LAIDLAW
COUNSELLING

COUNSELLING HANDBOOK 2026



www.laidlaw.ac.nz

OUR VISION
TE WAWATA

A world shaped by love, compelled and informed by the Gospel.

OUR MISSION
TE WHAKATAKANGA

To equip students and scholars to renew their communities with a faith as intelligent as it is courageous.



Laidlaw College is an evangelical, interdenominational tertiary institution committed to the provision of theological education throughout the whole of New Zealand. Laidlaw College has campuses in Henderson and Christchurch – as well as distance learning options, that together offer students a great deal of flexibility in how they structure their study.

Laidlaw College is registered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) under provisions of the Education and Training Act 2020 and its amendments and is accredited to teach programmes listed in this handbook, all of which have been approved by the Authority.

HAERE MAI WELCOME

Laidlaw's Counselling Programme has been preparing people to serve the community and the Church for over 20 years. The School of Counselling draws together this immense legacy of Christian thought and practice with contemporary counselling theory and practice to prepare students for work in these professions.

We understand the myriad of ways people work to bring about change in the world. In the School of Counselling this is enacted through training people for work in counselling. This training reflects a commitment to faith, hope and love through a relational anthropology which values the transformational encounter that can be experienced in relationship with God, self and other.

Laidlaw College's Counselling programme is concerned with personal, community and social renewal. We are inspired by the Gospel story to develop capacity to encounter one another in honest relationships, to assist people to overcome problems, and to engage in social systems so that people might enjoy the freedom to choose the stories they live by.

The Bachelor of Counselling is a three-year professional degree that equips graduates to work as professional counsellors. It is based on Person-Centred and Narrative therapeutic approaches. Graduates will develop a theologically-informed relational approach within these modalities.

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds who have a desire to work with people in a way that integrates their personal understanding of faith and God with professional counselling skills.

IN THIS HANDBOOK YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Bachelor of Counselling
- Counselling Courses Offered in 2026
- Admissions Requirements

CONTACT DETAILS

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NOTE: All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this Student Guide is accurate and current. However, Laidlaw College is not liable, and makes no guarantee that this information will not be changed or updated. Accordingly, changes and updates may be made without prior notice. This guide can be downloaded from the Laidlaw website (www.laidlaw.ac.nz/counselling/programmes/bcouns/), and the online version will always contain the latest information.

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STUDY PATHWAYS



BACHELOR OF COUNSELLING	
Goal	Prepares for professional counselling and other roles within social service agencies, community development settings, churches, private practice, schools and post graduate research.
Focus	Our degree is unique in that it: educates theologically reflective professional counsellors; establishes a relational understanding of people made in the image of a social God as a basis for working with people towards healing and wholeness; employs group practices to develop courageous self-awareness and the ability to effectively encounter others at depth; and engages with a range of well-established counselling theories and practices including person-centred and narrative therapies.
Credits	360 credits
Completion Time	Minimum three years full-time

BACHELOR OF COUNSELLING (BCouns)

Programme Summary

NQF Level	Level 7 / 360 credits
Duration	Full-time for three years (Part-time options may be available at the discretion of the Head of Counselling, please contact the Admissions Office in the first instance)
Starts	February, July (part-time)
Places	Open – Selection criteria apply
Campus	Henderson, Christchurch
Tuition Fee	$7554 (per full-time year of study), plus Student Services Fee
Web	www.laidlaw.ac.nz/counselling

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the BCouns are prepared for professional counselling work in a variety of roles and settings which may include:

- Private practice
- Schools
- Family and health support roles
- Community development
- Workplace assistance and chaplaincy
- Christian pastoral work
- Churches
- Social service agencies
- Innovative postgraduate research

Outline

This programme seeks to form theologically reflective professional counsellors. Theology wrestles not only with who God has revealed himself to be, but also with what it means to be human in relation to God. The BCouns has this dynamic at the heart of its curriculum.

Specifically, the Bachelor of Counselling programme draws on the theories and practices of Person-Centred and Narrative Therapy, equipping graduates in these modalities while also developing a relational approach that resonates with theologies of a relational God.

Formation is a vital component of the Bachelor of Counselling. Graduates of the programme have struggled with their own brokenness and beauty, and their relational strategies, as much as they have grappled with counselling concepts and techniques. Much of their learning happens in personal counselling and in group process, in which all students participate each semester. It is in these groups that deep and enduring formation takes place.

Bachelor of Counselling graduates have a rich understanding of personhood-in-relationship. Courses such as Personhood, Relationality and Faith have been designed intentionally to prepare them for this. They also have a rich sense of who they are and an eagerness to participate alongside others, particularly others who are experiencing suffering.

The Bachelor of Counselling is currently offered at the Henderson and Christchurch campuses.

Objectives

The Bachelor of Counselling programme is designed to equip students with a range of counselling skills; teach them to critically engage with a range of counselling theories; and develop their ability to integrate these with a relational theological approach, in order to prepare them for professional practice. It is designed for students who want to integrate Christian faith with a range of sound, well-established counselling theories and practical skills, in order to enter into community, church-based or private practice. The degree has a common core of biblical, theological and philosophical studies which provides a foundation for a deep appreciation of the Scriptures and the outworking of the gospel in life and professional practice. The programme meets the criteria established for provisional membership of the professional associations for counsellors in New Zealand, the NZAC and the NZCCA.

Graduate Profile

Bachelor of Counselling graduates will be:

- 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.
- Equipped with an approach to counselling that draws from Person-Centred and Narrative Therapies, and emphasises relationality.
- 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.
- Practiced at relationally engaging with people including their emotions, cognitive processes, meaning-making and social positioning.
- Skilled with a range of reflective practices including self, peer and clinical supervision.
- Prepared for postgraduate study and research.

Programme Information

Study Locations

The BCouns is offered in Henderson and Christchurch. The programme is not available to be studied by distance.

Period of Study – Full-Time/Part-Time

This programme is normally completed on a full-time basis over three years. It can also be undertaken on a part-time basis after consultation with the Head of Counselling, but it must be completed within a time frame of eight years unless special permission is granted. In the event of extended absence from the programme returning students may be required to undertake a supplementary course of study, which includes a video presentation, to ensure currency of practice.

Mid-year Intake

Entry into the BCouns programme at mid-year can be on a part-time basis only and students will generally move to full-time from the start of the following year.

Schedule of Courses and Dates

A schedule is provided during orientation which includes all the course dates, the Marae visit and any other relevant dates. Students are responsible for ensuring they are aware of information which applies to their course of study.

Laidlaw College Orientation

Orientation takes place in the first week of each semester. New and returning students are required to attend. Orientation is a time in which we welcome you to College, introduce you to people, give you tips to make your study easier, and help (re) orient you to the journey ahead. In addition to the general Laidlaw Orientation, the School of Counselling has time set aside during orientation week in which important information regarding courses and programme structure is discussed, so it is imperative that students attend. You will receive details about Orientation once you are accepted into the programme.

Workload and Programme Structure

Full-time study requires a commitment of about 40 hours per week. Part-time work needs to be carefully considered particularly in Years Two and Three due to practicum commitments.

- Group Process meetings are held weekly for all students taking core courses. The timing of these groups is worked out by the Programme and there is little flexibility, therefore students must not take on outside commitments until they know the day/time of their group process. This information should be available by the end of the Counselling orientation day.
- Practicum work (200 hours over Years Two and Three) is a requirement and may involve more than one placement.
- A Marae visit (attached to the 907.515 Bicultural Relationships course) is normally undertaken in Year One and involves a weekend stay on a Marae in the first semester. Dates will be provided and a nominal cost may be charged.
- Courses are currently not recorded and cannot be accessed by virtual technology.

Group Process

All students participate in group process which is an important part of the programme. Groups are linked to the core courses and are held weekly for 2 ½ hours. The 80% attendance rule applies to groups and any absence must be explained before the group start time, i.e. in the case of sickness a student is expected to contact the College or group leader before the group begins as a courtesy. Groups are held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, so students are advised not to make commitments on these days until they are sure of their group process time. Multiple absences from groups may require additional group work at a later date.

Attendance

The minimum attendance requirement at lectures and groups across the BCouns is 80%. (Note that this is 80% attendance in lectures and 80% attendance in groups.) Courses delivered using block days have a minimum attendance requirement of 75%. Students will need to complete additional assigned tasks if the required attendance is not met. Unsatisfactory attendance in all courses may lead to the student being placed on Academic Probation or Conditional Enrolment.

International students are expected to be in class at all times (100% attendance) as required by the conditions of their visa. ‘Explained absences’ can be granted for reasons of ill health, the ill health of a dependant, bereavement, or tangihanga, and are not taken into account when the total attendance is calculated.

Lecturers may require any student who has missed a lecture or portion of a block course to provide a reflection on the content taught in the missed lecture, as determined by the lecturer. Students may also be required to submit an alternative assessment if group absences exceed 2 for reasons other than exceptional circumstances. Please refer to the General Information and Regulations for more information.



“Studying the BCouns allowed me to see how my interactions with my family were not what they could be.

LAIDLAW EQUIPPED ME TO MEND PROBLEMATIC WAYS OF INTERACTING, TO BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, AWARE OF THEIR FEELINGS AND CAREFUL NOT TO OVERSTEP BOUNDARIES”

Maysoon Rassam
Counsellor in Private Practice



Practicum Work

In Years Two and Three of the programme students are required to obtain a placement within an organisation approved by the Practicum Manager.

- There are a total of 200 counselling hours of practicum work to complete during the two years of practicum.
- Practice hours may not be logged until the placement and supervision contracts have been completed by all parties and returned to the Counselling Administrators.
- Students who wish to use current employment for practicum hours must be approved by the Practicum Manager. Please note that private practice work will only be used for a portion of the practicum hours, to be negotiated with the Practicum Manager.
- Practice hours, supervision and relevant assignment work MUST be undertaken concurrently. Therefore if for any reason a student needs to suspend practice during the course, they must also suspend supervision and all relevant assignment work.
- In normal circumstances, students are expected to complete the specified number of practice hours, and associated reflective practices, by the end of semester due date.
- In the event that some of the practice hours have not been completed by the due date (therefore associated reflective practice assignments are not able to be completed by the due date), the counselling log showing hours completed and the associated reports will still be submitted in the usual way.

    If 50% or more of the required practice hours have been completed within the first semester of enrolment, upon application an extension of up to one additional semester may be granted. A grade of IP (In Progress) will be given and updated only after the full requirements have been met.

    If less than 50% of the required practice hours have been completed within the first semester of enrolment, a meeting with the Head of Counselling must be organised, and an application for extension must be received before the due date.

- If after two semesters of enrolment in the course the required practice hours and associated reflective practices have not been completed, the course will be given a DNC (did not complete) grade. In this event, a student would need to re-enrol in the course when it is next offered. Carrying hours already obtained forward to the new course would be discussed with the Practicum Manager.
- Students will only have two opportunities to pass each course which contains practicum hours as part of the assessment (i.e. 930.615 Professional Practice A, 931.615 Professional Practice B, 932.730 Practicum A, 933.730 Practicum B). If extenuating circumstances arise a student may need to be withdrawn from a practicum. This is not considered a repeat practicum and does not attract any penalty. Extenuating circumstances are defined as unforeseeable events outside of the student's control (such as serious injury or ill-health, tangihanga/bereavement, civil emergency, or on compassionate grounds) and which will compromise the student's ability or capacity to meet the requirements of their practicum. Extenuating circumstances are verified and determined at the discretion of the Head of Programme and Practicum Manager and a timeframe for completion set in accordance with existing General Regulations.
- When there are outstanding practice hours at the end of 933.730 Practicum B, students will complete the Application for Extension of Practicum Hours form and complete their practice until the hours are met. This will require that they continue to participate in group supervision to support their ongoing reflective practice and make a payment of $240 to cover additional administrative costs.
- It is expected that all counselling work audio or video recorded as part of assessments in 904.715 Integrated Practice A, 905.715 Integrated Practice B, 932.730 Practicum A, and 933.730 Practicum B will be carried out in an official New Zealand language.
- Students who pause their practicum and placement for more than a semester prior to or in Year 2 and 3 are required to submit a 30-minute video presentation, towards the end of the semester prior to resuming practicum. The video will be reviewed by the Practicum Manager and Coordinator to assess the student's readiness for placement. Participating in a weekly process group, for the semester prior to resuming practicum, is also recommended.

Satisfactory Progress In Practicum

Please see the General Information and Regulations for more information.

- Bachelor of Counselling students must maintain good standing throughout their counselling practicum placements. To maintain good standing in practice, students must successfully demonstrate adherence to the New Zealand Association of Counsellors Code of Ethics and the Bachelor of Counselling Student Agreement and Code of Conduct at each practicum. Student progress is reviewed at the end of each practicum course by the relevant lecturer, in consultation with the Practicum Manager, Placement Liaison Person, Supervisor, and Head of Counselling as required. A student who does not maintain the required standard will be notified in writing and will have a debrief meeting with staff where they will be counselled towards the re-establishment of good standing in practice. The outcome of the meeting may result in the probation or suspension of practicum.
- Terms of probation will be set during the debrief meeting. Students on probation must show evidence of implementation of, and/or adherence to terms set during the debrief. If the required standing in practice is not achieved during the Probation the student will fail their practicum assessment. A failed practicum assessment will result in suspension from practicum with the opportunity to re-enrol the following year under conditions resulting from their debrief meeting.
- If the required standing in practice is not achieved during the probation or where the conduct violation is deemed of sufficient severity, the student will fail their practicum assessment. A failed practicum assessment will result in suspension from practicum with the opportunity to re-enrol the following year under conditions resulting from their debrief meeting.

Limit on Study Load

Please refer to the General Information and Regulations section of the Handbook for information about students' responsibilities regarding how their study load affects their eligibility for student loans and allowances.
This document is available online at
www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs

Student Support

Laidlaw's academic support is a part of the Student Experience team. Student Experience provides academic support for all students, including those who are studying Counselling. Their main goal is to help you succeed in your studies. If you need help with an assignment, essay writing, referencing, time management, exam preparation or how to study effectively then you should contact student support for assistance. They also hold workshops throughout the year to help you in your study.

Modes of Delivery

Mode 1	weekly daytime or evening lectures over one semester. May involve video conference delivery.
Mode 2	intensive blocks of teaching with required reading prior to and following the teaching session. May involve video conference delivery.
Mode 3	intensive blocks of teaching, with required reading and/or assignments prior to and following the teaching session, plus a group process workshop held weekly over the course of the semester (12 weeks).
Mode 4	intensive blocks of teaching plus practicum placement (which begins in the same semester as the block course, and ends when the required practicum hours have been completed).
Mode 5	Independent Learning - material will be provided on Moodle and students will study independently with the help of a tutor.

Some courses may not be on a strictly weekly basis.

Additional Costs

Personal Counselling

- All students enrolled in a Counselling programme are required to have personal counselling with a full member of either NZAC or NZCCA or an equivalent association approved by the Head of Programme.
- Students are required to have a minimum of ten hours in Year One, five hours in Year Two, and five hours in Year Three.
- It is expected that counselling will be individual. Students completing their personal counselling for 900.515 Foundations of Relational Practice A and 901.515 Foundations of Relational Practice B must complete all hours through in-person counselling only. Students completing personal counselling for 903.615 Relational Theories & Practice B and 905.715 Integrated Practice B may use either in-person or online counselling.
- Students can expect to pay up to $70–$100 per counselling session.
- An appropriate cost is $1,400 - $2,400.

Clinical Supervision

- Students who continue into Years 2 & 3 of the programme, and enrol in Professional Practice A & B, and Practicum A & B, are required to have up to 25 sessions of one hour with a supervisor, who has been approved by the Practicum Manager.
- Students can expect to pay up to $70–$100 per supervision hour.
- An approximate cost is $1,750 – $2,500.

Textbooks

- Students are encouraged, but not required, to purchase the key texts for each course.
- Texts typically cost between $25 and $50.
- There are approximately two key texts for each of the 22 courses.
- An approximate cost is $1,100 - $2,200.

Professional development courses

- As required, for example a school placement may require one or more specialist courses to support the unique aspects of the placement.
- An approximate cost is $100 - $200.

A full fees schedule can be found at www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees

Graduation

Please note that all students must apply to graduate. Please refer to the Laidlaw College for further details www.laidlaw.ac.nz/student-info/graduation/

Programme Requirements for Students Enrolling in the full BCouns Programme

The degree consists of a total of 360 credits, comprising courses in theological foundations, counselling theory and practice, and practicum. It is made up of 20 courses of 15 credits each and 2 courses of 30 credits each, at levels 5, 6, and 7.
Subject to NZQA approval, the courses will be:

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			

* 922.715 Special Focus in Counselling is a Distance Learning course. Other courses marked with an asterisk are campus-based courses but are also available via Distance Learning in 2026.

Programme Requirements for Graduates of Similar Counselling Programmes

Graduates who hold a counselling qualification from Laidlaw College or another institution (the minimum requirement is a 240-credit exit NQF Level 6 diploma) are generally required to complete the following in order to obtain the BCouns:
In exceptional circumstances an alternate programme of study may be approved by the Head of Counselling.

Theological Foundations	Counselling Theory and Practice	Practicum
115.515 C Reading the Bible **AND** **921.615 C** Theology of Suffering & Hope **OR** **401.515 C** Formation	**904.715** Integrated Practice A **905.715** Integrated Practice B **906.715** Personhood, Relationality & Faith **908.715** Counselling & Diversity **922.715** Special Focus in Counselling	**930.615** Professional Practice A **OR** **931.615** Professional Practice B **AND** **932.730** Practicum A **OR** **933.730** Practicum B
30 credits	75 credits	45 credits
TOTAL 150 CREDITS		

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to meet all entry requirements to the Bachelor of Counselling programme. In addition:

- If the previous counselling qualification was awarded more than five years ago the applicant must supply evidence that they have been practicing in the counselling or similar field since completing that qualification.

Should applicants want to apply for additional credit recognition from prior learning, they may apply for that through Laidlaw's cross-credit regulations.

Certificate of Proficiency

Students wishing to complete one or two courses under a CoP should apply for the CoP-C (Certificate of Proficiency (Counselling)) through the application portal. Upon successful completion of the course, the student is awarded a final grade and credited with the course. Please refer to the General Regulations section 2.4.5.1. Certificate of Proficiency for more information.

The following courses are available to be taken as a CoP (Certificate of Proficiency):

Available as COP (Certificate of Proficiency)
906.515 Personhood, Relationality & Faith **910.515** Relational Psychology A **857.515** Human Development **911.615** Relationships & Family **921.615** Theology of Suffering & Hope **914.615** Relational Psychology B **908.715** Counselling & Diversity **922.715** Special Focus in Counselling

Applicants who wish to enrol in the following courses as CoP may be approved to do so following a meeting with the Head of School or another appointed lecturer. Some pre-requisites will be required.

Available as COP (Certificate of Profiency) with HoS Approval
900.515 Foundations of Relational Practice A **901.515** Foundations of Relational Practice B (pre-requisite – 900.515) **902.615** Relational Theories and Practice A **903.615** Relational Theories and Practice B (pre-requisite – 902.615)

Course Descriptions

115.515 C READING THE BIBLE
MODE 1

To 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. To 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
MODE 1

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
MODE 1

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

900.515 FOUNDATIONS OF RELATIONAL PRACTICE A
MODE 3

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
MODE 3

PRE-REQUISITE: 900

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 such issues as anxiety and depression.

902.615 RELATIONAL THEORIES & PRACTICE A
MODE 3

PRE-REQUISITE: 901

Key to a relational approach to counselling is the therapeutic relationship, or encounter, during which counsellor and client create a relational canvas upon which the change and growth can be sketched and explored. This third course in the core counselling practice development stream expands the student's understanding of this encounter, and introduces narrative therapy as a means of assisting people to engage the social dimension of their lives. It explores the place of "story" in personal meaning-making, and advances skill development in a classroom and the group process workshop.

903.615 RELATIONAL THEORIES & PRACTICE (B)
MODE 3

PRE-REQUISITE: 902

People are formed through their relational encounters and the social discourses that guide these. Persons-in-relationship are also "storied" people – stories give shape and meaning to their worlds and experiences. The fourth course in the core counselling practice development stream develops students' knowledge of personhood and practice skills within a narrative therapeutic framework.

904.715 INTEGRATED PRACTICE A
MODE 3

PRE-REQUISITE: 903

This course draws together counselling theory and practice, theological anthropology and the person of the counsellor to develop an articulation of a meta-theory of counselling practice. Through exploration of different models of integration, with particular focus on incarnational and dialogical integration, a framework for his articulation will be developed. It combines practice, theoretical, and theological reflection with group-based learning, and enriches the student's ability to practice counselling in a personally and theoretically integrated way.

905.715 INTEGRATED PRACTICE B
MODE 3

PRE-REQUISITE: 904

The hope of the therapeutic relationship is the restoration of people's understanding of themselves as persons-in-relationship, and their freedom to love and trust in ways that are creative, adventurous, embracing, life-giving and expansive. The sixth course in the core counselling practice development stream helps students further develop and apply a meta-theory of integration that allows them to plumb key psychological and theological insights, personal experience and style, and practices drawn from a range of modalities. It combines practice with theoretical and theological reflection within a group process setting.

906.515 PERSONHOOD, RELATIONALITY & FAITH
MODE 1

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
MODE 1

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.

908.715 COUNSELLING & DIVERSITY
MODE 1

Understanding ourselves as "persons-in-relationship" requires us to view others as constituted by the interrelationships to which they contribute and by which they are formed. This course explores the impact of persons from different genders, cultures, ethnic and social groupings coming together, and the implications of these dynamics on people and their relationships, including the therapeutic encounter. Developing research skills, it combines theological and theoretical reflection with a study of historical developments in New Zealand society, and an engagement with contemporary social issues that impact our sense of identity.

910.515 RELATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY A
MODE 1

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

911.615 RELATIONSHIPS & FAMILY/WHĀNAU

MODE 1

Families/whānau, understood as unique and culturally-representative relational systems, provide a primary context for the formation of persons-in-relationship. This course combines theoretical and theological reflection in order to explore these family/Whānau dynamics and develop strategies for therapeutically engaging with people within the context of their family/Whānau relationships.

913.615 COUNSELLING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

MODE 2

PRE-REQUISITE: 901 CO-REQUISITE: 902 & 930

The aim of this course is to form professional counselling practices for working with children and young people in agency and school settings. The course is designed to complement Laidlaw's broad counsellor education programme's emphasis on relational personhood through providing a coherent understanding of child development, within family/whānau and wider social contexts. The course includes a strong practice development component in which different child counselling approaches, such as skills in working with adolescents and families, are taught and practiced. This course also gives an overview of ways of understanding and working with adolescents, and the professional and practice challenges as well as opportunities of school and agency settings.

914.615 RELATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY B

PRE-REQUISITE: 910

MODE 1

This course introduces a working knowledge of the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and explores its use and the effects of diagnostic labels that may foreclose on the possibility for change in relationships. The course develops counsellor understandings of a number of human experiences including those introduced in Relational Psychology A, relational abuses (including sexual), eating disorders, and addictions. The course seeks to assist students to integrate these understandings into their professional practice.

921.615 THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING & HOPE

MODE 1

This course reflects theologically on questions about suffering and hope by engaging with how Scripture and theology acknowledge human suffering, and looks at hope from biblical, theological, anthropological and relational perspectives. It also considers the God who stands with humans at the level of their despair, yet still offers hope. The course is relevant both to those who suffer and to those who, in a range of vocational contexts, stand in solidarity with those who suffer.

922.715 SPECIAL FOCUS IN COUNSELLING

MODE 5

PRE-REQUISITE: 930.615

This course provides an extended exploration of a specific area of counselling theory and practice complementing core curriculum requirements. Learners will critically integrate insights from counselling theory and practice in the specialist area with theological reflection.

930.615 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE A

MODE 4

CO-REQUISITE: 902

A well-integrated understanding of ethical counselling practice and the ability to reflect robustly on this is fundamental to offering clients the safety to encounter self and others. This course introduces professional practice and requires students to reflect on 30 hours of counselling practice in a practicum placement.

931.615 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE B

MODE 4

PRE-REQUISITE: 930.615 CO-REQUISITE: 903.615

Key to a relational approach to counselling is the therapeutic relationship, or encounter. The counsellor must develop the ability to critically reflect on their contribution to this therapeutic relationship. This course advances professional practice and requires students to reflect on 50 hours of counselling practice, and 8 hours of clinical supervision in a practicum placement.

932.730 PRACTICUM A

MODE 4

PRE-REQUISITE: 931 CO-REQUISITE: 904

Central to a relational approach to counselling is the therapeutic relationship. It is in the context of this relationship, and on the basis of the trust that has developed, that the counsellor is able to invite the client to an awareness of themselves and others as relationally constituted and impacted persons. This course requires students to experience 60 hours of practicum placement (plus preparation, reading and reporting), in order to integrate theoretical, theological and personal reflections, as well as development of skills and process.

933.730 PRACTICUM B

MODE 4

PRE-REQUISITE: 932 CO-REQUISITE: 904 OR 905

The counselling process is an opportunity for the counsellor and client, in a therapeutic relational encounter, to identify where disordered relationality has resulted in life-restricting behaviours. It is also an opportunity to identify where relationality has been linked to joy and hope, and how these might be restored and enhanced. This course requires students to experience a further 60 hours of practicum placement (plus preparation and reporting), and to critically reflect on their integration of theoretical and theological learning, as well as their development of skills and practical approaches.



FORMATION

The world needs leaders who are articulate and skilful but also people of conviction, courage, kindness and wisdom. The transformation of life and the formation of leaders is integral to our educational practice and our special character as an institution. Spiritual formation is integral to our undergraduate programmes.

Admission Requirements BCouns

General Admission Requirements

NCEA Level 3

To gain entry to Bachelor's degree programmes, candidates must have:

- University entrance
- NCEA Level 3
- 14 credits at Level 3 in each of the three approved subjects
- 10 Literacy credits at Level 2 or above, made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing.
- 10 Numeracy credits at Level 1 or above, made up of:

– co-requisite Level 1 Numeracy unit standard 32406 or Te Pāngarau unit standard 32412, or
–certain achievement standards.

NCEA Equivalence can include:

University Entrance, A or B Bursary.
Overseas equivalent qualifications, including IB and CIE, or HSC (Australia).
Other NZQA Level 3 certificates in similar disciplines to Laidlaw programmes.
Other NZQA level 4 certificates in a different discipline.
Evidence of level of academic achievement or a portfolio of work for homeschooled students*
Reference/support/documentation from employer*

NB. All equivalences must be documented.
*The applicant may need to sit assessment for entry.

Entry Assessment

For applicants who do not meet the above requirements, an Entry Assessment may be required.

Entry Assessment includes a literacy test. Dates for assessment will be advised.

Minimum Age

BCouns applicants

All BCouns applicants must be at least 20 years of age on or before the first day of semester in which the proposed programme of study is offered.

Special Admission

Possible study options can arise depending on the assessment result:

- An offer of entry to a level 5 programme
- Entry to Bachelor of Counselling (if appropriate).

English Language Requirements

Applicants must meet both the Academic and English language requirements for the programmes. In addition to the requirements outlined **applicants for whom English is not their first language** must use one of the following methods to demonstrate that they have the required level of English proficiency to study in New Zealand:

- achieved NCEA level 3 and has met New Zealand university entrance requirements; or
- awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma or Cambridge A-level qualification for which the teaching and assessment was conducted in English; or
- awarded the Cambridge Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) or the Trinity College London Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL); or
- completed all primary education (being the equivalent of New Zealand primary school years 1 to 8) and at least three years of secondary education (being the equivalent of three years from New Zealand secondary school years 9 to 13) at schools in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States where the student was taught using English as the language of instruction; or
- completed at least five years of secondary education (being the equivalent of New Zealand secondary school years 9 to 13) at schools in one of the countries listed in rule 22.5 where the student was taught using English as the language of instruction; or
- been awarded a Bachelor's degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Bachelor Honours Degree, Post-graduate Certificate, Post-graduate Diploma, Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree with English as the language of instruction from a tertiary education provider from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United Kingdom or the United States.
- achieved, within the two years preceding the start date of the programme in which the student is enrolled, one of the internationally recognised proficiency test outcomes specified below for the level of the programme in which the student is enrolling.

- International English Language Testing System (Academic) (IELTS) higher than 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in all individual bands
- Cambridge English Exams: C2 Proficiency (CPE), C1 Advanced (CAE), Cambridge English Exams, B2 First (FCE): minimum of 176 across all bands (listening, reading, writing, speaking and total overall)
- International English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications by City and Guilds (IESOL)
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) (PToE)
- New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL)
- Testing of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) International based Test (iBT) score of 79 (with a writing score of 21)
- equivalent (see https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/rules-fees-policies/nzqa-rules/approval-recognition-and-accreditation/#e10518).

A waiver for the English language test may be granted:

- For those applicants who have an undergraduate or higher qualification gained from: New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United Kingdom or the United States of America.
- For those who have studied in NZ for a minimum of two years at secondary school and gained either a) eight, level 2 NCEA University Entrance literacy credits (4 credits in reading and 4 credits in writing) gained prior to 2014 or b) ten, level 2 NCEA University Entrance Literacy credits (5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing).
- For long-term residents (10+ years) in New Zealand, or another English-speaking country, who are able to demonstrate English language competency appropriate to the desired level of study. Competency must be documented.

Professional References

Applicants must seek NZQA's International Qualification Assessment (IQA) evaluation of their non-NZ (overseas) qualifications prior to applying.

Applicants are required to submit written references from two referees. Referees should not be a close friend or relation and should be able to answer questions about the applicant in a ministry and/or professional capacity.

Police Clearance

It is a condition of enrolment that students complete a Police Vetting Service Request and Consent form as part of their application. International applicants must provide a police clearance certificate from their country of citizenship AND for any country in which they have lived for more than a 12-month period in the last 10 years. This police clearance should be less than 6 months old if presented at the time of application.

Selection Interview

All applicants who have successfully completed the first stage of the application process will be invited to attend a group interview and, if required, a further interview by a panel of two selectors.

Application and Selection Procedures BCouns

Reselection Procedure for Entry into the Practicum-related courses of the BCouns

"Practicum-related courses" include those courses that contain practicum hours as part of the assessments, and those identified as co- or pre-requisites of these courseses. To complete Year One of the BCouns and successfully transition into the Practicum-related courses of the BCouns programme, a student will be required to satisfactorily fulfil the following criteria:

1. Satisfactory completion of all Year One requirements, including:
   - 10 hours of personal counselling.
   - At least 75 credits of counselling theory and practice courses (which must include 900.515 Foundations of Relational Practice A and 901.515 Foundations of Relational Practice B) [with at least a B- in the Video and Lecturer Interview assessment], and.
2. Assessment in an interview, as being capable of successfully completing all components of the BCouns programme.
3. A police check successfully completed with satisfactory results.
4. Current or potential access to a supervisor who meets the requirements as outlined in the practicum booklet.

Students must be able to demonstrate during their assessment interview that they have been developing in areas of personal growth, including the following:

- Communication skills.
- Willingness to learn and receive personal feedback in a non-defensive manner.
- Attitudes of empathy, positive regard and genuineness.
- Integrated personal maturity appropriate for someone practicing as a counsellor.
- Ability to challenge clients within the context of a caring and respectful relationship.
- Respect for individual gender, socio-economic and ethnic differences.

Note: Students may be requested to repeat courses, undertake additional counselling, or complete other courses at the request of Laidlaw College if required to ensure personal, professional and academic readiness. Students have only three opportunities to pass reslection to enter the Practicum-related courses.

Reselection Procedure for Entry into Year Three of the BCouns

Entry into Year Three is based on successful completion of learning requirements for Year Two. This includes ongoing personal counselling, a minimum of 5 hours in Year Two. Students must also meet the following criteria:

1. Completion of 902.615 Relational Theories and Practice A and 903.615 Relational Theories and Practice B, plus a further 30 credits of counselling theory and practice courses and completion of 15 credits of theological foundations
2. Practicum work: 930.615 Professional Practice A must be completed. If 931.615 Professional Practice B is not completed, then an extension must be applied for and approved before acceptance to enter Year Three is given.

General Information

Bicultural Understanding

Laidlaw College believes strongly in the fostering of bicultural understanding as part of its affirmation of the implications of the Treaty of Waitangi. Students studying the Bachelor of Counselling must include the Laidlaw-arranged Marae visit in their programme of study. This is a requirement for counselling students.

In preparation for the Marae visit, students attend a series of classes designed to equip them with a basic understanding of Te Reo and Tikanga, in order that they can participate in the formal protocols of the marae. This is a structured part of the 907.515 Bicultural Relationships course.

Course Numbering and Credit System

The Laidlaw course numbering system follows this pattern:

- The first digit indicates the field of study (e.g. 1 = Biblical Studies, 8 = Education, 9 = Counselling).
- The second and third digits further define the level and/or subject area (e.g. 120 = Old Testament).
- The first digit after the decimal point indicates the National Qualifications Framework level.
- The second and third digits after the decimal point indicate the credit value of the course (e.g. 15 = 15 credits, 30 = 30 credits).
- One credit is equivalent to ten hours of learning. A 15-credit course = 150 hours of learning.

General Information and Regulations

General Information and regulations governing academic life at Laidlaw College can be viewed online at www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs

Courses offered in 2026

YEAR 1	
115.515 C	Reading the Bible
401.515 C	Formation
857.515 C	Human Development
900.515	Foundations of Relational Practice A
901.515	Foundations of Relational Practice B
906.515	Personhood, Relationality & Faith
907.515	Bicultural Relationships
910.515	Relational Psychology A

YEAR 2	
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
921.615	Theology of Suffering & Hope
930.615	Professional Practice A
931.615	Professional Practice B

YEAR 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

EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF

Want to find out more?

Plan a Visit

There's no better way to find out what Laidlaw College is like, than to see it for yourself! Come and be a "Student for a Day" on any of our campuses and experience firsthand what our classes, staff and great community are like. We'd love to meet you!
To become a "Student for a Day", please complete this form https://laidlaw.typeform.com/StudentForADay or give us a call on 0800 999 777.

Check out our website

The Laidlaw website was designed especially for potential students. You will find some great audio-visual content and all the information you need about our programmes, staff, campuses and facilities. You can also visit our Facebook page to find out what's happening at Laidlaw College on a day-to-day basis.

Attend Events on Campus

We frequently host events that are open to the public, so if you live in Auckland or Christchurch, this is a great way to begin participating in College life. For those who can't be with us in person, we often film events or interviews with visiting scholars. Keep an eye on the website and our Facebook page to find out about upcoming events and recently uploaded videos.

Ready to Apply?

If you've decided on a programme of study and you're ready to apply, you can apply online by visiting www.laidlaw.ac.nz

For information about fees, please see the full Fee Schedule online at www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees
If you still have questions and would like to talk to someone, please contact us by calling 0800 999 777 or email info@laidlaw.ac.nz.



GRADUATION

The graduation ceremony is the climax of our academic year. Together we give thanks to God, celebrate student achievement and make an ongoing commitment to partner with graduates as, through their work and contribution to society, they seek to bring renewal to communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and nations around the world.



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