



Bachelor of Psychology and Catholic Pastoral Family Ministry

Program Overview

The Bachelor of Psychology and Catholic Pastoral Family Ministry at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is a comprehensive educational proposal that unites the Christian tradition of marriage and family (*Ecclesia Domestica*) with the science of psychology and the professional accompaniment of relational and family dynamics.

In the biblical and ecclesial tradition, the family is the vital cell of society and the sanctuary of life, deserving special care and attention as a fundamental path for human and spiritual development.

This vocation for the care of human relationships is renewed in the contemporary context through psychology — an academic and professional discipline dedicated to understanding human behavior, promoting mental well-being, and healing emotional bonds.

The Bachelor of Psychology and Catholic Pastoral Family Ministry at UNICA offers interdisciplinary formation that integrates psychological sciences, moral theology, family sociology, and counseling, preparing leaders capable of:

- Understanding individual, marital, and family dynamics from a Christian and human perspective.
- Intervening in relational issues, conflicts, and family crises with ethical sensitivity and methodological rigor.
- Supporting processes of family and marital strengthening by combining psychological science with Christian anthropology.
- Leading education, prevention, and psychological intervention programs in local and global contexts.

Thanks to its virtual and blended modality, the program is accessible to students from diverse backgrounds, who may carry out clinical and community practices in their regions or in associated institutions. Its bilingual offer (Spanish and English) opens doors to serve multicultural communities and international environments.

Through this program, UNICA reaffirms its mission to the Church and society: to form Christian leaders who bear witness to the truth of love, in the spirit of the Gospel and the Social Doctrine of the Church.



Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution inspired by the Christian-Catholic tradition, committed to integral formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, promotes spiritual life, and prepares students for intellectual, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Mission

To form Christian leaders specializing in marriage and family studies, with academic, ethical, pastoral, and spiritual competencies — prepared to accompany individuals and families, promote mental health, and foster integral human development in fidelity to the Church's evangelizing mission.

Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in the formation of psychologists and family therapists, with a transformative impact on the promotion of life, marital stability, healing, and human dignity across the Americas and beyond.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Technical Program Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor of Psychology and Catholic Pastoral Family Ministry
Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)



Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive clinical workshops, and psychological/community practices)
Language Options	Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student selection)
Degree Awarded	Bachelor of Psychology and Catholic Pastoral Family Ministry — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- Recognized High School Diploma or equivalent (GED).
- Transcript / academic record from secondary education.
- Personal essay (motivation letter and vocational discernment toward psychology and family studies).
- Admission interview (academic and vocational/clinical).
- Pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Proof of language proficiency according to selected modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current migration and visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation standards.

Educational Purpose

To form Christian leaders specializing in marriage and family studies, with solid scientific, ethical, and theological preparation, capable of promoting psychological well-being, family health, and relational transformation from a Christian and humanistic perspective.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the Bachelor of Psychology and Catholic Pastoral Family Ministry graduate will be able to:

- Critically analyze psychological and sociological theories applied to family and marital dynamics.
- Apply brief therapy and counseling methodologies in contexts of marital and family crisis.
- Integrate biblical, theological, and social doctrine foundations into professional practice.
- Design and lead prevention and education programs for marital and family life.



- Promote communication, reconciliation, and parenting skills development.
- Develop diagnostic and counseling skills in contexts of psychological vulnerability.
- Utilize digital and technological tools for psychological assessment and teletherapy.
- Research and evaluate psychological intervention models with a humanistic and Christian focus.

Competencies

- Generic: Critical thinking, oral and written communication, social leadership, teamwork, intercultural sensitivity, digital competence.
- Specific: Psychological diagnosis, marital counseling, systemic family therapy, crisis intervention, psychological evaluation, professional ethics, social doctrine of the Church, family prevention and education.

Language Options and Proficiency Requirements

The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. Language certification requirements are equivalent to those of other programs (TOEFL/IELTS, DELE, or institutional testing).

Curriculum by Semester (8 semesters — 160 credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Description	Prerequisites
1	PSI-101	Introduction to Psychology and Family	6	Historical, conceptual, and anthropological foundations of the person and the family.	None
	PSI-102	Foundations of Theology and Family Morality	6	Theological and ethical principles on marriage and sexuality.	None
	PSI-103	General Psychology and Personality Theories	4	Psychological bases of behavior and major theoretical approaches.	None
	PSI-104	Scientific Writing and Study Methods	4	Writing, reasoning, and communication of findings in psychology.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
2	PSI-201	Sociology of the Family and Social Structures	6	Study of family within its social and cultural contexts.	None
	PSI-202	History of Christian Anthropology and Human Love	6	Evolution of the concept of personhood and love in Christian tradition.	PSI-101
	PSI-203	General Psychopathology	4	Classification and understanding of mental disorders.	PSI-103
	PSI-204	Applied Statistics for Psychological Research	4	Mathematical tools for data analysis in psychology.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
3	PSI-301	Human Development and Family Life Cycle Psychology	6	Growth processes and stages of the family life cycle.	PSI-101



	PSI-302	Bioethics and Life Issues	6	Ethical principles applied to the beginning, development, and end of life.	PSI-102
	PSI-303	Theories and Techniques of Individual Counseling	4	Foundations of the therapeutic relationship and individual intervention tools.	PSI-103
	PSI-304	Family Ministry and Accompaniment	4	Principles of pastoral action and couple accompaniment.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
4	PSI-401	Clinical Evaluation and Psychodiagnostics	6	Instruments and methods for psychological assessment and diagnosis.	PSI-301
	PSI-402	Theology of Marriage and Covenant	6	In-depth study of the sacramental theology of marriage.	PSI-102
	PSI-403	Crisis Intervention and Grief Therapy	4	Support and resolution tools for emergency and loss situations.	PSI-103
	PSI-404	General Elective I	4	Elective course in humanities or social sciences.	As applicable
		Total Credits:	20		
5	PSI-501	Systemic Family Therapy	6	Design, implementation, and evaluation of systemic-based interventions.	PSI-301
	PSI-502	Prevention and Education for Family Life	6	Preventive actions in risk contexts and promotion of marital skills.	PSI-304
	PSI-503	Public Policy and Family Legislation	4	Analysis of policies and laws concerning childhood, marriage, and well-being.	PSI-201
	PSI-504	Clinical Practice I (Supervised)	4	First field experience in counseling and family care.	PSI-301
		Total Credits:	20		
6	PSI-601	Psychological Research Methodology	6	Design and implementation of research in psychology.	PSI-204
	PSI-602	Social Doctrine of the Church (and Life)	6	In-depth study of the Church's social teaching applied to life.	PSI-102
	PSI-603	Childhood and Adolescent Psychopathology	4	Mental and emotional disorders in early ages.	PSI-403
	PSI-604	Clinical Practice II (Intensive)	4	Intensive therapy experience with couples and families.	PSI-504
		Total Credits:	20		
7	PSI-701	Psychological Intervention in Marital Conflicts	6	Advanced strategies for mediation and couple conflict resolution.	PSI-301
	PSI-702	Ecumenism and the Family in Interreligious Dialogue	6	Perspectives on family within other faith traditions and joint action.	PSI-202
	PSI-703	Leadership and Entrepreneurship in Psychology	4	Competencies for managing clinics and mental health programs.	PSI-502
	PSI-704	Advanced Elective in Clinical Psychology	4	Specialized course in a clinical intervention area.	As applicable
		Total Credits:	20		
8	PSI-801	Integrative Seminar and Final Thesis	10	Development and defense of an applied research or thesis project.	PSI-601
	PSI-802	Professional Ethics and Psychological Deontology	6	Ethical principles and legal responsibility in psychological practice.	PSI-302
	PSI-803	Healing and Spiritual Accompaniment	4	Integration strategies of faith and psychology in therapy.	PSI-502
		Total Credits:	20		



Methodology and Evaluation

- Blended methodology: Synchronous/asynchronous classes, simulated clinical workshops, intensive seminars, and field practices in counseling and family service centers.
- Continuous evaluation: Clinical case studies, diagnostic reports, prevention projects, supervised practices, applied research, and thesis defense.
- In the bilingual modality, social and linguistic competencies will be evaluated in both languages.