

ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL COUNSELORS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION (ABC2)

This document outlines the basic structure and requirements for the Gospel Care Collective's (GCC) Level 2 certification with the Association of Biblical Counselors (ABC2). The overall goal for this level of certification is to guide and evaluate practical experience and provide oversight in the counseling ministry. As such, it will identify men and women who demonstrate appropriate care, wisdom, and faithfulness at this level of training.

A. BIBLICAL COUNSELING EXAM

1. **Resource:** Students will purchase the following book for required reading:
 - "Biblical Counseling Basics: Roots, Beliefs, and Future" by Jeremy Lelek.
2. **Exam:** Students will complete an exam with multiple-choice and case study questions.

This book is a well-researched, easy-to-read, and practical guide for students and counselors both inside and outside of biblical counseling and provides an understanding of biblical counseling aspects, methods, and goals. Students will retrace the Biblical Counseling movement's history, explore its basic tenets, and discover helpful insights for the future of biblical counseling.

B. BIBLICAL COUNSELING THEOLOGY EXAM

Over the course of Level 2, students will research and write the Biblical Counseling Theology Exam. This process is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of biblical theology and communicate these essential truths in a counseling session. In a series of grouped questions from the divisions of systematic theology, the student will answer as if they were speaking to a counselee. This exam will provide a great resource that will be used by the counselor in their ongoing biblical counseling ministry.

1. **Resources:** Students will purchase the following two resources to assist them in preparing and writing their answers. They are not required to read these resources completely.
 - "Everyone's A Theologian" by R.C. Sproul
 - "Bible Doctrine: 2nd Edition" by Wayne Grudem
2. **Submissions:** Students will submit designated groupings of questions throughout the Level 2 training to ABC for grading and feedback. They are able to track their progress as each grouping is completed.

C. BIBLICAL COUNSELING APPRENTICESHIP

The Biblical Counseling Apprenticeship is the primary and most important element of the ABC2 process. Putting everything the Lord is teaching a student about the personal ministry of His Word into actual personal ministry, all the while under the oversight of a discerning and seasoned leader, is critical to growth as a biblical counselor. The apprenticeship requires a total of 100 hours of counseling. GCC will be utilizing various tools, resources, and group supervision.

1. **Observation:** Students will observe 20 hours of counseling from ABC, IBCD, and other online or live sessions (where available).
2. **Being Observed:** Students will be directly observed for 20 hours of counseling with direct supervision, which will include submission of detailed notes, recording of four sessions, and participation in group supervision.
3. **Solo Counseling:** Students will be generally supervised to obtain 60 hours of counseling on their own; in addition to counseling, this may include note discussion, case reviews, and direction for support.

GCC Group Supervision: Once a month, GCC provides group supervision with case conceptualization. This is a time to review counseling situations, talk about student progress and discuss anything pertinent to student growth in the personal ministry of God's Word.

Duration of Apprenticeship: Students will have a minimum of **9 months** and **up to 24 months** to complete Level 2. **Most students typically complete it within 12 months.** The intent of this practicum is to provide opportunity for each student to learn and grow over time. ABC provides enough flexibility to allow for each person to complete Level 2 in a manner that best fits their life situation.

D. CONTINUING EDUCATION

Each year, students will complete 12 units of continuing education in Biblical Counseling. There are three areas of opportunity the student can access to fulfill these units.

1. Reading On Biblical Counseling

We believe it is important to cultivate the delight and habit of reading in the area of biblical counseling. For each book read, students write a two-page summary and personal reflection to give to the Training Leader. Each summary counts for three BCE units.

2. Conference Attendance

By the grace of God, there are many good biblical counseling conferences available around the United States and worldwide each year. Every hour of a conference workshop

counts as one BCE unit. Often, attending a single counseling conference each year will cover the 12 BCE units needed. For each workshop or conference attended, students will write a two-page summary and personal reflection to give to the Training Leader.

3. Additional Counseling Training

Sometimes local churches, seminaries, or other organizations offer training in the area of biblical counseling, and students should feel free to attend these and submit documentation of the training for consideration toward their BCE requirement. For each training course attended, students will write a two-page summary and personal reflection to give to the Training Leader.

E. EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TRAINING LEADER (TL)

Throughout the apprenticeship, the TL will have the opportunity to observe each student in counseling ministry with others. Lord willing, they will watch the Lord growing every student in their love of people, joy in Jesus Christ, and wisdom from Scripture. The TL will use the following scales to assess progress and provide feedback along the way.

- 1. Spiritual Maturity Assessment**
- 2. Training Assessment**
- 3. Training Leader Review and Recommendation**

F. ABC MEMBERSHIP

In order to hold ABC2, each student will need to be a member in good standing of the Association of Biblical Counselors.