

Good Samaritan Ministries Counselor Certification Program Overview

Program Overview and Registration

The Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) Certified Counselor Training (CCT) is provided on a donation-only basis. There are some minimal charges for materials. However, an inability to purchase materials, or donate will not prevent qualified candidates from participating in the program. This program consists of a 2–3-year period that encompasses the following courses/levels of training:

Level I (first year) Fieldworker Training – Fieldworker Training is open to all who are seeking to learn how to minister to individuals and groups in a variety of settings.

You may register for Level 1 Fieldworker Training by going to the GSM website and filling out a registration form here: (<https://goodsamaritanministries.org/counselor-certification>).

Level II (second year) Counselor Training - Training at this level focuses on in-depth understanding of the counseling process and specific topics.

Level III (third year) Intern Counseling – Level III is a practicum, promoting trainees to intern status.

Please Note: Trainees with relevant credentials or with geographical or time constraints may participate in an accelerated version of the program at the Supervisor’s discretion.

Levels of Development

The Good Samaritan Ministries Counselor Certification Program is comprised of three levels. At the conclusion of each level, the supervisor and trainee will meet to determine the trainee’s readiness to continue to the next level. Assignments and directions will be given specific to the trainee’s gifts and strengths, and/or areas that require strengthening. Full course descriptions and requirements are listed below.

(you are welcome to put a link to the more detailed description below rather having it all showing on the page)

LEVEL I: Fieldworker Training

The focus of Level I training is to introduce the work of Jesus Christ as the Counselor and prepare individuals to enter Christian ministry in a variety of capacities. Studies revolve around faith, hope, and love as related to ministry and counseling and the ways Jesus demonstrated these concepts in His interactions with people. Trainees will study how Jesus connected with people through the Holy Spirit, bringing healing and wholeness to the spirit, soul, and body of

the person. Students will also receive in-depth training in the concepts of identity and forgiveness, ministering as the Body of Christ, spiritual development, and the importance of an individual's life history. Trainees will be involved in role-play as counselors to gain or improve questioning and listening skills in a safe and confidential setting. Students interested in moving onto Level II, and receiving a Certificate of Christian Counseling must submit a full application when Level I requirements are complete and will then be eligible to begin Level II training the following September (or mid-term).

Training begins early September and goes through May, with an extended break in December and breaks for other holidays. Class is held 1x per week from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. The class size is limited to no less than six and no more than twenty. The trainee is evaluated at the end of each level for readiness to enter the next level.

If you would like to go over course requirements prior to class, you may contact the Counselor Training Supervisor to schedule an appointment or you are welcome to come to the first class which will give an overview and introduction to training.

LEVEL II – Counselor Training

Level II classes will cover trauma and abuse recovery, marriage & family counseling, cultural and ethical standards, documentation, treatment planning, and continued Biblical training. Students will be required to prepare a written special interest report and give an oral presentation to the class. Book reports, life histories, practicum, and role play as well as the study of Biblical stories and parables will be continued during this training.

Typically, the objectives of Level II can be accomplished in one year. As the trainee nears the completion of Level II requirements, the supervisor and/or Director will perform an evaluation. With a positive evaluation based upon the successful completion of goals, trainees will be recommended to Level III.

LEVEL III – Intern Counseling

This practicum includes training on compiling and managing files, and is comprised of a 3–6-month period, or until the intern has observed a minimum of 5 counseling sessions. Interns' observation reports will be reviewed during periodic supervision meetings. At such time that the intern's performance meets with the standards and requirements set forth in the training program, and intern files are reviewed by supervisor, Director and one other member of the staff, and found complete; intern will be awarded a Good Samaritan Ministries Certificate of Counseling.

The Intern will then begin to meet with potential clients by completing four intake sessions. Once complete, interns may then begin to meet with clients. A Supervisor and/or Director may attend individual client/intern sessions as conditions dictate. Interns operate under direct supervision of counselor trainer and/or supervisor and are responsible for submitting full reports during bi-weekly supervision appointments.

At such time that the intern's performance meets with the standards and requirements set forth in the training program, and files reviewed by a supervisor, Director and one other member of the staff, are found complete; the intern will then be awarded a Good Samaritan Ministries Certificate of Biblical Christian Counseling.

During Level III training, student's will be required to attend a counselor peer review meeting each week, or continue attending the Level II classes on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Post Training/Certified Graduates

Graduates who receive a Good Samaritan Ministries Counseling Certificate are qualified to participate in volunteer counseling at any Good Samaritan Ministries Center, or any setting where this certificate is validated. An active file containing a chronicle of the trainee's accomplishments, including special trainings, will be available. To assist the certificated graduate in further employment or professional development endeavors, a letter of recommendation will be provided upon request.