



Biblical Counselling UK

Certificate in Biblical Counselling

in association with CCEF (The Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation)
and supported by Oak Hill College

Student Handbook

This course is offered by Biblical Counselling UK in association with CCEF (the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation) and supported by Oak Hill College. We are delighted to be able to offer this course in the UK and pray that it might help those taking the course to grow in their love of the Lord and in their ability to love others wisely and well.

This handbook will give information about:

- Applying and registering for the course
- Course requirements and materials
- Structure of the course including assignments and timetable

If you have further questions about the course please email: courses@biblicalcounselling.org.uk

1. How to Apply

Application and registration

To apply for a place on the Certificate in Biblical Counselling, download an application form from www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk/certificatecourse or contact the course administrator. Applications usually open in April for the coming September.

No formal academic qualifications are required to take the Certificate Course. However, the reading and study requirements of the course are approximately at undergraduate degree level. A reference will be required from the pastor / senior minister of the church you currently attend and students can only be accepted onto the course once a satisfactory pastoral reference has been received.

NOTE: each student taking the course must have their own, individual email account and complete all of the application details required.

Once students have been accepted onto the course and have paid the tuition fee for the first module, we will register them directly with CCEF. Students will receive an invitation to join CCEF's School of Biblical Counseling Online, which will give them access to a password protected website containing all their course materials two weeks before the beginning of term.

The tuition fee for subsequent modules is due by the registration deadline for each module – usually a month prior to the beginning of each term. Please note that late payment of fees incurs an administration charge, and may result in a student not being registered for that module.

A limited bursary fund is available for students with significant financial need. For details, please see our website – www.biblicalcounselling.org.uk/certificatecourse or contact the course administrator.

A note on accreditation

This certificate course is run on a non-accredited basis. The teaching material is supplied by CCEF and includes a selection of the modules from their Online School of Biblical Counseling. These modules have been developed by the CCEF faculty over many years and are widely used across the world. Additional teaching and discussion sessions as well as peer counselling and observation classes will be delivered at a local venue (currently Oak Hill in London, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Bath and Belfast). These will provide the practical component of the course. An accredited counselling course would include much more supervised counselling than it is possible to deliver within the constraints of this course.

Students satisfactorily completing the three certificates will be able to indicate that they have successfully completed a course providing a broad introduction to the theory and practice of biblical counselling.

Please note that, due to the administration of the course in the UK, credits would not normally be transferable to a US Master's level program. If this is important to you, please discuss this with us before enrolling. Passes for all the modules we offer (with the exception of Personal Qualities for Biblical Counselling) are recognised by CCEF for their certificates.

2. Course Requirements

Attendance requirements and exemptions

To qualify for a certificate, students will be required to complete the modules listed in the course syllabus. The Summer Intensive should be taken within two years of completing the Foundations certificate.

Each certificate should normally be completed over one academic year, but we recognise that some students need the flexibility to complete it over a longer period. For more information, please contact the course administrator.

Students who have already completed any of the modules directly with CCEF may apply for an exemption from that module. Because the practical elements of the course and the opportunities to engage in discussion with other students are all key components of this certificate course, students will normally be granted no more than two exemptions across the three certificates. Students who have already taken more than two of these seven modules with CCEF should contact the course administrator to discuss their situation. All students seeking exemptions will need to have obtained a pass at grade C- or higher in the relevant module.

Attendance at the onsite seminars will be recorded. To qualify for a certificate, students are required to achieve an overall attendance record of at least 70% across the modules for that certificate. Students who are granted exemptions are required to achieve an attendance record of 80% of the seminars in the modules they take. Students granted exemptions may choose to enroll to attend the seminars for their exempted module(s), in which case their attendance requirement is 70% across all the modules.

Confidentiality

Students will be required to sign confidentiality agreements relating both to peer counselling sessions and to observation classes.

We recognise that students may wish to write very personally in their response papers for the course modules. Arrangements to protect confidentiality are as follows. Papers uploaded to CCEF's secure School of Biblical Counselling (SBS) platform can only be accessed by the individual student, their RI and SBS staff. The student's RI will delete their copy of the student's papers six months after the module, or after the student has received their final grade for that module, whichever is the later. Please note that CCEF may keep students' papers on their system after the end of the module for quality monitoring purposes. Students should bear these arrangements in mind as they write and submit response papers.

References

All students will require a satisfactory reference from the pastor / senior minister of the church they currently attend (see section 1, How to Apply: Application and Registration).

Time Requirements

This Certificate course is taught at undergraduate level and includes extensive reading and written assignments. Typically, you will need to allow at least five hours per week *in addition* to the time required for lectures and seminars.

3. Course Materials

Course Syllabus

Each module has a detailed syllabus with information on assigned readings, lecture schedule, a specific grading rubric, and schedule of assignments. There is also a schedule for each module giving dates of seminars and due dates for assignments. You are expected to read the syllabus thoroughly and take note of dates of seminars and due dates of assignments.

Introduction to CCEF's *School of Biblical Counseling Online* platform

When you receive access to CCEF's *School of Biblical Counseling* (SBS) online platform you will be able to view a video which gives an overview of the website demonstrating how to access your course materials and submit assignments.

Sharing Materials

All materials posted on SBC Online are copyrighted. When you register for a module, you agree that you will not duplicate or share the audio, video, and/or printed materials with another person(s), unless that person is also registered for that module.

Ordering Required Textbooks

You are responsible for obtaining the required textbooks. The cost of books for each module will vary depending on the number of books required, the source you choose to order from, and shipping costs. Details of the required reading for the module for the next term will be emailed to you during the second half of the previous term. Please review this list well before the start of each module to allow sufficient time for ordering books.

Journal of Biblical Counseling articles and Other Required Readings

If you are required to read *Journal of Biblical Counseling* (JBC) articles for a particular module, these articles will be provided to you through your course access on SBC Online. Please note that some of the required reading for these modules (both textbooks and articles) exists in earlier formats (either JBC issues or on the JBC CD-Rom.) If you own this material in a previously published format, you are welcome to use it for the modules.

Some modules may require you to read an excerpt of a book or a short article. These excerpts and articles will be available through your course access on SBC Online. A portion of your tuition fee is used for the required copyright fees to distribute these items electronically to you.

4. Assignments

This section provides an overview of preparing for various assignments in the CCEF modules as well as resources available to assist you in improving your writing skills.

General Paper Guidelines

- 1) Follow the directions: Read the assignment description carefully, and make sure you adhere to both the directions (what the assignment is supposed to encompass) and guidelines (word count/length, name of file, etc.). It is easy to get off track, and forget part of the assignment.
- 2) Remember the writing process:
 - a) brainstorm ideas, get thoughts out
 - b) narrow and focus your thoughts in a clear, organised way, so that you are building an argument for your audience
 - c) edit, edit, edit yourself ruthlessly (some ideas are meant for another project or are not essential to be included –and that's okay!)
 - d) the final version is the fruit of your labours (not the labour itself). Related to this, take a step back to see how your paper "flows." Is it logical? Does it naturally progress from one idea to another? It may be helpful to have another person read your paper
- 3) Proof-read your work: Grammatical errors, misspellings, run-on sentences, sentence fragments and/or punctuation can significantly obscure content. Those types of errors may not be marked on your paper, but will be noticed! A well-written paper (free of typos, misspelled words, etc.) demonstrates thoughtfulness and attention to detail. It is a good idea to have another person to read your paper to check for those things—spellcheck does not always catch errors!
- 4) Don't procrastinate: Papers should not be written at the last minute. Though some papers are more informal than others, it doesn't mean they should be sloppy, slapdash thinking, or mere stream-of-consciousness. It is evident when assignments are rushed.

Response Papers

Many CCEF modules require weekly response papers. It is given that there are some people who have more talent or gifting in writing than others and that some people are more insightful. So, these students will tend to write more creatively and richer and it's simply because that person is gifted in that way or has more ministry/life experience (that will be an A paper). In our experience, most people fall into the category of someone whose work exhibits good honest effort (i.e. they're honest about their life, they saw something really important in what they read, they wrote a decent paper about it. That will be a B paper).

Here are some more detailed guidelines used for grading response papers:

- 1) Are you getting what is the driving force of this particular reading?

- 2) Are you personally wrestling with/honestly grappling with the driving force of this particular reading?
- As stated above, it's not just a book report and it's not just your own personal story, your feelings, what happened to you, what the Lord did. It's not just a testimony. It's something really unique that is at the intersection of those two things.
 - Are you going beyond the "just" syndrome? There may be a really wonderful theological truth, like trust the Lord. The "just" syndrome is when you go into great detail about the problem and then posit as the solution "just trust the Lord." It means well and it's the right answer, but it's not grappling. Grappling would involve asking yourself: "How do you do this?" How does that "just" get translated into a life that's hard, that's confusing, that's difficult - what would that look like?

There should be a balance of both personal application and meaningful interaction with the assigned reading or topic in your papers. If you simply summarise the authors or are abstract – in other words, if they don't see anything of you, life-lived, and ministry in what you write – they wonder if you are really learning to apply what you're learning to your own heart and ministry. The authors you are reading seek to write significantly about real life. Are you letting the reading engage you, as "iron sharpening iron"? But if they see you interacting meaningfully with what you've read, they get excited. May it be increasingly true of you what was spoken of Jonathan Edwards: "His theology was all application and his application was all theology." Edwards learned that from reading the Bible.

Papers/Projects

In most CCEF modules, there are lengthier papers and/or projects that force you to explore the concepts presented in each lecture in greater depth. Guidelines for these papers and projects vary according to the faculty's guidelines and specific module (including word count, format, and instructions). Please see your module syllabus for specific guidelines.

Exams

A number of the modules require students to take timed exams. Below is some general information to remember as you prepare for exams:

1. Exams will be available on SBC Online one week before the due date.
2. You are on your honour to not open the file until you are ready to take the exam. You may not look at the exam and then study the material again. Once you have seen the exam, you must continue on and complete it.
3. Opening the file to read the questions in advance is considered a violation of the honour code that you will sign upon completion of the exam.
4. If you cannot take the exam during the assigned time, please make arrangements well in advance with your RI to reschedule. We ask you to reschedule prior to the assigned time.
5. Some lecturing instructors have provided study guides for some (not all) exams. If available, these will be posted on SBC Online.

6. All exams are closed book/notes. Some (but not all) may allow the use of an unmarked Bible. You may NOT use an electronic or online Bible.
7. You will be asked to save your exam with a specific file name on your computer. Pay close attention to the specific instructions included on the exam.
8. Make sure to save periodically while you take the exam so you won't lose any work in the event of a technical problem.
9. Pay close attention to the time allotted for the exam. You will be asked to record your start and end times on the exam.
10. After you receive your exam grade, please delete all files pertaining to the exam. CCEF does not permit the distribution or showing of the exam in any manner. (This includes family members as they may take the module in the future.)

Improving Your Reading and Writing Abilities

The Center for Theological Writing at Westminster Theological Seminary, a CCEF academic partner, has developed some helpful tools for students to sharpen both their reading and writing abilities. Here are specific links that you may find helpful as you tackle your CCEF assignments:

- Becoming a Demanding Reader: Good Writing Requires Good Reading
www.wts.edu/resources/westminster_center_for_theolog/becoming_a_demanding_reader_ma.html
- Becoming a Better Writer (specifically the section entitled "Writing Clearly and Coherently")
www.wts.edu/resources/westminster_center_for_theolog/become_writerhtml.html
- Writing for Counseling:
http://www.wts.edu/resources/westminster_center_for_theolog/paper_formatshtml/practical_theology/writing_for_counseling.html

Citations (A Word on Plagiarism)

If you use another person's words (whether exact or paraphrased), ideas, or flow of argument without proper citation in the body of the paper as well as in the bibliography (if applicable), whether you have intended it or not, you have plagiarised. Your course tutor or grader should have no doubts whether or not what he/she is reading is your original thought or the borrowed thoughts of another.

If you are still uncertain, please communicate with the course administrator or your recitation instructor. Violations will be taken seriously and could result in a failing grade for the course.

Submitting Your Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted electronically, through SBC Online, by midnight of the due date specified. Papers, exams and projects will be emailed back to you as they are graded, generally within two weeks of the due date. Final assignments (projects, papers and exams) will generally be

returned within four weeks of their due dates. We will aim to email final grades to you four weeks after the end of the modules.

5. Grading and Feedback on Coursework

The chief purpose of a grade is accountability. Grading challenges you to put in the time and concentrated effort needed to do your very best quality thinking and work. Your life and ministry depend upon your growing wisdom. We want to handle truth well; we want to walk well. Put off the competitiveness or fear of failure that lurks within and competes with our Father's goals for our education! Jesus' disciples are learners by definition, so we should be unashamed of our continual need to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and love (James 1:5; Matt. 5:3). Grading is only a tool to help hold you accountable to those goals and desires that led you to register in the first place.

We have outlined some general grading guidelines to give perspective and help students understand the criteria for evaluation. Please refer to your module syllabus for specific guidelines and grading rubrics on individual assignments.

Grading Standards

Recitations Instructors (RIs) have training and experience in biblical counselling. They have taken the modules themselves and are involved in counselling in their local church context. They have received instruction in grading the papers using the same standards as the lecturing professor has requested.

Feedback on Your Work

Students often ask what kind of feedback they can expect on their assignments. This will vary according to the module, the particular assignment, and the individual style of the Recitation Instructor. Typically, response papers will receive very few written comments, while longer papers will receive a bit more feedback. RI's may ask questions to provoke more thought (which they may or may not request that you answer). Generally, your RI will offer one positive comment and two comments on an area that could have strengthened your paper. If there are general patterns contained within a specific assignment, you may receive a module-wide email so that you get a sense of how the entire class is learning and growing or needs to be stretched.

Grade Meanings

Most assignments will be assigned a numerical grade. The points for individual assignments and the course syllabus will provide information on the weight of each assignment towards your final grade. Final grades will be a letter grade.

The following sample grading rubric provides a general guideline of how grades may be determined for written assignments and a structure to approach your assignments. Your course syllabus may include a rubric that is specific for the assignments given in that course.

Letter Grade and Grade Summary	A	B	C	D–F
	You added dimensions to your work that went above the required assignment.	You successfully fulfilled the requirements of the assignment.	You missed some important aspects of the assignment.	You did not fulfill some or all of the assignment requirements.
Discussion	Discussion is insightful, thorough, and interesting.	Discussion is interesting.	Discussion is interesting but lacks depth.	Discussion is uninteresting and/or too shallow for the assignment.
Understanding	Demonstrates thorough understanding of the material.	Demonstrates fair understanding of the material.	Demonstrates partial understanding of the material.	Demonstrates lack of understanding.
Application	Applies several key concepts from course resources to personal observations and experiences.	Applies at least one key concept from course resources to personal observations and experiences.	Implies key concepts, but doesn't make clear link to course resources.	Does not apply course concepts.
Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling, & Structure	Clear writing with no grammar or spelling errors.	Clear writing with minimal grammar or spelling errors.	Multiple grammar or spelling errors. Mechanics get in the way of clarity.	Numerous spelling or grammar errors. Difficult to read.

Final Course Grading Scale

The grading scale for all CCEF modules is as follows:

A	95 and above	C	75-77.9
A-	92-94.9	C-	72-74.9
B+	88-91.9	D+	70-71.9
B	85-87.9	D	68-69.9
B-	82-84.9	D-	66-67.9
C+	78-81.9	F	< 66

Note: The Counselling Observation module is graded on a pass/fail basis.

6. Course Administration

Keeping track of completed assignments, missing assignments, late work, and requests for extensions can be complex. This section outlines information to help you manage the flow of assignments as you balance your studies with other responsibilities in your life.

Late/Missing Work

Our goal is to help you to *do* the work, for your sake -- to profit from the course. Sometimes unexpected circumstances (illness, technical problems, ministry or family crises, etc.) make lateness unavoidable. We will certainly work with you to help you get caught up. Don't suffer, avoid, procrastinate, struggle, get overwhelmed, or be confused in silence--be proactive in communicating with your RI or the course administrator!

The general policy for late work is that papers/projects will be marked five points off per day that it is late. Any exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis, to be fair to students who submitted their work on time. If you do not submit a response paper or minor assignment, a grade of "0" will be recorded for that assignment. If you do not turn in a project, paper, or exam (ie a major assignment), you will automatically fail the module.

Please note: If a mission/camp, holiday or other event scheduled in your diary interferes with you handing in an assignment on time, you are responsible to submit work that is due during the planned absence ***before leaving for*** the event.

All work is due by midnight on the due date. During the module term, all requests to hand in work late must be negotiated with your Recitation Instructor. Any exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Extensions

Two different types of extension requests will be considered for the Certificate course: an extension for minor assignments (response papers, etc.) and an extension for major assignments (final exams and final papers). Please note that extensions will not be granted for a previously scheduled mission/camp, holiday, or other planned event.

Extension Policy for Minor Assignments:

If an unexpected situation arises and you feel that you need an extension for a minor assignment, please notify your RI 48 hours before the assignment is due. If you do not notify your RI within the 48 hour time frame, you will receive the standard grade deductions for the assignment (5 points off for every day that it is late). Extension requests for minor assignments will only be granted for extreme circumstances (illness, ministry or family crises, etc.). If an extension request for a minor assignment is granted, your RI can give you up to a 48 hour extension to turn in the work without a late penalty. If you feel that you are unable to complete the work in the allotted time, you should apply for an extension with the course administrator.

Extension Policy for Major Assignments:

If you feel that you cannot complete an upcoming major assignment, you can apply for an extension request from the course administrator. These extension requests are only granted for unexpected and extenuating circumstances such as a death in the family or a major illness. The RI will be notified when an extension request is received and whether the extension is approved along with the new due date.

To receive an extension for a major assignment:

- 1) Request an Extension Request Form from the course administrator.
- 2) Submit a completed Extension Request Form to the course administrator at biblicalcounselling.org.uk.
- 3) You will receive an email within 4 business days with the results of your request.

If approval is granted, the work must be completed within four weeks from the last exam or final paper due date; otherwise a grade of Incomplete/Fail (INC/F) will be recorded. Depending upon the circumstances of the extension, your final module/assignment grade may or may not be reduced. If you receive an extension, and need longer than 4 weeks to complete your course work, you will be required to pay an additional fee and submit all remedial work within one year of the start date of that module.

Withdrawing

If you need to withdraw from a module please contact the course administrator as soon as possible. Please note that there is an administrative fee for processing all withdrawals, and only a partial refund of fees can be made up until week three of the module. We regret that after the third week, no fees can be refunded.

Transferring

Up to the sixth week of a module it is possible to transfer your registration for that module to the next time that module is offered in that location. Please note that there is an administrative fee for processing a transfer, and a re-registration fee (currently £45). We regret that we cannot guarantee that a transfer is possible for every module in every location. For more information, please contact the course administrator.

7. Academic Policies

This section provides general information about the Biblical Counselling Certificate as well as about registration, tuition, and other academic policies.

Describing Your Certificate

Many students who have completed courses at CCEF are active in lay counselling ministries in their local church. If they wish to describe their qualification to others, the guidance suggested by CCEF (and adapted for the UK certificate programme) is as follows.

Jane Smith has completed all three certificates in the Certificate in Biblical Counselling programme offered by Biblical Counselling UK in association with the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (www.ccef.org). This comprehensive course has involved study in the following areas: a biblical view of personal change and human personality; developing effective helping relationships for individuals and couples; developing caring ministries within the local church; and understanding the unique contribution of the Christian faith to the task of counselling.

Accreditation

This training is primarily focused on training pastors and lay people for service in biblical counselling ministries in churches and para-church ministries. It is not designed to prepare students for accreditation with a professional body such as BACP (the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy).

For more information about any of the topics covered in this handbook, please contact the course administrator at courses@biblicalcounselling.org.uk

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