



Bachelor of Counselling (BCouns)

level 7, 360 credits

Flexible Study Options

Students can study towards the BCouns on campus in Henderson or Christchurch, with part-time options available. A select number of courses are also available to study via Distance Learning.

Programme Requirements

The BCouns is a three-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme. It is made up of 20 courses of 15 credits each and two courses of 30 credits each, at levels 5, 6 and 7.

Year	Theological Foundations	Counselling Theory and Practice	Practicum
1	115.515 C Reading the Bible* *** 401.515 C Formation* ***	900.515 Foundations of Relational Practice (A) 901.515 Foundations of Relational Practice (B) 906.515 Personhood, Relationality & Faith* 907.515 Bicultural Relationships 857.515 C Human Development* *** 910.515 Relational Psychology (A)*	
2	921.615 Theology of Suffering and Hope* ***	902.615 Relational Theories & Practice (A) 903.615 Relational Theories & Practice (B) 911.615 Relationships & Family* 913.615 Counselling Children & Young People 914.615 Relational Psychology (B)*	930.615 Professional Practice A 931.615 Professional Practice B
3		904.715 Integrated Practice (A) 905.715 Integrated Practice (B) 908.715 Counselling & Diversity* *** 922.715 Special Focus in Counselling*	932.730 Practicum (A) 933.730 Practicum (B)
Credits	45 credits	225 credits	90 credits
TOTAL 360 CREDITS			
*May be video-conferenced between campuses. ***Also available via Distance Learning.			

Year One Courses

115.515 C READING THE BIBLE

Approach the Bible from the perspective of biblical theology, which allows the Bible to tell its own story as a unified grand narrative that culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Explore the unity, diversity, and central themes of the Bible to make sense of the relationship between the Bible, theology, and all of life.

401.515 C FORMATION

This course aims to help students to reflect on personal and communal spiritual formation, through engagement with Scripture, theological understandings, and a variety of Christian spiritual traditions.

857.515 C HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

This course surveys contemporary understandings of human development in conversation with Christian theological descriptions of human being.

900.515 FOUNDATIONS OF RELATIONAL PRACTICE (A)

The conviction that people are best understood as “persons-in-relationship” has implications for the therapeutic approach adopted by the counsellor. This course is the first of six that form a core counselling practice development stream through the Bachelor of Counselling. The course combines theological and theoretical reflection with skill development and group-process workshops. It begins to develop a set of core person-centred practices aimed at I-Thou engagement that emphasise the restoration of self-awareness and the enriching of dialogical relationships.

901.515 FOUNDATIONS OF RELATIONAL PRACTICE (B)

Pre-requisite: 900.515 Foundations of Relational Practice A

This second course in the core counselling practice development stream enriches the student's understanding of “person-in-relationship”, by combining theological and theoretical reflection, with deepening person-centred and associated skill development and group process workshops. It enriches the student's ability to consider counselling issues.

906.515 PERSONHOOD, RELATIONALITY & FAITH

This foundational course introduces counselling as a therapeutic relational engagement that finds its context, and its goal, in knowledge of God and humanity drawn from the story of Christ. From this critical standpoint it engages with a broad range of counselling theories and models of practice.

907.515 BICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

People of all cultures draw their own self-knowledge from their engagement with other people and the world. In the Aotearoa New Zealand context this means an honouring of the covenantal spirit of the Treaty of Waitangi and an awareness of its relational intent. This course introduces Tikanga Māori on the basis of understanding people in their contexts, and combines theological, theoretical and historical reflection with the development of practices drawn from an integration of these. The course includes regular oral activities aimed at developing fluency in the use of te reo and tikanga in a range of settings. The culmination of this oral learning is participation in the Noho Marae, where an overnight stay on a marae provides an integrated opportunity to engage with Māori culture beyond the classroom.

910.515 RELATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY A

Persons-in-relationship not only find their ultimate joy in relationships but also their deepest insecurities and brokenness. This course proposes a theoretical and theological framework that views challenges in relationality as an important contributing factor to distress. Upon this theoretical ground, the course introduces a range of human experiences including sexuality, grief, and depression that are foundational to counsellor understandings of how people heal and grow.

Please note: Not all courses are available at all locations or in all modes of delivery.

READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?

0800 999 777

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UPDATED 9 OCTOBER 2025

By the end of this programme graduates will be:

1. **Educated in preparation for provisional membership of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors and the New Zealand Christian Counsellors Association, in a variety of health, social service and educational settings.**
2. **Equipped with an approach to counselling that draws from Person-Centred and Narrative Therapies, and emphasises relationality.**
3. **Proficient at articulating a well-integrated theological anthropology, developed from the study of the sacred Christian Scriptures and traditions, history, culture and the social sciences that understands people as persons-in-relationship, people of dignity who are formed through and for loving relationship.**
4. **Practiced at relationally engaging with people including their emotions, cognitive processes, meaning-making and social positioning.**
5. **Skilled with a range of reflective practices including self, peer and clinical supervision.**
6. **Prepared for postgraduate study and research.**

2026 Fees

Domestic: \$944.25 per 15-credit course. **\$7,554** for one year (8 courses, 120 credits).

International: \$3,195 per 15-credit course. **\$25,560** for one year (8 courses, 120 credits).

NOTE: programme is three years and annual fee may vary. A Student Services fee of \$4.20 per credit is charged for on-campus courses or \$63 per semester for distance learning. Please refer to Fee Schedule for more details (www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees)

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