Alliance Graduate School of Counseling

Primary Faculty: Dr. Carol Robles (Director), Dr. Marcia Lucas (Director / NYC), Dr. Andrew Mercurio (Director / MFT), Dr. James Chin, Dr. Michael Gillern, Dr. Deanna Kwan, Dr. Donald Skinner, Dr. Elaine Eng, Dr. Lisa Steiner.

The Alliance Graduate School of Counseling offers two degrees: a 66-credit Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling, and a 61-credit Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy. Whereas the M.A. in Mental Health Counseling is offered at both campuses, the M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy is only offered at the Rockland campus.

Purpose:
The purpose of the Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling and the Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy is to provide a comprehensive academic and training program to prepare individuals seeking employment as mental health clinicians in mental health settings such as hospitals, social service agencies, private practice, and church counseling centers. These programs are designed to meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor or a Marriage and Family Therapist in New York State. Graduates of both programs are eligible to seek employment towards meeting the supervised experience required for licensure. Graduates will have up to two years to meet the experience requirement and must pass a licensure qualifying examination in order to complete New York State licensure requirements. For further information see: http://www.op.nysed.gov/mhp.htm.

Mission Statement:
The Alliance Graduate School of Counseling is committed to preparing students for the role of mental health clinicians who are emotionally mature, intellectually sound, professionally competent, and spiritually vibrant, to do God’s healing work in broken lives, couples and families.

Mental Health Counselor Licensure by year:
(Note: MFT program began in 2008. First graduating class was Spring 2010.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>Independently Licensed</th>
<th>Permits to practice</th>
<th>Doctoral Study</th>
<th>Working overseas</th>
<th>Percentagelnd. Lic.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4 (NY, NJ)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>6 (NY, NJ, TX)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>6 (NY, NJ, CT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>8 (NY, NJ, PA, NC, SC)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3 (NY, NJ)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>12 (NY, NJ, CT, WI)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1 (CT)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
<td>at this time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of the program, candidates are expected to have:
- acquired a strong academic course of study, which integrates the science of modern mental health with Biblical truths.
- attained a high level of knowledge regarding basic counseling skills commensurate with the degree offered.
- acquired a working understanding of personal ethics and values essential for the practice of effective counseling and therapy.
Program Assessment

The following assessments are used to assess program effectiveness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Location in Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td>National test</td>
<td>March of student's Senior Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. GCN 702: Ethics &amp; Professional Issue</td>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Summer, beginning of Internship placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. GCN 701: Psychology and Theology</td>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Capstone course: Senior year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Senior Class Exit Interviews</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Prior to Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Alumni Evaluation Survey</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>1 to 2 years after Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Characteristics of Admitted Students</td>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
<td>Application Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Site Supervisor Evaluations of Interns</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>End of Fall and Spring semester of Internship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling seeks to provide counseling education that is grounded in a theologically evangelical Christian view of epistemology, human nature and healing. While recognizing that there are different viewpoints within the Christian community, we believe that the Bible provides us with significant foundational perspectives on human personality, pathology and healing.

The Graduate School of Counseling takes an “open universe” view of epistemology and causation. This view suggests that the most accurate and comprehensive understanding of human functioning and healing is gained by consideration of natural, supernatural and interactive (natural x supernatural) influences.

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling views human nature at its best as a finely-tuned, multi-dimensional, integrated system. Human beings are fundamentally psychospiritual beings because they are created in God’s image. Optimal human functioning occurs when human beings live according to God’s design as given in the Bible.

Because of The Fall, human beings experience the pain of disorder, division, disintegration, disension, and dysfunction. Human personality and relationships are often fragmented due to irrationality, chaos and distortions of sin. Sin, from a psychospiritual perspective, is living in contradiction to God’s design. Sin refers both to an underlying human condition of fallenness due to original sin, and to specific acts committed by an individual or by others against a person. The destructive and disintegrative impact of sin is experienced through individual, interpersonal and institutional choices and channels.

In addition to the impact of sin in its psychospiritual sense, human beings are affected by the limitations of their finitude. Choices that produce chaos and pain are often the result of limited or erroneous knowledge and understanding. Dysfunctional patterns of learning and conditioning may also produce significant difficulties.
Finally, in their attempts to cope with the pain of unmet psychospiritual needs, human beings often unwittingly make choices that worsen their pain and lead to further psychospiritual and relational deterioration. Alliance Graduate School of Counseling sees psychospiritual healing as ultimately the work of God's grace, wisdom and love communicated through the vehicle of a competent and sensitive counselor. The exact role of the therapist varies according to the particular needs and problems of the counselee, couple or family unit. Healing interventions are multi-modal and comprehensive. Because of our open universe view, analysis and interventions include consideration of the natural/psychological and supernatural/spiritual dimensions. Healing may also include bio- and social-psychological intervention due to the fundamental biological and relational nature of human beings.

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling Emphases
- Faith/Counseling interface: psychospiritual model
- Core values
- Multi-cultural/cross-cultural orientation
- Mentoring/nurturing
- Multi-modal instruction
- Case studies/application

AGSC Core Values
- Belief in the centrality and authority of the Holy Scriptures as the source, foundation and guide to Truth.
- Recognition of the essential and primary place of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in the healing process as the source of health and healing.
- Consistent and continuing commitment by the counselor to maintain a personal walk with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines such as Bible study, prayer, fasting and biblical meditation.
- Maintenance of self-care (physical, spiritual, emotional and relational) for the counselor’s own well-being.
- Importance of participation and service in the local church and its worldwide mission. Commitment to an open-universe model of epistemology and therapeutic intervention, integrating theory, research and practice, with respect for and utilization of both the empirical and the supernatural.
- Adherence to the highest ethical standards of the counseling profession and the Christian faith.
- Fundamental respect for people in their ethnic, socio-economic, religious and gender diversity.
- Importance of life-long continuing education in counseling, psychology and theology beyond the Master's degree in counseling.
- Commitment to the advancement of the counseling field and in particular, Christian counseling, through such activities as participation in professional association, excellence in scholarship, and education of the broader Christian community.

Please refer to the Admissions section of the catalog for requirements for admissions and matriculation into the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling.

Program Requirements for Graduation - MA Mental Health Counseling

1. A minimum of 66 semester hours of graduate-level coursework as defined by the program. Transfer coursework credit from accredited colleges or universities with a minimum grade of B (3.0) which have been completed within seven years of admission into the program may be requested. These transfer coursework credits may not exceed 15 semester hours. Graduate transfer credits may not be used both for transfer credit and prerequisites. Students must take 55 of their 66 credits at their designated primary site. New York City students in the Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling program must take GCN 610 Career Development at the Rockland site.
2. Students must engage in counselor-in-training therapy (individual, marital, or family counseling) with a professional therapist for a minimum of 15 sessions. Students are responsible for fees for service. This requirement should be completed within the first calendar year of enrollment at AGSC. Counseling must be completed before the first day of class for GCN 791 Practicum (summer). No more than two hours per week of counselor-in-training therapy may be counted toward the requirement. See office for necessary forms to verify compliance and completion of therapy.

3. Participation in group therapy is required as a part of GCN 604 Group Dynamics and Therapy. This therapy may not be counted as meeting the requirement for counselor-in-training (see above). Student is responsible for fee for service. The student and therapist must submit the necessary forms to verify completion. Further details provided by Group Dynamics faculty.

4. A minimum of 700 clock hours of supervised practicum and internship experience in an approved setting, 40% of which must be direct client contact.

5. Satisfactory completion of a professional exit interview with the faculty of the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. The interview is to be scheduled by the student during the spring semester of the student’s final term.

6. After completing all required coursework, students will be required to take GCN 799 Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam in the spring semester prior to graduation. A grade of Pass or Fail will be noted on the student’s final transcript. Students will only be allowed to take the CPCE one time. GPA is not affected by the results of the comprehensive exam. See below for description of the CPCE.

7. The degree will be granted when all of the program requirements have been satisfactorily met. Participation at the Nyack College Commencement ceremony is contingent on completion of all requirements. All AGSC graduates will be invited to participate in the AGSC Hooding Ceremony Banquet where the student’s academic performance will be recognized and scholarly and internship awards will be granted.

It is the student’s responsibility to remain informed of all requirements, prerequisites, deadline dates and procedures within the program. It is also the responsibility of the student to maintain contact with her or his advisor and to remain current with class and schedule changes.

Program Requirements for Graduation - MA Marriage & Family Therapy

1. Satisfactory completion of 61 semester hours of graduate-level coursework as defined by the program. Transfer credit from accredited colleges or universities with a minimum grade of B (3.0) which has been completed within seven years of admission into the program may be requested. These transfer coursework credits may not exceed 15 semester hours. Graduate transfer credits may not be used both for transfer credits and prerequisites.

2. Students must engage in counselor-in-training therapy (individual, marital or family counseling) with a professional therapist for a minimum of 15 sessions. Students are responsible for fees for service. This requirement should be completed within the first calendar year of enrollment at AGSC. No more than two hours per week of counselor-in-training therapy may be counted toward this requirement. See AGSC office for necessary forms to verify Compliance and Completion of therapy.

3. Satisfactory completion of a 400 hour Internship over 12 months. Direct Client Contact (counseling) will comprise 300 hours while Live Clinical Observation will comprise 100 hours. A minimum of 50% of the total direct client contact hours (counseling hours) must be relational therapy (couples and families), while 50% of the counseling hours may involve individual and/or group therapy. [In the case of an Extended Program Option, students may extend their internship to 21 months]

4. Satisfactory completion of a professional exit interview with the faculty of the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. The interview is to be scheduled by the student during the spring semester of the student’s final term.
MFT Cohort Structure

The MA in Marriage and Family Therapy is organized with a cohort structure. Each entering class will journey together through this program by taking a sequenced progression of coursework. Courses are generally scheduled on Tuesday afternoon (2-5pm) and evening (6-9pm); and Thursday afternoon (2-5 pm) and evening (6-9 pm). Internship times will be scheduled during other days throughout the week.
MFT Program Sequences

Students may enter the MFT program in one of three unique sequences (tracks)

1) Full-Time Sequence – a 2 year intense program of study with a 12 month Internship (12-13 credit hours per Fall/Spring Semesters)

2) Part-Time Sequence – a 3 year program of study with a 12 month Internship (8-9 credit hours per Fall/Spring Semester)

[Note: The goal of finishing the Full-Time Sequence in 2 years and the Part-Time Sequence in 3 years cannot be guaranteed. If the Internship experience is delayed or prolonged, additional time may be needed.]

For each sequence above, students are scheduled to attend courses year-round (Fall/ Winterim/ Spring/ Summer) with small breaks between semesters. There are usually no courses during the month of August. The Internship for each sequence runs for 12 consecutive months (or 21 consecutive months in the Extended Sequence). Though not encouraged, it is possible for students to switch their program sequence after they have started their course of study.

It is the student’s responsibility to remain informed of all requirements, prerequisites, deadline dates and procedures within the program. It is also the responsibility of the student to maintain contact with her or his advisor and to remain current with class and schedule changes.

Admission into the AGSC program is not a guarantee of graduation. Admission is an opportunity for the student to successfully accomplish all requirements established in order to graduate from the program with a Master of Arts degree.

Mental Health Counseling – M. A.

Core Courses for Internship (24 credits)

- GCN 502 – Theories & Foundations of Counseling ........................................3
- GCN 503 – Research Methods & Analysis ..................................................3
  Students may substitute MFT503B Research in MFT for GCN503
- GCN 504 – Psychopathology ........................................................................3
- GCN 601 – Principles & Methods of Counseling .........................................3
- GCN 602 – Measurement & Assessment ....................................................3
- GCN 603 – Counseling & Human Development (Sub MFT603B)............3
  Students may substitute MFT603B Individ./Family Development for GCN603
- GCN 604 – Group Dynamics & Therapy ....................................................3
- GCN 605 – Marriage & Family Counseling: Foundations ............................3

Ethics & Internship (12 credits)

- GCN 702 – Ethics & Professional Issues ....................................................3
- GCN 791 – Counseling Practicum (Summer) ............................................3
- GCN 792 – Counseling Internship (Fall/Spring) ........................................6

Counseling Courses (12 credits)

- GCN 501 – Perspectives on Counselor Formation ....................................3
- GCN 606 – Counseling for the Urban Context .........................................3
- GCN 607 – Domestic Abuse: Intervention & Reporting ...........................3

  GCN 610 – Career Development .................................................................3

Capstone Course (3 credits)

- GCN 701 – Psychology & Theology ............................................................3

Electives (9 credits)
### Bible / Theology Courses (6 credits)
- TH 601 – Systematic Theology I: God & Humanity .............................................. 3
- OT/NT/TH – Elective (language / exegesis excluded) ........................................ 3

### CPCE Comprehensive Exam (0 credits)
- GCN 799 – CPCE Comprehensive Exam .......................................................... 0

### Marriage and Family Therapy – M. A.

### Required Core Courses for MFT Internship (15 credits)
- MFT 504 – Psychopathology ............................................................................. 3
- MFT 505B – Theories of Marriage and Family Therapy I ................................. 3
- MFT 508B – Theoretical & Personal Foundations of MFT ................................. 3
- MFT 509 – Premarital Counseling ................................................................. 1
- MFT 603B – Individual & Family Development .................................................. 3
- MFT 605B – Theories of Marriage and Family Therapy II ............................... 1
- MFT 691 – Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum ...................................... 1

### Required Marriage and Family Therapy Courses (29 credits)
- MFT 501 – Perspectives on Counselor Formation ........................................... 2
  *Students may substitute any NT /OT / TH Elective for MFT 501*
- MFT 503B – Research in Marriage and Family Therapy .................................... 3
- MFT 602 – Measurement & Assessment ......................................................... 1
- MFT 608 – Ethnicity & Family Therapy ............................................................ 3
- MFT 609 – Marital Therapy: Assessment and Treatment ................................. 3
- MFT 610 – Family Therapy: Assessment and Treatment .................................... 3
- MFT 705B – Theories of Marriage and Family Therapy III ............................ 1
- MFT 706 – Sex Therapy ................................................................................... 3
- MFT 707 – Children & Adolescents in Marriage & Family Therapy ............ 2
- MFT 708 – Abusive & Addictive Family Systems ............................................. 2
- MFT 709 – Marriage & Family Enrichment ...................................................... 2
- MFT 733 – Medical & Mental Illness in Family Therapy ................................. 2
- MFT 734 – Spirituality in Marriage & Family Therapy ...................................... 2

### Internship (15 credits)
- MFT 604B – MFT Ethics, Family Law and Professional Issues ....................... 3
- MFT 737 – Clinical Observation ...................................................................... 3
- MFT 794 – Class Supervision .......................................................................... 2
- MFT 795 – Group Supervision/Clinical Consultation ....................................... 3
- MFT 796 – Dyadic Supervision/Clinical Consultation ....................................... 4

### Electives (2 credits)
- MFT – Elective ................................................................................................. 2

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*AGSC reserves the right to alter the sequence of courses*

The option to audit AGSC courses is available only for students who fall into one of the three following groups: (1) AGSC graduates, (2) ATS students taking designated AGSC elective courses, and (3) Active matriculated AGSC students who have fulfilled their elective requirements.