

COMMUNITY CARE & COUNSELING (ED.D.) - PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2025 through summer 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
EDCO 705	Issues and Trends in Community Counseling	3
EDCO 711	Advanced Group Counseling	3
EDCO 715	Applied Counseling Theories	3
EDCO 725	Teaching and Learning	3
EDCO 735	Statistics ^{1,2}	3
EDCO 740	Diagnosis and Treatment of Addictive Behaviors	3
EDCO 745	Intermediate Statistics and Research ¹	3
EDCO 747	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDCO 790	Crisis & Trauma Counseling	3
Total Hours		27

¹ Intensive format optional

² Prerequisites are determined and assigned at admission into program

Code	Title	Hours
Pastoral Care & Counseling Cognate		
EDCO 821	Ethics & Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
EDCO 826	Growth & Development of the Pastoral Counselor	3
EDCO 831	Individual & Family Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
EDCO 836	Premarital & Marital Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
EDCO 841	Crisis & Current Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
Total Hours		15

Code	Title	Hours
Dissertation Courses		
EDCO 716	Dissertation Topic ¹	1
EDCO 770	Dissertation Formation ¹	1
EDCO 900	Dissertation Design	3
EDCO 988	Dissertation Proposal and Research ^{1,2,3}	5
EDCO 989	Dissertation Completion ^{1,2,3}	5
EDCO 990	Dissertation Defense ^{1,3}	0
Total Hours		15

¹ Course is Pass/Fail

² Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

³ Ed.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDCO 988 a maximum of three times before their dissertation proposal is approved. Ed.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDCO 989 a maximum of three times. Extensions

for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the Ed.D. in Community Care & Counseling committee. Any student who is not ready for enrollment in EDCO 990 after completing EDCO 989 may be required, as determined by the student's dissertation chair, to repeat EDCO 989 until deemed ready for enrollment in EDCO 990

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 57 hours
- A maximum of 50% of a post-graduate and doctoral degree may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than a B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful defense of Dissertation
- Degree must be completed within 7 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Online Format Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
First Semester		
EDCO 705	Issues and Trends in Community Counseling	3
EDCO 711	Advanced Group Counseling ¹	3
EDCO 715	Applied Counseling Theories	3
EDCO 716	Dissertation Topic ²	1
EDCO 725	Teaching and Learning	3
Hours		13
Second Semester		
EDCO 735	Statistics ^{1,3}	3
EDCO 821	Ethics & Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
EDCO 740	Diagnosis and Treatment of Addictive Behaviors	3
EDCO 826	Growth & Development of the Pastoral Counselor	3
Hours		12
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDCO 745	Intermediate Statistics and Research ¹	3
EDCO 831	Individual & Family Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
EDCO 747	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDCO 790	Crisis & Trauma Counseling	3
Hours		12
Second Semester		
EDCO 770	Dissertation Formation ²	1
EDCO 841	Crisis & Current Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3
EDCO 836	Premarital & Marital Issues in Pastoral Counseling	3

Course	Title	Hours
EDCO 900	Dissertation Design ¹	3
Hours		10
Third Year		
First Semester		
EDCO 988	Dissertation Proposal and Research ^{2,4,5}	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDCO 989	Dissertation Completion ^{2,4,5}	5
EDCO 990	Dissertation Defense ^{2,5}	0
Hours		5
Total Hours		57

¹ Optional Intensive format

² Course is Pass/Fail

³ Prerequisites determined and assigned at admission into program

⁴ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

⁵ Ed.D students are allowed to enroll in EDCO 988 a maximum of three times before their dissertation proposal is approved. Ed.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDCO 989 a maximum of three times. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the Ed.D. in Community Care & Counseling committee. Any student who is not ready for enrollment in EDCO 990 after completing EDCO 989 may be required, as determined by the student's dissertation chair, to repeat EDCO 989 until deemed ready for enrollment in EDCO 990