



INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF BIBLICAL COUNSELORS  
IFBC

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the difference between a certification program and a licensure program?**

There are two distinct differences between a certification program and a licensure program. A *licensure program* is a program where the program's requirements are outlined by statute (either federal or state). Completing the licensure program grants the person the authority to practice under that statute in that specific area. Due to the authoritative nature of licensure the program, it carries with it powers governing authorities can execute that (e.g., police) if one practice without meeting the licensure requirements. A *certification program* is a process where the program's requirements are outlined by a person or aboard. Completing the certification program grants the person grants approval or recognition that this person has met all the specific qualifications to that organization. IFBC is *not* a licensure program. IFBC is a certification program that seeks to train and equip people to learn the Biblical counseling process's basic skills.

- **What is IFBC's stance on psychology?**

IFBC teaches that psychology is not a worldview but is a discipline or a field of study that involves observing the nature and the substance and proper interaction of humankind. IFBC believes that the Scriptures inform humanity about the nature and essence of humanity and thus govern over the discipline of psychology. Because of IFBC's distinctives, we observe a material quality (i.e., body) and immaterial quality (i.e., spirit) to humanity. IFBC also follows that theoretical orientations concerning human interaction, when examined under the authority of Scripture, may be helpful. However, IFBC recognizes that theories are human-made and therefore are not ultimately authoritative in this discipline.

- **What are the IFBC distinctives?**

There are four distinctives found in IFBC. 1) IFBC certification focuses on the consistent literal, historical, and grammatical *method* of reading the Scriptures to address humankind's problems. 2) IFBC certification program seeks to train

pastors, teachers, and lay workers within the local church and equip licensed counselors to use the Scriptures within their therapeutic practice. 3) IFBC promotes a Biblio-centric psychology and repudiates the secular-humanistic outlook found in psychology. 4) IFBC promotes a grace-based approach to the counseling process, focusing on the image of God and one's identity in Christ. IFBC is committed to training people from all counseling backgrounds to counsel from a Biblical perspective inside and outside the local church.

- **Why are there three phases for IFBC certification?**

The first phase of IFBC certification is concerned with building and establishing a proper Biblical philosophy and ethic regarding counseling. The second phase of IFBC certification emphasizes the use of the skills in an internship. It outlines the counselor's Biblical positions and how the counselor would use the Scriptures to address some of the common problems found in the world. The last phase is to meet with either the entire council or one of the council members for an interview. These phases ensure that one has either built or has been reinforced with the Biblical perspective; one has had the opportunity to use this information and skill in an internship and formally explain their Biblical philosophy and articulate it to others. As a result, the certification is comprehensive for the person.

- **Why is it expensive to complete an IFBC certification?**

There are several options to complete an IFBC certification. One can pay 450.00 in one lump sum for the entire certification courses. If one class was \$10.00 per Core (there are six lectures in each Core), each Core's price is \$60.00. There are **nine** courses (this is in addition to the internship and the project). If one were to charge each course, the price itself would be \$540.00 in total (**which is a \$90.00 difference from the actual price!**). There is also an option to pay IFBC certification payments (**\$45.00 per month** for ten (10) months). Again, this payment plan is based upon the \$450.00 dollar payment.

- **How long will it take to complete the IFBC certification?**

There are seven courses in phase one, with each Core containing six classes (about 1 hour of teaching). There is also reading and one-page papers to write in the class, as well as the assessments. Phase two requires an internship as well as the IFBC project. It is possible to finish this certification in about 6-9 months.

- **How does the internship work?**

Suppose you are working in a local fellowship or a professional counselor working at an agency or a private practice. In that case, you will continue to see counselees/clients in your ministry or business. If you are not in a local

fellowship or a private practice, you will have to find a place to volunteer your time and use your skills, and you will record your hours on the sheets provided by the internship core course. Also, you will watch three (3) 1-hour videos to have you think about your practice of counseling Biblically.

- **How does the IFBC panel process work?**

After you are done completing your internship and project, An IFBC Council Leader will contact you to set up an interview. You will be interviewed by one of the council leaders of IFBC. Once the interview is completed, the IFBC interviewer will reach out to the IFBC council to review your interview. The IFBC council will discuss your process and will vote to see if you are accepted into IFBC. You will be contacted by email with an official letter to acknowledge your membership. Several weeks after this, you will receive an official certificate from IFBC in the mail.

- **What happens after IFBC certification?**

A person who completes IFBC certification will have three things: 1) a comprehensive Biblical perspective on the discipline of psychology and, by extension, counseling, 2) to have the basic skills to connect with counselees effectively and be able to assess and serve them properly. 3) to articulate a consistent counseling philosophy that endorses a Biblical perspective, 4) to know necessary to address various challenges and use the Scriptures implicitly and explicitly in the counseling process. The IFBC certification will be of great benefit to a local fellowship in service of leadership, setting up a Biblical counseling ministry in the local fellowship or community, or being able to utilize the Scriptures in your private practice.