

# BCA Biblical Counsellor Accreditation

BCA accredited biblical counsellors will be known as

- **BCA Accredited Counsellor (BCAA)**, and
- **BCA Provisionally Accredited Counsellor (BCAA-provisional)**

## ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

All the requirements below are intended to apply to both accredited and provisionally accredited biblical counsellors, except where specified otherwise

### 1. University level study

1 year of biblical counselling study

- 96cps graduate level ACT at PTC Melbourne
- 24 semester hours WTS
- 24 semester hours Master's College/ Seminary, SBTS, SEBTS, RTS Charlotte
- 96cps undergraduate ACT (GPA 2.0 or higher (= credit average)) at PTC Melbourne
- 24 semester hours CCEF certificates (average grade B or higher)<sup>1</sup>

#### **PLUS**

1 year of undergraduate or graduate biblical and theological study<sup>2</sup>

- 96cps ACT units or 24 semester hours at an approved and accredited reformed evangelical institution
  - Including hermeneutics, biblical and theological units across a range of areas (there must be at least one semester of full-time equivalent work in these areas)
  - The year of biblical and theological studies
    - should not include more than one unit from each of the following: church history, preaching, evangelism & mission, ethics, and apologetics
    - should exclude basic language units (intermediate language units may be included)<sup>3</sup>

***Provisional accreditation exception*** – 1 year biblical counselling study as above, with the year of biblical and theological studies to be completed within 4 years

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<sup>1</sup> CCEF units at this grade average are deemed equivalent to university since the same units are taught in the Westminster MAC program.

<sup>2</sup> The recommended 2 year total of university level study correlates with the requirements of other counselling bodies

<sup>3</sup> The rationale for this is that intermediate units tend to have exegetical components and indicate a high level of ability to understand the Bible.

## 2. Supervised counselling experience

400 hours supervised biblical counselling

- 12 supervision sessions for the first 100 hours of biblical counselling with one supervisor, including one video counselling session viewed with the supervisor
- 12 supervision sessions for the next 300 hours of biblical counselling with another supervisor, including one video counselling session viewed with the supervisor
- All supervisors to provide a brief report of satisfactory supervisory experience using a proforma provided by the accreditation sub-committee.
- For the purpose of accreditation, supervision hours refers to supervision undertaken after basic formal accredited biblical counselling training

***Provisional accreditation exception*** - Having completed 12 supervision sessions for the first 100 hours of biblical counselling the subsequent 300 hours of biblical counselling with 12 supervision sessions for full accreditation are to be achieved within 2 years.

## 3. BCA summative examination

Written open book examination covering the following topics

- Sovereignty of God
- Biblical and extra-biblical knowledge (sufficiency of Scripture and common grace wisdom)
- Anger and conflict (idolatry in the context of the pressures of life)
- Self-image (identity, mental health – spiritual, social, physical etc)
- Depression (suffering, body/brain/spiritual issues)
- Anxiety
- Progressive sanctification
- Godly vs worldly repentance
- Assurance, guilt,
- Cross cultural counselling
- Case study response

Counselling Observation

- One complete 50-70 minute videorecorded counselling session of the applicant's choice viewed by a member of the accreditation panel and discussed with the applicant

## 4. Pastoral references

- Detailed references from one pastor and one elder
- Statement of support from church leadership - indicating, amongst other things,
  - that the applicant is a member in good standing and for how long they have been a part of that church
  - that the applicant's character and personal life is considered to meet the biblical requirements of an elder or deacon with each character trait rated on a 4 or 5 point scale for clarity, for example, 'never-occasionally-usually-consistently-always' with room for comments (see appendix 3)
  - that the applicant has been well-observed to be effective in personal ministry

- Statement of support from spouse as considered appropriate by the accreditation sub-committee

## 5. Agreement with BCA's purposes and beliefs, and BCA Code of Ethics and Practice

- Affirmation of agreement with BCA's purposes, including its beliefs, approach to counselling, and counselling affirmations and denials as articulated in BCA's rules of association.
- Affirmation of agreement with BCA's Code of Ethics and Practice

## 6. Ongoing requirements

- All accreditation to be **renewed on a triennial basis**. That is, accreditation of counsellors (and supervisors) lapses without passing the renewal process.
- **Continuing counsellor development program** fulfilment (to commence the year after initial accreditation)
- Maintain a **record of counselling load**<sup>4</sup>
- Minimum of nine **supervision** sessions a year with approved biblical counsellor supervisors and a satisfactory triennial report from the supervisor(s)
  - Group supervision must include at least 5 significant case presentations by the counsellor per year
- Reaffirmation of agreement with a **BCA code of ethics** for counsellors
- Reaffirmation of agreement with **BCA's purposes**, including beliefs, approach to counselling, and counselling affirmations and denials
- Professional **indemnity insurance** for all paid counselling services
- **Notification of any formal complaints** made to employer, church, governing bodies, government bodies or courts
- **Notification of any insurance claims** that relate to the counselling practices of the counsellor
- **Notification of any restriction on counselling** imposed by any employer, church, governing body, court, or insurer

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<sup>4</sup> If relying on electronic records, including online calendars such as Google, periodic printing to pdf or paper copies is recommended

- The board and/or the accreditation subcommittee may take **remedial and/or disciplinary steps** that may lead to suspension or withdrawal of accreditation if, in its opinion there are reasonable grounds for concerns about the counselling work, beliefs or Christian character of an accredited biblical counsellor that are considered likely to have fallen below the standard of BCA counsellor accreditation.

### **Funding**

- Application, assessment and exam fees will be set to cover the ongoing costs of running the accreditation process
- Yearly accreditation fees will include discounts to BCA workshops and conferences.

## Pastoral reference grid

	Never	Occasionally	Usually	Consistently	Always
Above reproach/blameless					
Faithful in marriage					
Self-controlled/disciplined					
Sober-minded/sensible					
Respectable					
Hospitable					
Able to teach – encouraging/instructing in sound teaching and refuting as appropriate					
Not a drunkard					
Not a bully/violent					
Gentle					
Not quarrelsome					
Not a lover of money/greedy					
Manages own household well					
Children are under control/submissive with dignity					
Has faithful (or believing) children who are not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination					
Not a new convert					
Good reputation with outsiders					
Not arrogant					
Not quick-tempered					
Righteous					
Holy					
Loving what is good					
Holding to trustworthy word as taught					