



Fulfilling the Great Commission does not mean that each of us is called to pack up our belongings and move to another part of the world. Indeed, some are called to that task—but all of us can and should be fulfilling Christ’s commission in our own hometowns as well. Sharing the gospel and effectively bringing the truth of God’s Word to bear in the lives of our families, friends, church members, neighbors, coworkers, peers, and other people in our communities are duties we should be willing to carry out if we are serious about faithfully filling the office of believer. Many of us, if we are honest, feel underequipped for this task. The IRBC Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling seeks to help equip reformed believers to more effectively minister to those God has placed in the landscapes of their lives. We especially hope to help you recognize various problems that people experience and to learn to apply Scriptural principles in light of such problems. This course is different from other courses within the wonderful field of Biblical Counseling in that we train our students to view counselees and address their problems in a comprehensive manner by use of our 7 Dominant Domain model. If your heart is burdened for the multitude of confused, heavily burdened, anxious, depressed, and weary people, then this course is for you. Join us in our desire to minister to the suffering and hopeless with the light of God’s truth in this increasingly dark world in which we live.

When?

Course Begins: September 2025

Duration of Course: Seminars will be conducted monthly on Thursdays from 7-9pm through April 2026. Most lectures will be viewed online. Internet access required.

Registration Deadline: August 11, 2025

Where?

Course Host Church:

Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

Course Location:

2965 Leonard St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

How?

Register Online at: IRBC.net

(Top-most menu, “Basic Training Course”)

Other Details:

Tuition Cost (includes textbook/website access/additional materials):

\$300.00

Students are also responsible for purchasing their own copies of *How People Change* (Timothy S. Lane and Paul David Tripp) and *The Gospel for Disordered Lives* (Jones, Kellen, Green).

Spouse tuition assistance available upon request if needed (subject to availability).

Contact Us: (616) 209-2354 / Barb@IRBC.net

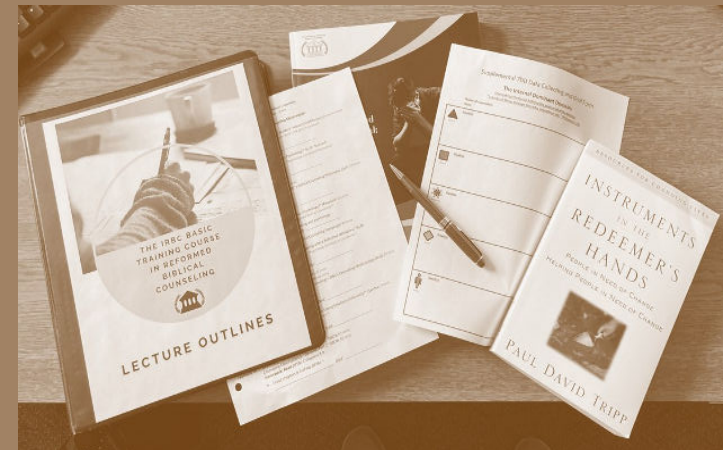
The IRBC Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling

We’ve all been commissioned...

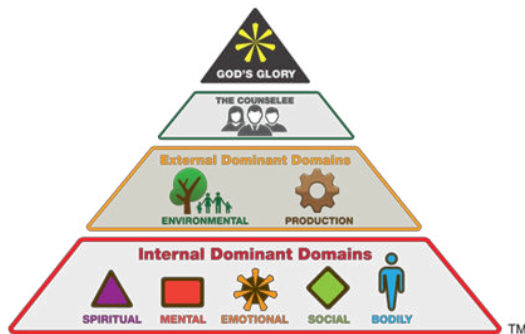
...join us in the task.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



**PURITAN REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2025-2026**



7 Dominant Domains

While IRBC's model of counseling takes into account the fact that a large number of counseling problems are rooted in personal, sinful behaviors (in the *Spiritual Domain*) and severe, organic problems (such as organ damage and related dysfunctions in the *Bodily Domain*), we believe that counselors are wise to evaluate five other areas as well. Thus, we speak of the *7 Dominant Domains of Origin for Human Problems™*:

The Spiritual Domain™

The Mental Domain™

The Emotional Domain™

The Social Domain™

The Bodily Domain™

The Environmental Domain™

The Production Domain™

After identifying variables within the domains which have contributed to counselees' problems, God's truth is then practically applied in such a way as to minister to them holistically.

What to Expect: This is an eight month course which is divided into two semesters. During the first semester, you will watch recorded lectures delivered by Dr. Jim Newheiser (of the Institute



for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship). During the second semester, students will watch recorded lectures delivered by Dr. Doll and other IRBC speakers;

you will also watch counseling observation videos, so that you can "get a feel" for what a Biblical counseling session is like. While watching those observation sessions, students are taught to take notes in a 7DD Data Collecting and Goal Form, in order to practice both note-taking skills and thinking comprehensively about the problems people experience. You will meet monthly for discussion.



To fulfill the requirements for the course, you will need to attend the monthly seminars, wherein you will discuss relevant counseling topics. Outside of class, you will have weekly homework assignments that consist of reading assigned chapters of books or articles, and viewing assigned lectures online. You will need internet access.



Upon Course Completion: Fulfilling the requirements for the course will result in receiving a *Certificate of*

Completion at a certificate awarding ceremony. While this certificate is not a counseling credential, it does fulfill the basic training and observation requirements needed for Phase 1 of the IRBC certification process. Phases 2 and 3 involve taking theology and counseling exams, and engaging in 50 hours of supervised counseling.

Range of Topics Considered in the Course:

Psychology and Christian Counseling

Peacemaking

Anger

Abuse

Depression

Worry / Anxiety / Fear

Solving Marriage Problems

Parenting / Dealing with Rebellious Teens

Substance Abuse

Digital Technology Overuse

Knowing God's Will

Student Comments about the Course:

—"This program was extremely insightful and helpful to a college student like me. Many of the issues addressed are relevant to me and people and situations I interact with on a daily basis."

—"Extremely well done. Exceeded expectations."

—"The Lord used this course to confront me about sinful attitudes that I've struggled with my whole life."