



LAY COUNSELING CERTIFICATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is it?

The Lay Counseling courses and certificate are taught by Christian, ministry-minded professional counselors. Our goal is to equip participants to be more effective in coming alongside individuals, couples, and families who are struggling with emotional, relational, or mental health related needs in their ministry context—both helping effectively and knowing when/how to refer to a higher level of professional care when needed.

Who is it for?

The certificate and courses are for pastors, chaplains, youth workers, small group leaders, seminary students, ministry leaders—anyone involved vocationally or voluntarily in ministering to people in spiritual settings. In other words, people who are already doing (or wanting to do) lay counseling and finding they need greater equipping.

How are the courses formatted?

The program consists of six 1-credit, 8-week hybrid courses; each course is comprised of a single day live workshop and eight weeks of online instruction and assignments to conveniently fit within a busy schedule. All six courses can be taken individually, or in sequence (back-to-back) to complete the certificate in one year. For participants who don't want academic credit or quite as much depth into the topic, all six courses can also be taken as single day workshops.

When are the workshops? How can I attend them?

Live workshops are scheduled for Friday's during the 2020 – 2021 academic school year. We encourage all participants to attend live, on Multnomah's Portland campus, but we are open to discussing accommodations for remote students.

How much does it cost?

The individual, 8-week courses (including the single day live workshops) are offered at a reduced rate of only \$350 / course. The single day workshops by themselves (without the 8-week course or academic credit) are available at only \$100 / workshop.

What can I do with it?

Participants will be equipped to be more effective in helping individuals, couples, and families within their ministry context; lead or participate in a lay counseling ministry; assess for and refer to a higher level of care; or pursue further graduate studies in Christian ministry or professional counseling.

How can I apply?

Registration for Fall, 2020 is open now. Please visit <http://www.multnomah.edu/apply> for more information and to get connected to an admissions counselor.

When does it start?

The ideal start time is the Fall semester. However, participants can enter the program at any 8-week sequence throughout the year.

Why are you doing this?

As a school and professional counseling program, we have a strong desire to support our local churches in being more effective; we recognize that they are often the front-line support for Christians with mental health needs, even though they have little or no training in this area. The low cost of the program reflects our desire to serve, equip, and partner...both for the benefit of those struggling AND for the helpers themselves (to avoid burnout).