

**College of Arts & Science**  
**Division of Social and Behavioral Science**

*Primary Faculty:* Dr. Craig Ellison, Director, Dr. Carol Robles, Assistant Director, Dr. James Chin, Dr. Frank MacArthur, Dr. Marcia Lucas, Dr. Michael Gillern, Dr. Elissa Lin Rathe, Dr. Deanna Kwan, Mr. Freddy Baez

**COUNSELING — M.A.**

The Alliance Graduate School of Counseling (AGSC) offers a 66-credit Master of Arts, Counseling program. The M.A. program is designed to academically prepare students for the role of a professional counselor able to work effectively in private practice, within clinics, and with local evangelical churches. Upon completion of the program, candidates for the Master of Arts, Counseling degree are expected to have acquired a strong academic course of study which is biblically based; attained a high level of knowledge regarding basic counseling skills commensurate with the degree offered; and to have acquired a working understanding of personal ethics and values essential for the practice of effective counseling.

**Statement of Counseling Orientation**

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling seeks to provide counseling education that is grounded in a theologically evangelical Christian view of epistemology, human nature and healing. While recognizing that there are different viewpoints within the Christian community, we believe that the Bible provides us with significant foundational perspectives on human personality, pathology and healing.

The Graduate School of Counseling takes an “open universe” view of epistemology and causation. This view suggests that the most accurate and comprehensive understanding of human functioning and healing is gained by consideration of natural, supernatural and interactive (natural x supernatural) influences.

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling views human nature at its best as a finely-tuned, multi-dimensional, integrated system. Human beings are fundamentally psychospiritual beings because they are created in God’s image. Optimal human functioning occurs when human beings live according to God’s design as given in the Bible.

Because of The Fall, human beings experience the pain of disorder, division, disintegration, dissension, and dysfunction. Human personality and relationships are often fragmented due to irrationality, chaos and distortions of sin. Sin, from a psychospiritual perspective, is living in contradiction to God’s design. Sin refers both to an underlying human condition of fallenness due to original sin, and to specific acts committed by an individual or by others against a person. The destructive and disintegrative impact of sin is experienced through individual, interpersonal and institutional choices and channels.

In addition to the impact of sin in its psychospiritual sense, human beings are affected by the limitations of their finitude. Choices that produce chaos and pain are often the result of limited or erroneous knowledge and understanding. Dysfunctional patterns of learning and conditioning may also produce significant difficulties.

Finally, in their attempts to cope with the pain of unmet psychospiritual needs, human beings often unwittingly make choices that worsen their pain and lead to further psychospiritual and relational deterioration.

Alliance Graduate School of Counseling sees psychospiritual healing as ultimately the work of God’s grace, wisdom and love communicated through the vehicle of a competent and sensitive counselor. The exact role of the therapist varies according to the particular needs and problems of the counselee, couple or family unit. Healing interventions are multi-modal and comprehensive. Because of our open universe view, analysis and interventions include consideration of the natural/psychological and supernatural/spiritual dimensions. Healing may also include bio- and social-psychological intervention due to the fundamental biological and relational nature of human beings.

### **Graduate School Emphases**

- Faith/Counseling interface: psychospiritual model
- Core values
- Multi-cultural/cross-cultural orientation
- Mentoring/nurturing
- Multi-modal instruction
- Case studies/application

### **AGSC Core Values**

- Belief in the centrality and authority of the Holy Scriptures as the source, foundation and guide to Truth.
- Recognition of the essential and primary place of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in the healing process as the source of health and healing.
- Consistent and continuing commitment by the counselor to maintain a personal walk with God through the practice of spiritual disciplines such as Bible study, prayer, fasting and biblical meditation.
- Maintenance of self-care (physical, spiritual, emotional and relational) for the counselor's own well-being.
- Importance of participation and service in the local church and its worldwide mission.
- Commitment to an open-universe model of epistemology and therapeutic intervention, integrating theory, research and practice, with respect for and utilization of both the empirical and the supernatural.
- Adherence to the highest ethical standards of the counseling profession and the Christian faith.
- Fundamental respect for people in their ethnic, socio-economic, religious and gender diversity.
- Importance of life-long continuing education in counseling, psychology and theology beyond the Master's degree in counseling.
- Commitment to the advancement of the counseling field and in particular, Christian counseling, through such activities as participation in professional association, excellence in scholarship, and education of the broader Christian community.

### **Classification of Students**

*Matriculated (Degree) Students:* These are students who are pursuing a M.A. Counseling degree either full or part-time. Students who have satisfactorily completed all admission requirements (completed application, letters of recommendation, bachelor's degree transcript(s) from accredited undergraduate college(s) showing adequate GPA and date degree was conferred, satisfactory MMPI-2 and MCMI-III results and 9 credits of undergraduate psychology courses: Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Human Development (or Theories of Personality) may be admitted for the M.A. Counseling degree with regular status. Regular status students are matriculated. Only regular status students may become candidates for the degree. Students may be full-time or part-time. Part-time status requires at least 14 credits per calendar year. Full-time status requires at least 12 credits per semester.

*Non-Degree Students:* Students who have completed a graduate degree in Counseling, Psychology, Social Work or Education with an emphasis in counseling may apply for non-degree seeking status which will allow the student to take additional classes to complete the requirements of national certification exams, or to supplement previous education with a Christian perspective. Students may take classes full or part-time but must follow the rules and standards of the program including prerequisite courses, etc.

### **Degree Seeking Application Requirements**

To be admitted to the program, these are necessary:

1. A completed Application for Admission form from the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling.
2. A \$35 non-refundable application fee payable to Alliance Theological Seminary and designated to the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling.

3. An official transcript from each college or university attended since high school. A transcript must come from each, even though the work appears as transfer credit on another transcript. The transcripts must show evidence of an accredited baccalaureate degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.8 (on a 4.0 scale), and the completion of 9 semester hours of undergraduate courses in psychology and/or counseling. Introduction to Psychology (general psychology), Abnormal Psychology, and Human Development or Theories of Personality are mandatory.
4. Three letters of recommendation: a pastor's recommendation, a character reference, and an academic recommendation, on forms provided by the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. These cannot be family members. Complete Part I of each form and then distribute to appropriate individuals with a stamped envelope preaddressed to Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. Recommendations are to be returned directly to AGSC, sealed. If hand delivered by applicant, the envelope must be sealed with the signature of the reference over an unbroken seal.
5. The Statement of Christian Life and Experience and the Calling to Counsel must be submitted.
6. Statement of Faith and Standard of Conduct forms signed and returned.
7. Satisfactory profiles of the MCMI-III and MMPI-2. These tests may be taken at a professional testing service or a licensed psychologist. Contact the AGSC office for local testing sites. The personality profile and complete interpretive report for each instrument must be sent to the Director, Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, 350 North Highland Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960. These tests are used for educational purposes only and will not be discussed or released.

The closing date for applications and all required documents is August 1 for the fall semester. The closing date for the spring semester is December 1.\* (International student deadline for fall is February 15; for spring is July 15). Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis on completed applications. The Alliance Graduate School of Counseling reserves the right to require an interview of applicants for admission to determine eligibility for admission. Admission to the program is not based on handicap, sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin.

There is an Early Bird Grant of \$250 available to those students who are fully admitted by July 1st for the fall semester and November 1st for the spring semester.

The late fee for application materials (items #1-7 above) completed after the due date (August 1 for fall admissions, December 1 for spring admissions) is \$50. To be eligible for institutional grants and scholarships, the application materials must be received by the application deadlines listed above.

*\*If accepted, an advanced deposit of \$250 must be submitted with the student's reply accepting admission to the graduate program. This will be credited toward tuition. Applicants offered admission must communicate acceptance or rejection and submit their tuition deposit by August 15 for the fall semester and December 15 for the spring semester. The advance tuition deposit is non-refundable. Unless specified, due dates mentioned in this document are for the year in which the applicant seeks admission to the program.*

Application to AGSC does not imply, guarantee, or constitute admission into the program. Charges paid for the MCMI-III, MMPI-2, formal transcripts, application fee, and any other application requirements are non-refundable. Acceptance into the program is communicated only through a formal letter from the Director or Assistant Director of AGSC.

A mandatory new student retreat takes place at the beginning of each semester. The date is available from the admissions office. Because of the importance of this one-day retreat, students who fail to attend will be charged a \$100 non-participation fee.

### **Non-Degree Seeking Application Requirements**

To be admitted to the program, these are necessary:

1. Must have completed a graduate degree in counseling, psychology, social work or education with an emphasis in counseling from an accredited graduate school with a G.P.A. of 2.8 or above.

2. A completed Application for Admission form from the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling and a \$35 non-refundable application fee payable to Alliance Theological Seminary and designated to the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling.
3. An official transcript from each college or university attended since high school. A transcript must come from each, even though the work appears as transfer credit on another transcript.
4. The Statement of Christian Life and Experience must be submitted.
5. Statement of Faith and Standard of Conduct forms signed and returned.
6. Pastor's Recommendation.
7. Satisfactory results for the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2). The personality profile and complete interpretive report must be submitted.
8. If pursuing licensure or recertification, must have transcripts evaluated by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) ([www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)).

### **International Applicants**

Please read all instructions carefully.

1. International students must comply with all AGSC standard criteria for admissions. International applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree or the equivalent with a minimum of 2.8 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) from an appropriately accredited college or university.
2. Applicants whose primary language is not English must take a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 550. An official score report no more than five years old must be submitted.
3. All foreign language documents must be accompanied by an official translation into English. Official international transcripts must be sent to the following for evaluation: World Education Service, Inc., P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0745. Contact information: 1-800-937-3895; in New York: call (212) 966-6311, fax (212) 966-6395, e-mail: [info@wes.org](mailto:info@wes.org), website: [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org).
4. The initial application deadline for the following fall semester is February 15; for the following spring semester is July 15.
5. International students must be fully admitted before beginning the I-20 process.

Classes necessary for national certification exams will be offered to non-degree seeking students on the same credit basis, price, and course requirements as degree-seeking students. Transcript evaluations for the NCE or other certification exams must be submitted to their administering bodies by the students. AGSC does not provide those evaluations. NBCC can be contacted at (336) 547-0607 or at their website: [www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org).

### **Program Requirements for Graduation**

1. A minimum of 66 semester hours of graduate-level coursework, including 58 hours of required courses and 8 hours of electives. Transfer credit from accredited colleges or universities may not exceed 15 semester hours\*. Graduate transfer credits may not be used both for transfer credit and prerequisites. Students must take 55 of their 66 credits at their designated primary site. Manhattan students must take one course at the Nyack site.
2. Students must engage in individual, marital, or family counseling at their expense with a professional therapist for a minimum of 15 sessions. This must be completed before the first day of class for GCN 791 Internship (summer). No more than two hours per week of personal counseling may be counted toward the requirement. Group therapy as part of GCN 604 may not be counted. Both the student and therapist must submit the necessary forms.
3. A minimum of 700 clock hours of supervised internship experience in an approved setting, 40% of which must be direct client contact.
4. A minimum grade point average of 2.8 must be maintained each semester. Students who earn a GPA below this will be placed on academic probation for one semester. If the student continues to fall below this average after that semester, they will be dropped from the program. Students may reapply after one semester if they can adequately demonstrate that they can perform at the appropriate level.
5. Satisfactory completion of a professional exit interview with the faculty of the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. The interview is to be scheduled by the student during the

spring semester of the student's final term. Prior to the exit interview students will be given periodic evaluation by the faculty with regard to their professional potential.

6. After completing all required coursework, students will be required to take a comprehensive exam in the spring prior to graduation. A grade of Fail, Pass, or Pass with Distinction will be noted on the student's final transcript. Students will only be allowed to take the comprehensive exam one time. GPA is not affected by the results of the comprehensive exam. There is no credit granted, but students must register and pay the appropriate examination fee.
7. All degree requirements are to be completed before the student may participate in the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling's commencement ceremonies.
8. Graduation applications must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by October 15 (for December graduation) or February 15 (for May graduation).
9. At the end of each semester, all students will be subject to review by the AGSC faculty.
10. Complete payment of all financial obligations.

It is each student's responsibility to remain informed of all requirements, prerequisites, deadline dates and procedures within the program. It is also the responsibility of each student to maintain contact with her or his advisor.

*\*ATS students accepted into AGSC must pay the tuition difference of \$100 for each credit transferred.*

Admission into the AGSC program is *not* a guarantee of graduation. Admission is an opportunity for the student to successfully accomplish all requirements established in order to graduate from the program with a M.A. degree. Failure to successfully meet all requirements means that the student will not receive the M.A. degree.

## **Course Descriptions**

### ***Required Bible and Theology Curriculum (6 credits)***

Theology 1: God and Humanity is required. In addition, another Theology (TH), Old Testament (OT), or New Testament (NT) course must be taken. Languages and/or exegesis are excluded.

#### **TH 601 Theology 1: God and Humanity (3)**

Examines the foundations of Christian theology, revelation, and Holy Scripture, the nature and work of God, and the nature of humanity and its need.

### ***Required Cross-Cultural Counseling Curriculum (3 credits)***

#### **GCN 606 Counseling for the Urban Context (3)**

Overview of counseling principles and methods for the cross-cultural urban context. Offered spring or summer.

### ***Required Counseling Curriculum (49 credits)***

#### **GCN 501 Perspectives on Counselor Formation (3)**

Focuses on the nature of spiritual formation and the various ways that Christians have sought to deepen their relationship with God. Emphasis given to: integration of the AGSC Core Values, the nature and practice of prayer, self-understanding, educational endeavors, as well as the more intimate and in-depth process of spiritual formation. Offered summer or fall.

#### **GCN 502 Theories and Foundations of Counseling (3)**

An investigation of the major theories of counseling with an emphasis on integrative approaches to the helping profession. Offered fall RBI.\*

#### **GCN 503 Research Methods and Analysis (2)**

A survey course of the concepts and techniques of hypothesis testing, research design and analysis used in clinical research and program evaluation. Offered fall RBI.\*

**GCN 504 Psychopathology (3)**

An overview of the major theories, concepts, issues, and data of psychopathology, including an introduction to the official diagnostic nomenclature. Offered fall RBI.\*

**GCN 505 Theories of Personality (3)**

The course explores the concepts of personality and behavior change through consideration of a variety of contemporary theories of personality development. Offered fall RBI.\*

**GCN 506 Career Development (2)**

An in-depth study of the theories, concepts, and issues regarding career counseling including an introduction to various career assessment inventories. Offered winterim.

**GCN 601 Principles and Methods of Counseling (3)**

This course introduces a variety of methods used in counseling with an emphasis on integrative approaches to the helping profession. Offered spring RBI.\*

**GCN 602 Measurement and Assessment (3)**

A survey of basic concepts and tests used in diagnosis and treatment of individual, marriage, and family problems with selective training in the use of several major instruments. Prerequisite: GCN 504, GCN 503 and must view “The Standard Deviants: Statistics, Parts 1, 2, 3” prior to the start of the semester in which the class is taken. Offered spring RBI.\*

**GCN 603 Counseling and Human Development (3)**

An overview of the major theories, issues, and data of developmental psychology covering early childhood through late adulthood. Offered spring RBI.\*

**GCN 604 Group Dynamics and Therapy (3)**

An overview of the major theories, issues, and data of the psychology of small groups and group therapy. Topics considered include group communication, leadership, facilitation, decision making, conflict resolution, and focal group counseling. Participation in group therapy outside of class required. Prerequisite: GCN 502 and individual therapy requirement completed. Offered fall.

**GCN 605 Marriage and Family Counseling: Foundations (3)**

Examination of marriage and family systems and dynamics, including the causes of conflict and dysfunctional relational patterns, and the understanding of counseling principles and processes designed to aid the counselor in resolving conflict and in the healing of relationships. Offered spring RBI.\*

**GCN 607 Domestic Abuse: Interventions and Reporting (3)**

This course considers in detail the etiology, dynamics and therapy of child abuse and maltreatment. Attention, equivalent to a two-hour course, paid to the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. The dynamics underlying marital violence and processes of therapeutic intervention examined.

**GCN 701 Psychology and Theology † (3)**

An examination of relationships between psychology and theology, and an evaluation of underlying assumptions and purposes. Integrative approaches to various significant issues are explored with the aim of clarifying understanding of human beings. Prerequisites: 6 credits of Bible, GCN 502, GCN 601, GCN 603, GCN 505. Offered spring.

**GCN 702 Ethics and Professional Issues (3)**

An overview of the legal, ethical, and professional issues currently facing counselors. Particular attention is given to matters involving confidentiality, informed consent, conflicts of interest,

counselor values, transference and countertransference issues, advertising, and potential church/state conflicts. Prerequisites: GCN 502, GCN 601. Must be taken with GCN 790, 791, 792, 793. Offered summer.

**GCN 799 Comprehensive Examination (0)**

Offered spring.

**GCN 790, 791, 792, 793 Counseling Internship (9)**

Practical counseling experience in a clinic or other community agency. There will be 1 supervisory hour for each 1.5 client contact hour. Prerequisites: GCN 602, GCN 702, GCN 502, GCN 601, GCN 505, GCN 605, 15 session personal counseling. Must be taken with GCN 702. Offered summer, fall, spring.

*Elective Counseling Curriculum (8 credits)*

**GCN 710 Counseling Issues & Human Sexuality (2)**

An overview of physiological, psychological, and social-cultural variables associated with sexual identity, sexual behavior, and the diagnosis and treatment of sexual disorders. Offered spring.

**GCN 711 Post-Abortive Counseling (2)**

Offered summer.

**GCN 712 Geriatric Counseling (2)**

Offered fall.

**GCN 713 Gender Issues (2)**

Offered spring.

**GCN 714 Counseling for Survivors of Abuse (2)**

Offered winterim.

**GCN 715 Critical Incidents & Stress Management (2)**

Offered summer.

**GCN 716 Disorders of Childhood & Adolescence (2)**

An in-depth study of the major theories, concepts, issues and data in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders usually first evident in children and adolescents. Prerequisite: GCN 825. Offered alternate winterim.

**GCN 717 Play Therapy (2)**

Offered spring.

**GCN 718 Addictive Behaviors (2)**

An in-depth study of the major theories, concepts, issues, and data in the diagnosis and treatment of addictive behaviors including psychoactive substances, sexual addictions, and other addictive behaviors. Offered spring.

**GCN 719 Marriage & Family Counseling: Theories and Strategies (2)**

A continuation of GCN 815 with the focus on the theoretical and practical application of therapy with married couples and families. Prerequisite: GCN 815. Offered spring.

**GCN 720 Christian Approach to Life-Threatening Illnesses (2)**

Offered spring.

**GCN 721 Crisis Counseling (2)**

Consideration of crises faced by the counselor and appropriate approaches for helping those in crisis. Crises such as death, debilitating illness, illegitimate pregnancy, child and/or spouse abuse, drug abuse, suicide and accident/disaster trauma are considered. Offered fall.

**GCN 722 Anxiety and Mood Disorders (2)**

An in-depth study of the major theories, concepts, issues, and data in the diagnosis and treatment of the anxiety and mood disorders. Offered fall.

**GCN 723 Personality & Dissociative Disorders (2)**

An in-depth study of the major theories, concepts, issues, and data in the diagnosis and treatment of personality and dissociative disorders. Prerequisite: GCN 825. Offered May.

**GCN 724 Divorce Recovery (2)**

Offered summer.

**GCN 770's Counseling Seminar (2)**

These courses covers topics of interest. Presentations will be made by prominent therapists/professors in the field of counseling. Offered spring, fall or summer.

\* *RBI=Required Before Internship*

† *To be taken the semester of graduation.*

## **Faculty**

*(Year indicates appointment to faculty)*

**Freddy Baez**, *Half-time Assistant Professor in Counseling*. M.S.W., Fordham University; LCSW-R; CASAC. Credentialed as a Substance Abuse and Alcoholism Counselor. Director of Psycho-Social Services and is Psychotherapist at Full Circle Health, Bronx, NY; Associate Pastor; vital part of Bronx Coalition for Christian Counseling. 1997.

**James Chin**, *Associate Professor of Counseling (NYC Campus)*. B.A., State University of New York at Stony Brook; M.A., City University of New York (Queens College); Ph.D., Hofstra University; Post Doctoral Fellowship, Institute for Behavioral Therapy. Current Director of Agape Psychological Services, NYC; Clinical Director of Psychiatric and Addictions Recovery Services; Staff Psychologist, The Hollisood Hospital; Research Scientist for the Bureau of Research and Evaluation; Instructor, New York School of the Bible; Adjunct Professor, St. John's University; published author. 1999.

**Craig W. Ellison**, *Director Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, Professor of Urban Studies and Counseling*. B.A., The King's College; M.A., Wayne State University; Ph.D., Wayne State University; Special Studies, Nat. Science Foundation, Harvey Mudd College. Executive Director, New Hope Counseling Center; Professor of Psychology and Urban Studies, Simpson College; Associate Professor of Psychology, Westmont College; Visiting Assistant Professor, State University of New York, Binghamton; published author of various books, articles, and papers. 1983.

**Michael W. Gillern**, *Assistant Professor of Pastoral Counseling*. B.S., University of New Haven; M.Div., Trinity Divinity; M.A., New School for SR; D.Min., Gordon Conwell. Therapist, Southern Connecticut Christian Counseling Center; Oncology Chaplain, Lake Forest Hospital and the Department of Mental Health in Lake County, Illinois. 2004.

**Deanna Kwan**, *Assistant Professor in Counseling*. Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Pennsylvania State University; undergraduate degree, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Predoctoral internship at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Payne Whitney Manhattan. Currently a Postdoctoral Psychology Fellow at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Payne Whitney Westchester. Clinical expertise in the areas of psychotherapy for personality disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, mood disorders, adjustment disorders, and neuropsychological/psychological assessment.

**Marcia Lucas**, *Assistant Professor of Counseling (NYC Campus)*. B.S., CUNY; M.S., Yale University; Psy.D., Yeshiva University/Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Senior Clinical Consultant, Full Circle Health, LLC; fifteen years combined experience in psychology, medicine, and education; work in the community focuses on sexual abuse, working with difficult children, depression, inner healing, culture, listening recovery, and trauma. 2002.

**Franklin MacArthur**, *Assistant Professor of Counseling*. B.A., The King's College; M.A., Biola University/Rosemead School of Psychology; Psy.D., Biola University/Rosemead School of Psychology. Director of Psychology, Ramapo Ridge Psychiatric Hospital; Licensed Clinical Psychologist; twelve years experience in group and individual psychotherapy at the inpatient, outpatient, and partial hospitalization levels of care. 2002.

**Elissa Lin Rathe**, *Assistant Professor of Counseling (NYC Campus)*. Ph.D. in Psychoanalysis from Heed University. Experienced psychotherapist in private practice with extensive experience working with dysfunctional family upbringings, emotional and sexual abuse, gender identity issues, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, eating disorders, as well as marital and pre-marital issues; clinical consultant at a community-based organization, serving the HIV/AIDS, Asian Pacific Islander populations. 2004.

**Carol Robles**, *Professor of Counseling, Assistant Director Alliance Graduate School of Counseling (NYC Campus)*. B.A., New York University; M.S.W., New York University; M.A., Adelphi University; Ph.D., Adelphi University. Psychologist, NY City Board of Education, Fordham-Tremont Mental Health Clinic, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the NY Foundling Hospital; Licensed NYS Psychologist, NYS Certified Social Worker, and the NYC Bilingual School Pathologist. 2003.