

# Master of Arts Pastoral Counseling



## Kathy Milans, MAPC 2004

Kathy Milans was an elementary school teacher just six years from retirement when she embarked on a new path to become a certified pastoral counselor.

"I saw an ad for Asbury (Seminary) in *Christianity Today* that caught my eye, and it mentioned the Master of Arts in pastoral counseling (MAPC) degree," Milans said. "It was the 'pastoral' part that really struck me because I'm not the healer; God is the healer."

Milans and her husband visited Asbury Seminary's Kentucky campus, where they felt God's presence and call upon their lives. Following graduation, she became a Kentucky certified pastoral counselor who works with adults, children, marriages and families at her home-based practice in Wilmore. She also became the first pastoral counselor in the American Association of Play Therapy to become a Registered Play Therapist (RPT).

As Kathy helps her clients listen for God's movement in their lives, she remains grateful for His direction in her life.

"The program (at Asbury Seminary) prepares you for a true integration of counseling therapy, practice and theology," Milans said.

The **Master of Arts in pastoral counseling** program helps graduates enhance their ministry as pastors or lay-counselors in churches. This degree plan meets the academic requirements for recognition by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Students can also develop a specialty in another discipline (such as missions, Christian education, youth ministry, biblical studies, etc.) through their general electives. MAPC graduates are competitive candidates for placement in doctoral programs in pastoral counseling or in religion and personality.

MAPC graduates are serving as:

- hospital or military chaplains.
- pastoral counselors within a church.
- pastors who want to provide more skilled pastoral care.
- pastoral counselors on a mission field or within a parachurch organization.
- directors of family life counseling centers.

"With exposure to a significantly diverse faculty, students become more culturally sensitive to the constantly changing reality of this country and other nations around the world." —*Dr. Virginia Todd Holeman, professor of counseling*

## Meet the faculty



**Dr. Anne K. Gatobu**  
Assistant professor of pastoral counseling  
*Expertise: family counseling, domestic violence*



**Dr. Tapiwa Mucherera**  
Associate professor of pastoral counseling  
*Expertise: cross-cultural counseling, crisis counseling, individual and family counseling, pastoral care in the parish setting, narrative pastoral counseling*



**Dr. Anthony J. Headley**  
Professor of counseling  
*Expertise: psychology, stress, burnout, clergy issues, health psychology*



**Dr. Jose Javier Sierra**  
Assistant professor of counseling  
*Expertise: psychology, psychotherapy, psychological evaluations, marriage and family therapy, cross-cultural counseling*



**Dr. Virginia Todd Holeman**  
Professor of counseling  
*Expertise: marriage, family therapy, clinical applications of forgiveness*



**Dr. Stephen P. Stratton**  
Associate professor of pastoral care & counseling  
*Expertise: counseling psychology, integration of theology, psychology and spiritual formation, attachment theory and relational processes, shame-based and trauma-related recovery*

Apply today! Earn a Master of Arts Pastoral Counseling at Asbury Seminary and become a part of *a community called ...*

Call **800.2ASBURY** or visit [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu) for scholarship information and current tuition rates.

## ✓ Admission requirements

- Application
- \$50 non-refundable application fee
- Accredited baccalaureate degree
- 3.00/4.00 GPA
- Official transcripts of all postsecondary schools where a degree was granted
- Personal history essay
- Four references (including counseling additions and one required pastor reference)
- Completion of tests and inventories (scheduled after verification of GPA)
- Personal interview
- For applicants whose native language is other than English, 79 internet (550 paper) TOEFL score or 7.0 IELTS



## Campuses

The MAPC is available in its entirety on the Florida and Kentucky campuses. Up to 30 hours of the MAPC may be completed online.

### Kentucky campus

MAPC classes are offered year-round on the Kentucky campus. Students may choose from a traditional semester course schedule to weekend classes to one-week intensive classes on campus.

### Florida campus

MAPC classes are offered year-round on the Florida campus. Schedule options range from one-week intensives to weekend classes to traditional semester course offerings that are scheduled to maximize the calendar and minimize the commute.

### Virtual campus

Attend class at your computer from anywhere in the world. With the MAPC, the 18 seminary core classes can be taken online, as can 12 hours of free electives (totaling 30 hours).

## Course structure *64 credit hours*

### CORE REQUIREMENTS 15 hrs.

Kingdom, Church and World  
Introduction to Inductive Bible Study  
Introduction to Biblical Studies:  
Old Testament  
Introduction to Biblical Studies:  
New Testament  
Turning Points in Church History  
Basic Christian Doctrine  
or Method and Praxis in Theology

### COUNSELING CORE 40 hrs.

Counseling Theories and Techniques  
Treatment Planning in Counseling  
Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling  
The Counseling Relationship:  
Process and Skills  
Crisis Counseling: Theory and Application  
Group Counseling  
Career Counseling  
Counseling Practicum 1 & 2  
Assessment Inventories in Counseling  
Psychopathology: Theory and Assessment  
Research Seminar: Theory and Design  
Advanced Issues in Cross-Cultural  
Counseling

### COUNSELING CORE ELECTIVES 9 hrs.

Core elective in Human Development  
Core electives in Counseling

In addition to these classes, students are required to complete a Bible Content Examination.



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— Kathy Milans, MAPC

## Frequently asked questions

### How will I pay for school?

Asbury Theological Seminary is dedicated to aiding students in completing their seminary education. Our financial aid office will make every effort to help students identify sources of financial assistance. Most students will find they need multiple sources of income to finance their education: personal savings, scholarships, church/conference funds, foundations, federal student loans and part-time employment. Financial aid deadlines are posted at [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu).

### How long will it take me to finish a degree?

The M.A. in pastoral counseling requires 64 hours of study.

### When do I need to apply?

If you are considering a MAC or MAPC degree program, be sure to review the current timelines and deadlines at [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu).

### Do I have to move to a campus?

The M.A. in Counseling requires a minimum of 32 hours of residency. All other M.A. programs can be completed by attending online and on-campus intensive classes.

### What is Asbury's educational mission?

Asbury Theological Seminary is a community called to prepare theologically educated, sanctified, Spirit-filled men and women to evangelize and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world through the love of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father.

### Do you offer online classes?

Seminary policy allows for up to 30 hours of online courses in any MA degree plan. With the MAPC the 18 seminary core classes can be taken online, as can 12 hours of free electives (totaling 30 hours). Some MAPC classes are also offered online, but due to the importance of interviewing and interpersonal skill development, the majority of MAPC classes are offered on the Florida and Kentucky campuses. Schedule options range from one-week intensives to weekend classes to traditional semester course offerings (75-minute classes twice weekly, or three-hour intensive classes one day weekly). MAPC classes are offered year-round. Course schedules are posted at [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu).

For information about scholarships and current tuition rates, or to schedule a campus visit, go to [asburyseminary.edu](http://asburyseminary.edu) or call the admissions office at **800.2ASBURY**.