disorders manifested in youth. Particular attention given to developmental psychopathology. *Fall*

CED7161: Introduction to Psychopharmacology for Counselors

1 hour. (Prerequisite: CED6143) The purpose of this course is to provide a basic introduction to the field of psychopharmacology. It assumes no prior knowledge of the field by the student for the first part of the course. Students will become familiar with basic medications classes and general principles of prescribing used by the medical community. Students will also learn to recognize when referral for medication evaluation is indicated and how to make an appropriate and useful referral. The struggle between theory and practice will be introduced through actual patient interviews.

M-Term

CED7171: Advanced Psychopharmacology for Counselors

1 hour. (Prerequisite: CED7161). This course will review the basic classes of medications, and their basic indications in treatment. Biological mechanisms of action, side effects and potential interactions with other medications will be covered. Students will learn how to make an effective referral and work with the medical professional prescribing the medication. Medical conditions that potentially present as psychiatric problems will be covered and differential diagnosis offered. New medications seeking FDA approval will be covered. Alternative or holistic means of treating psychiatric condition will be outlined. This class is designed to expand on the basic concepts taught in the first part of the course.

J-Term

Applied Clinical Training Curriculum

Counseling students must accumulate a minimum of 700 hours of on-site experience at their appointed clinical site. A minimum of 300 of these 700 hours must be direct, face-to-face counseling hours. Students must also gain a minimum of one hour per week of individual supervision and one and one-half hours per week of group supervision by an approved faculty-member of the counseling practicum and the two internships.

CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling

2 hours. Spring semester. Prepares students to conduct intake interviews, maintain appropriate documentation and conduct effective treatment planning, and maximize the supervision process. Special attention given to use of the DSM-5 for diagnosis, treatment planning and practice. Emphasis placed on increased awareness of self/personality and the core conditions of a therapeutic relationship; practice of basic counseling skills in role-play; ethical issues, management of crises, making appropriate referrals, and other topics relevant to the counseling process including information on licensure and credentialing and professional involvement in the counseling profession through ACA and its associations such as IAMFC, ASERVIC and AMHCA. Information given on societies such as APA, AAMFT and CAPS. Minimum grade for successful completion of this course is *B-*. Students must receive approval for continuance on the Clinical Qualifying Evaluation.

Prerequisites:

- CED6113: Helping Relationships (minimum grade B-)
- CED6123: Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling (minimum grade B-)
- CED6622: Clinical Assessment of Individual, Marital and Family Counseling
- Advisor may recommend or require additional courses or other remedial work.

CED6922/6962: Clinical Practicum

2 hours. Summer semester. Under the guidance of a licensed Christian mental health professional, students become a part of a team that provides individual, couple and family counseling. Includes weekly individual and group supervision. Students must accumulate 100 on-site hours, of which a minimum of 40 hours must be in face-to-face counseling. Information on licensure and credentialing is provided, and professional identity with the clinical mental health counseling profession and marital and family counseling profession is discussed. Importance of membership in ACA, IAMFC, ASERVIC, AMHCA and related ACA chapters is stressed. Additional information on other professional societies such as APA, AAMFT and CAPS is presented. Graded Pass/Fail.

Prerequisites:

- CED6113: Helping Relationships (minimum grade B-)
- CED6123: Ethical, Legal and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage & Family Counseling (minimum grade B-)
- CED6912: Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling (minimum grade B-)
- Approval for continuance on the Clinical Qualifying Evaluation
- CED6143: Psychopathology (minimum grade B-)
- CED7153: Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling
- At least one CED 800-level course
- Advisor may recommend or require additional courses or other remedial work.

CED7932/CED7962: Counseling Internship I

2 hours. Fall semester. Provides participation in the counseling process as counselor/co-counselor under supervision of licensed Christian mental health professionals. Includes weekly individual and group supervision. Additional experience will be obtained in an external setting. Students must accumulate 300 on-site hours, of which a minimum of 130 hours must be in direct service. A portion of the face-to-face counseling hours in either Internship I or Internship II must be in a group setting. Information on licensure and credentialing is provided, and professional identity with the clinical mental health counseling profession and marital and family counseling profession is discussed. Graded Pass/Fail.

Prerequisites:

- CED6922/CED6962: Counseling Practicum
- Approval for continuance on the Clinical Qualifying Evaluation
- Advisor may recommend or require additional courses or other remedial work.

CED7942/CED7972: Counseling Internship II

2 hours. Spring semester. Continuation of CED7932/CED7962: Counseling Internship I, with growing autonomy as appropriate to the student's developing skill level. The student participates in the counseling process as counselor/co-counselor under supervision of licensed Christian mental health professionals. Weekly individual and group supervision. Information on licensure and credentialing provided, and professional identity with the clinical mental health counseling profession and marital and family counseling profession is discussed. A portion of the face-to-face counseling hours in either Internship I or Internship II must be in a group setting. The student must accumulate a minimum of 300 hours on-site, of which a minimum of 130 hours must be in direct service to clients. Graded Pass/Fail.

Prerequisites:

- CED7932/CED7962: Counseling Internship I
- Approval for continuance on the Student Qualifying Evaluation
- Any three 800-level courses (third 800-level course may be concurrent with CED7942/CED7972)
- Advisor may recommend or require additional courses or other remedial work.

CED7952: Counseling Internship III

2 hours. Continuation of CED7942: Counseling Internship II; intended only for students who need additional hours in an internship for licensure or who choose to extend their internship past one year. Students may enroll for this internship only with prior approval of the Director of Clinical Training and request for academic exception. The student will continue to participate in the counseling process as therapist/co-therapist under supervision of licensed Christian mental health professionals. Weekly individual and group supervision. Information on licensure and credentialing provided, and professional identity with the clinical mental health counseling profession and marital and family counseling profession is discussed. Graded Pass/Fail. May be repeated for credit.

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Bible History and Theology Curriculum

MIN/MINO5113: Hermeneutics and Exegesis

3 hours. This course provides an introduction to biblical interpretation. The course explores the roles and relationship of author, text, and reader in the interpretive process. Special attention is given to the Bible's numerous literary genres and various research and reading strategies that can illuminate interpretation.

MIN/MINO5133: Church History

3 hours. This course is a survey of church history from the New Testament period to today. The focus will be both on the historical and doctrinal developments of the Church. Special attention will be given to the many ways that Christian thought contributed to the development of societies, including the distinctives of American Christianity. The Church's monumental leaders and thinkers will be examined through both secondary and primary sources, from the early Church Fathers to twentieth century voices.

MIN/MINO6113: Biblical Themes

3 hours. This class investigates some of the major theological themes of the Bible. In addition to exploring several key themes as a class, students have the opportunity to explore in greater depth themes which are of particular interest to them. In line with the School of Ministry goal of becoming whole and holy people, students apply what they learn about these various themes to their personal spiritual formation, including their personal theology, and their ministry setting.

MIN/MINO6123: The Trinity

3 hours. Historic Christianity proclaims the nature of the God revealed in history and Scripture as Holy Trinity. This course examines this doctrine, from its formation amid the controversies over the relationship of Jesus to the Father to its application in lives for worship and witness as the distinctively Christian understanding of God. Detailed attention will be given to selected Trinitarian reflections in the patristic, medieval, and modern periods of the Church.

Ministry Skills and Leadership Curriculum

MIN/MINO5313: Authentic Leadership

3 hours. This course will underscore foundational aspects of authentic Christian leadership including: embracing the person and model of Jesus as the ultimate model of leadership; identifying and utilizing one's strengths; understanding both personality of a leader and the importance of finding one's voice; and planning and taking intentional steps to increase one's capacity and explore one's potential.

MIN/MINO5323: Pastoral Care

3 hours. This course is an introduction to basic counseling methods with an emphasis on the helping skills of attending, responding, and personalizing. Empathy and self-awareness skills essential to the helping relationship are developed. Additionally, this course provides an introduction to understanding the life span and the issues that may arise—with an emphasis on spiritual transformation through the student's effective servant leadership and pastoral care.

MIN/MINO5333: Practical Aspects of Ministry

3 hours. Ministry is a unique calling and a high privilege. It can be thrilling, invigorating and rewarding as one senses God at work in and through individuals. Much of ministry, as in life, is a walk of faith, requiring growth in leadership and continual self-management. This course will focus on several practical aspects of the life of a minister that are critical to his or her effectiveness in life and ministry. Selected leadership ideas/models, both those that are explicitly Christian as well as others, will be examined and each student will be asked to apply these ideas/models to their own ministry setting.

MIN/MINO6323: Communication in Ministry

3 hours. The course aims to understand the importance of communication in Christian leadership. The good news of Jesus must be communicated. "Faith comes by hearing the message of Christ" (Romans 10:17). Students will learn how to prepare public presentations for preaching, teaching and training, explore the dynamics of effective communication and study creative methods of communication through technology and media resources.

Spiritual Formation Curriculum

MIN/MINO5213: Essentials of Spiritual Formation

3 hours. This course emphasizes the following themes: 1) Spiritual formation into Christlikeness is God's intention for us—and it is possible and suited to human nature; 2) Living in the Kingdom of the Heavens here and now; and 3) Application of these understandings from Christ to the realities of the human self and of actual existence in our circumstances.

MIN/MINO5223: Practices of Spiritual Formation

3 hours. This course emphasizes the following themes: 1) Learning how to hear God; 2) Christian spiritual disciplines—concept and history; and 3) Salvation is a Life—with special emphasis given to the "Fruit of the Spirit" as foundation and framework of eternal living.

MIN/MINO 6213: Traditions of Spiritual Formation

3 hours. This course emphasizes the following themes: 1) Gaining an experiential understanding of the Six Great Traditions of Christian faith; 2) Coming to a deeper appreciation of the importance of classical devotional literature; 3) Learning to better experience God and His character in Scripture; 4) Developing a deeper appreciation of the Bible's presentation of 15 ways of "being with" God.

MIN/MINO6223: Applications of Spiritual Formation

3 hours. This course emphasizes the following themes: 1) Being with God in Prayer; 2) Living as an Apprentice to Jesus; and 3) Spiritual Formation in all the Roles of our Life.

MIN7263: Spiritual Direction: Practice and Application

3 hours. This course provides a conceptual and practical understanding of a model of spiritual direction that builds on evangelical theology but draws freely from other Christian traditions. The format focuses on developing categories for understanding the vision of what the Spirit longs to accomplish in a Jesus follower, the obstacles posed particularly by the flesh (flesh dynamics), and the process of the Spirit in achieving His purposes, a process that directs spiritual direction. Class interaction illustrates the model of spiritual direction that is presented.

Personal Growth

MIN/MINO5231: Spiritual Formation Retreat

1 hour. The weekend retreat is built around the following four themes: 1) lectio divina as transforming prayer; 2) life as prayer; 3) the integration of prayer, leadership, and Christian community; 4) the integration of theology and biography in the student's life. Special emphasis will be given, across all four themes, to prayer as "our response to a divine invitation to encounter" (David Benner) and to learning by experiencing. These themes will be explored in a retreat setting and format with opportunities for Christian community woven throughout.

MIN/MINO5411: Mentored Growth and Development I

1 hour. Working under the supervision of a mentor, the student will have intentional opportunities for the integration of biblical and theological principles with spiritual, personal, and vocational practice. Assessments, reflection, and evaluation activities are designed to provide affirmation, support, and feedback to the student.

MIN/MINO5421: Mentored Growth and Development II

1 hour. Working under the supervision of a mentor, the student will have intentional opportunities for the integration of biblical and theological principles with spiritual, personal, and vocational practice. Assessments, reflection, and evaluation activities are designed to provide affirmation, support, and feedback to the student.

MIN/MINO6231: Final Integrative Project

1 hour. Through review and reflection students will synthesize and use their understanding of the three core areas of study in the School of Ministry: Knowing, Being, and Doing. Using this information the student will write an integrative paper that will both summarize their learning experience and formulate a plan to use this learning. The students will also make an oral presentation describing their results.

Spiritual Direction Curriculum

SPD7253: Perceiving a Holy Invitation

3 hours. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the foundations of the practice of spiritual direction. Special emphasis will be given in this course to the clarification of terms, spiritual direction's relationships with both theology and scripture, and discerning one's call to spiritual direction. This class will also focus on historical roots of spiritual direction and the role of spiritual direction within the Kingdom of God. This course has both residency and on-line components.

SPD7263: Preparing an Available Self

3 hours. The purpose of this course is to develop students' understanding of the nature of spiritual formation and invite them to pursue significant self-reflection. Particular emphasis on the Ignatian Exercises continues the program's focus on historical roots and the role of spiritual direction within the presently available Kingdom of God. Attention will be given in this course to spiritual formation, the role of personality and psychometric assessment tools. This course is taught in an on-line format.

SPD7273: Developing a Listening Ear

3 hours. The purpose of this course is to help students develop the practical listening skills of spiritual direction. Special emphasis will be given in this course to practicing spiritual direction as a director and participation in individual and peer supervision. This class will continue the program's focus on historical roots of spiritual direction and the role of spiritual direction within the Kingdom of God. This course has both residency and on-line components.

SPD7283: Discerning and Knowing God

3 hours. The purpose of this course is to help students know God more intimately and develop their ability to discern God's communication. Special emphasis will be given in this course to the process of knowing God, methods of prayer, awareness and surrender in the discernment process, and the Ignatian rules of discernment. This class will continue the program's focus on historical roots of spiritual direction and the role of spiritual direction within the Kingdom of God. This course has both residency and on-line components.

SPD7293: Arranging a Sacred Space

3 hours. The purpose of this course is to prepare students to offer the ministry of spiritual direction with integrity. Special emphasis will be given in this course to identifying the needs of various constituencies, ministering within different contexts, and addressing special issues that arise in spiritual direction. This class will continue the program's focus on historical roots of spiritual direction and the role of spiritual direction within the Kingdom of God. This course is taught in an on-line format.

School of Counseling Prerequisite Guide for the 2016-2017 Graduate Catalog

Students are responsible to insure that all requirements for degrees and certifications are met in accordance with their degree catalog. Please pay particular attention to prerequisites and courses required to begin the clinical sequence. For more information or questions regarding prerequisites for your degree program, please contact your academic advisor or the Records Office for more information.

Advanced Clinical Counseling Intervention Curriculum	
Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED6813: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Spring)	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) AND CED6133: Counseling Systems and Interventions (Spring)
CED7822: Psychodynamic Theories and Therapies (Spring)	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) AND CED6133: Counseling Systems and Interventions (Spring)
CED6832: Addiction Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment (Summer)	CED6143: Psychopathology (Spring)
CED7832: Advanced Addictions Counseling	CED6832: Addiction Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment (Summer)
CED7852: Eating Disorders: Etiology, Assessment, and Counseling Interventions (every other Summer)	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) AND CED6133: Counseling Systems and Interventions (Spring)
CED7862: Cross Cultural Counseling in Christian Settings (Fall)	CED7153: Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling (Spring)
CED7891: Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling (Spring) This class is taken the last semester of the degree program for MACMHC and MAMFT.	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) AND CED6133: Counseling Systems and Interventions (Spring)

Applied Clinical Training Curriculum	
Course Number and Title	No Prerequisite
CED6113: Helping Relationships (Fall)	No Prerequisite
CED6912: Applied Lab (Spring)	CED6113 Helping Relationships (minimum grade B-) AND CED6123: Ethical, Legal, and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy (minimum grade B-) AND CED6622: Clinical Assessment
CED6922/CED6962: Counseling Practicum (Summer)	CED6113: Helping Relationships (minimum grade B-) AND CED6912: Applied Lab (minimum grade B-) AND CED6123: Ethical, Legal, and Professional Standards in Professional Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy (minimum grade B-) AND CED6622: Clinical Assessment AND CED6143: Psychopathology (minimum grade B-) AND CED7153: Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling AND at least one CED 800-level course
CED7932/CED7962: Internship I (Fall)	CED6922/CED6962: Counseling Practicum
CED7942/CED7972: Internship II (Spring)	CED7932/CED7962: Internship I AND three 800-level courses (third 800-level course may be concurrent with CED7942/CED7972)

Psychopathology and Treatments Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED6152: Personality Disorders: Diagnosis and Treatment (Fall)	CED6143: Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders (Spring)
CED7161: Introduction to Psychopharmacology for Counselors (M-Term)	CED6143: Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders (Spring)
CED7171: Advanced Psychopharmacology for Counselors (J-Term)	CED7161: Introduction to Psychopharmacology for Counselors (M-Term)

Family Studies and Marriage and Family Counseling Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED7623: Structural and Behavioral Marriage and Family Therapy (Summer)	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) and CED6612: Family Systems Theory (Spring)
CED7613: Brief, Solution-Focused, and Communication Approaches to Marriage and Family Counseling (Fall)	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) and CED6612: Family Systems Theory (Spring)
CED7633: Contextual, Narrative, and Interpersonal Models of Counseling (Summer)	CED6622: Clinical Assessment (Fall) and CED6612: Family Systems Theory (Spring)

Research Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED7761: Research Group I (Spring)	CED7713: Methods of Research AND Permission of Instructor
CED7771: Research Group II (Summer)	CED7761: Research Group I
CED8711: Thesis I (Fall)	CED7771: Research Group II
CED8721: Thesis II (Spring)	CED8711: Thesis I

Christian Sex Therapy Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED 6512: Human Sexuality (Fall and Spring)	No Prerequisite
CED6522: Basic Issues in Sex Therapy (every other Spring)	CED6512: Human Sexuality
ED7532: Sexual Dysfunctions, Addictive, Compulsive and Paraphilic Sexuality (Summer)	CED6512: Human Sexuality
CED7542: Sexuality: Medical Issues, Trauma, and Abuse (Every other Spring)	CED6512: Human Sexuality
CED7552: Advanced Sex Therapy (Every other Fall)	CED6512: Human Sexuality AND CED7532: Sexual Dysfunctions, Addictive, Compulsive and Paraphilic Sexuality
CED7582: Advanced Sexual Addiction Counseling (Every other Summer)	CED6512: Human Sexuality
CED7592: Sexual Orientation and Sexual Identity (Every other Fall)	CED6512: Human Sexuality
CED7572: Advanced Sexual Trauma and Abuse (Every other Summer)	CED6512: Human Sexuality

Child and Adolescent Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED6422: Counseling Children (Spring)	CED6412: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (Fall)
CED7432: Counseling Adolescents (Fall)	CED6412: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (Fall)
CED7442: Advanced Child and Adolescent Counseling (Spring)	CED6412: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology AND CED6422: Counseling Children AND CED7432: Counseling Adolescents

Trauma Counseling Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED6802: Trauma in Developmental Context (Fall)	No Prerequisite
CED6812: Trauma in Biology (Spring)	No Prerequisite
CED7802: Child Trauma Intervention (Spring)	CED6802: Trauma in Developmental Context
CED7812: Adult Trauma Intervention (Fall)	CED6802: Trauma in Developmental Context
CED7911: Trauma Consultation Group (Fall and Spring)	CED6802: Trauma in Developmental Context (Fall) OR CED6812: Trauma in Biology (Spring) CED6922/62: Counseling Practicum

Core Counseling Curriculum

Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
CED7152: Counseling and Spirituality	CED6322: Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling

School of Ministry Prerequisite Guide for the 2016-2017 Graduate Catalog

Students are responsible to insure that all requirements for degrees are met in accordance with their degree catalog. For more information or questions regarding prerequisites for your degree program, please contact your academic advisor.

Spiritual Formation Curriculum	
Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
MIN5231: Spiritual Formation Retreat	MIN5213:Essentials of Spiritual Formation OR MIN5223:Practices of Spiritual Formation OR MIN6213:Traditions of Spiritual Formation OR MIN6223: Applications of Spiritual Formation
MIN6231: Final Integrative Project	All coursework is required to be completed before taking this course.

Personal Growth	
Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
MIN5411: Mentored Growth and Development	No Prerequisite
MIN5421: Mentored Growth and Development	MIN5411: Mentored Growth and Development

Biblical History and Theology	
Course Number and Title	Prerequisite(s)
MIN6113:Biblical Themes	MIN5113: Hermeneutics and Exegesis

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Fall 2016 Academic Calendar

Faculty Retreat	July 29, 2016
LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	August 8, 2016 5:00 pm
Fall Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Atlanta Campus.....	August 9, 2016
Fall Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Chattanooga Campus	August 11, 2016
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Fall Semester.....	August 12, 2016
Classes Begin.....	August 15, 2016
End of Add/Drop Period.....	August 19, 2016
Last day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal	August 31, 2016
Last day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript.....	September 2, 2016
Labor Day Holiday (Offices closed - no classes will meet)	September 5, 2016
Last day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal	September 14, 2016
Spring Semester Pre-Registration for Returning Students.....	Sept. 21, 2016 - Jan. 2, 2017
Spring Semester Pre-Registration for New Students	Sept. 28, 2016 - Jan. 2, 2017
Last day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal	October 3, 2016
Alumni Reunion	October 21, 2016
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts.....	November 4, 2016
Thanksgiving Break (Offices closed Weds.-Fri.)	November 21-25, 2016
Last Day of Classes.....	November 18, 2016
Exam Week.....	Nov. 28, 2016 - Dec. 2, 2016
Student Qualifying Evaluations.....	November 30, 2016
SACSCOC Annual Meeting	December 2-6, 2016
Christmas Break for Students	Dec. 5, 2016 - Jan. 6, 2017
Offices Closed (counseling centers may differ)	Dec. 19, 2016 - Dec. 30, 2016

Spring 2017 Academic Calendar

Offices open.....	January 2, 2017
LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	January 2, 2017 5:00 pm
J-Term	January 3-6, 2017
Spring Orientation and New Student Pre-Registration - Chattanooga Campus	January 4, 2017
Spring Orientation and New Student Pre-Registration - Atlanta Campus	January 5, 2017
Professional Seminar begins.....	January 5, 2017
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Spring Semester	January 6, 2017
Weekly classes begin.....	January 9, 2017
End of Add/Drop Period.....	January 13, 2017
MLK Day (No Classes)	January 16, 2017
Last day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal	January 18, 2017
Last Day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript.....	January 27, 2017
Last Day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal.....	February 1, 2016
SOC Faculty Workshop.....	February 24,2017
Last Day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal	March 1, 2017
Spring Break	March 6-10, 2017
Summer Semester Online Registration for Returning Students	Mar. 15, 2017 - May 12, 2017
Summer Semester Pre-Registration for New Students	Mar. 22, 2017 - May 12, 2017
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts.....	March 31, 2017
Graduation Applications Due (Students graduating in December 2017, May & August 2018).....	April 13,2017
Good Friday (Offices closed; select classes may meet).....	April 14, 2017
Last Day of Classes.....	April 21, 2017
Exam Week.....	April 24 -28 2017
Student Qualifying Evaluations.....	April 26, 2017
Graduation.....	May 6, 2017

Summer 2017 Academic Calendar

Fall Semester online-registration for Returning Students.....	May 10, 2017 - Aug. 4, 2017
LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	May 15, 2017, 5:00 pm
Fall Semester Pre-Registration for New Students.....	May 17, 2017 - Aug. 4, 2017
M-Term.....	May 12-13, May 18-19, 2017
Summer Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Atlanta Campus.....	TBD
Summer Orientation and New Student Pre-Registration - Chattanooga Campus.....	TBD
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Summer Semester.....	May 19, 2017
Classes Begin.....	May 22, 2017
End of Add / Drop Period.....	May 26, 2017
Memorial Day (Offices Closed).....	May 29, 2017
Last Day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal.....	May 31, 2017
Last Day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal.....	June 7, 2017
Last Day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript.....	June 9, 2017
Last Day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal.....	June 26, 2017
Independence Day Holiday (Offices Closed - No Classes will Meet).....	July 4, 2017
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts.....	July 14, 2017
Last Day of Classes.....	July 28, 2017
Exam Week.....	July 31, 2017 - Aug. 4, 2017
Student Qualifying Evaluations.....	August 2, 2017

Fall 2017 Academic Calendar

Faculty Retreat.....	August 4, 2017
LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	August 7, 2017 5:00 pm
Fall Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Atlanta Campus.....	TBD
Fall Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Chattanooga Campus.....	TBD
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Fall Semester.....	August 11, 2017
Classes Begin.....	August 14, 2017
End of Add/Drop Period.....	August 18, 2017
Last day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal.....	August 23, 2017
Labor Day Holiday (Offices closed - no classes will meet).....	September 4, 2017
Last day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript.....	September 8, 2017
Last day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal.....	September 13, 2017
Spring Semester Pre-Registration for Returning Students.....	Sept. 20, 2017-Jan. 2, 2018
Spring Semester Pre-Registration for New Students.....	Sept. 27, 2017-Jan. 2, 2018
Last day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal.....	October 2, 2017
Alumni Reunion.....	TBA
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts.....	November 3, 2017
Thanksgiving Break (Offices closed Weds.-Fri.).....	November 20-24, 2017
Last Day of Classes.....	November 17, 2017
Exam Week.....	November 27-Dec. 1, 2017
Student Qualifying Evaluations.....	November 29, 2017
SACSCOC Annual Meeting.....	Dec. 2-5, 2017
Christmas Break for Students.....	Dec. 4, 2017 - Jan. 5, 2017
Offices Closed (counseling centers may differ).....	Dec. 18, 2017 - Jan. 2, 2017

Spring 2018 Academic Calendar

Offices open.....	January 2, 2018
LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	January 2, 2018 5:00 pm
J-Term	January 2-4, 2018
Spring Orientation and New Student Pre-Registration - Atlanta Campus	TBD
Professional Seminar begins.....	January 4, 2018
Spring Orientation and New Student Pre-Registration - Chattanooga Campus	TBD
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Spring Semester	January 5, 2018
Weekly classes begin.....	January 8, 2018
End of Add/Drop Period.....	January 12, 2018
MLK Day (No Classes)	January 15, 2018
Last day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal	January 17, 2018
Last Day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript.....	January 26, 2018
Last Day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal	January 31, 2018
Last Day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal	February 28, 2018
SOC Faculty Workshop.....	February 23, 2018
Spring Break	March 5-9, 2018
Summer Semester Online Registration for Returning Students	Mar. 14 - May 14, 2018
Summer Semester Pre-Registration for New Students	Mar. 21 - May 14, 2018
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts.....	March 30, 2018
Good Friday (Offices closed; select classes may meet).....	March 30, 2018
Graduation Applications Due (Students graduating in December 2018, May & August 2019).....	April 6, 2018
Last Day of Classes.....	April 20, 2018
Exam Week.....	April 23, 2018 - April 27, 2018
Student Qualifying Evaluations.....	April 4, 2018
Graduation.....	May 5, 2018

Summer 2018 Academic Calendar

LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	May 14, 2018, 5:00 pm
Fall Semester online-registration for Returning Students.....	May 9, 2018 - Aug. 5, 2018
Fall Semester Pre-Registration for New Students.....	May 16, 2018 - Aug. 5, 2018
Summer Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Atlanta Campus	TBD
Summer Orientation and New Student Pre-Registration - Chattanooga Campus	TBD
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Summer Semester	May 18, 2018
M-Term	May 18-19, 2018
Classes Begin.....	May 21, 2018
End of Add / Drop Period.....	May 25, 2018
Memorial Day (Offices Closed).....	May 28, 2018
Last Day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal	May 30, 2018
Last Day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal	June 6, 2018
Last Day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript.....	June 8, 2018
Last Day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal	June 25, 2018
Independence Day Holiday (Offices Closed - No Classes will Meet).....	July 2, 2018
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts.....	July 13, 2018
Last Day of Classes.....	July 27, 2018
Exam Week.....	July 30- Aug. 3, 2018
Student Qualifying Evaluations.....	August 1, 2018

Fall 2018 Academic Calendar

Faculty Retreat	August 3, 2018
LAST DAY TO MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS	August 13, 2018 5:00 pm
Fall Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Atlanta Campus	TBD
Fall Orientation and New Student Pre-registration - Chattanooga Campus	TBD
Independent Studies: Final Approval Deadline for Fall Semester	August 17, 2018
Classes Begin	August 20, 2018
End of Add/Drop Period	August 24, 2018
Last day for 90% Refund on Withdrawal	August 29, 2018
Labor Day Holiday (Offices closed - no classes will meet)	September 3, 2018
Last day for 75% Refund on Withdrawal	September 12, 2018
Last day to Withdraw from Weekly Classes with W on Transcript	September 17, 2018
Spring Semester Pre-Registration for Returning Students	Sept. 26, 2018-Jan. 7, 2019
Spring Semester Pre-Registration for New Students	Oct. 3, 2018-Jan. 7, 2019
Last day for 50% Refund on Withdrawal	October 12, 2018
Alumni Reunion	TBA
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with WP/WF on Transcripts	November 9, 2018
Thanksgiving Break (Offices closed Weds.-Fri.)	November 19-23, 2018
Last Day of Classes	November 30, 2018
Exam Week	December 3-7, 2018
Student Qualifying Evaluations	December 5, 2018
SACSCOC Annual Meeting	Dec. 7-11, 2018
Christmas Break for Students	Dec. 10, 2018 - Jan. 11, 2019
Offices Closed (counseling centers may differ)	Dec. 24, 2018 - Jan. 4, 2019

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