Cornerstone
Learn to change the world

Brochure 2026/2027

Higher Certificate in Community Counselling

YOUR STORY

Do you want to live a life of purpose? Do you worry about the state of the world? Do you genuinely want to make a difference in the lives of others? Are you looking for more than just a qualification? Is leaving a lasting legacy important to you? We would have much in common if you answered yes to any of these questions.

Cornerstone is the institution to help you realise your life's purpose and grow your ambition. While doing so, you will develop and nurture the values you share with Cornerstone Institute, which will assist you in taking your place in a vibrant and thriving economy. Together, we will learn to change the world.

We believe in education with a purpose. At the heart of our educational philosophy is the firm belief that education leads to transformation. Cornerstone Institute has been generating knowledge that benefits humanity since 1970. We began with two black theology students who were barred from attending university because of the colour of their skin. Today, hundreds of Cornerstone graduates from all walks of life are making a difference around the globe.

A MESSAGE FROM FACULTY

Together we can learn to change the world

At Cornerstone Institute, our motto is: Learn to change the world. It's a very simple sentence, but to us, it carries significant meaning.

The obvious meaning is: Learn how to change the world. And that is true because, at Cornerstone, you will learn new knowledge and skills that will equip you to enter the new world of work and build a career that will positively impact society.

The second meaning is the less obvious but, the more important one: To change the world, learn. We believe you can only change the world if you continue learning. To learn is to grow – first, as a person in connection with other human beings. It is a lifelong journey that may include but by far transcends formal studies and qualifications. As we travel this road with other people who share different parts of our journey, we learn from them, and they learn from us.

Will any single individual ever change the entire world? Probably not! But you can change your world. And we would love to be part of that journey.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY COUNSELLING

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Higher Certificate in Community Counselling, designed at NQF level 5, is to train and equip lay counsellors to be knowledgeable and effective in making a difference in the mental health and well-being of individuals in a variety of settings, including churches, schools, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and faith-based organisations (FBOs).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Higher Certificate in Community Counselling is targeted at individuals who are looking to find career paths in NGOs in Psychology and Community Development related fields or work as lay counsellors in various settings.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

All programmes are accredited by the Council on Higher Education and registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training. Cornerstone Institute (RF) NPC is registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training as a Private Higher Education Institution under the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997. Registration Certificate No. 2001/ HE08/006.

- Higher Certificate in Community Counselling: Contact mode. Registered by the DHET. Accredited by the CHE as a 120-credit learning programme for higher education at NQF level 5. SAQA ID: 96413. CHE reference: H/PRO96/ K002CAN

LEGAL STATUS

Cornerstone Institute is a not-for-profit company (NPC); registration number 2004/025078/08.

MODE OF DELIVERY

*NOTE THAT 'CONTACT MODE' MEANS ON-CAMPUS STUDIES, AND 'DISTANCE MODE' MEANS ONLINE STUDIES.

LANGUAGE POLICY

All classes and communication with students, staff, and the public are in English, except where otherwise required in modules based on other languages.

DISCLAIMER

We recommend that you look at the sections of the Cornerstone Yearbook for more detail relevant to these courses, or make contact with our admissions personnel if you have any additional queries.

Higher Certificate in Community Counselling
(Minimum 1 year; maximum 3 years; 126 credits; NQF 5)
Mode of delivery: Distance (as per CHE Concession)

Contact mode will be available from Semester 2, subject to meeting the minimum student enrolment requirements.

Admission requirements

- A National Senior Certificate or National Certificate Vocational (certificate pass)
- A Matriculation Certificate or equivalent
- Mature age of 45 years can be admitted, determined by the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) portfolio of evidence provided

Programme-specific outcomes

Students who have completed the qualification should be able to:

- Apply effective leadership and management principles in community development projects.
- Explain and evaluate community development challenges, and community development ap proaches to rural and urban poverty among poor and marginalised communities.
- Identify key role players and resources in communities and identify strategies for mobilising com munities and resources.
- Identify and apply best-practice community participatory development methods for specific de velopment projects facilitate development initiatives and support community development projects.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation processes and frameworks for community project analysis, evaluation and impact assessment.

For a description of each module, please refer to the "Module Descriptions" section in the Yearbook, available on our website.

www.cornerstone.ac.za

Disclaimer for potential low enrolments per programme

If the required number is not reached by the end of the registration period, the programme will only receive new students in the next registration period. New students already registered for the programme will be advised on available options, and paid fees will be refunded where applicable. Students who have already completed one or more semesters will not be affected.

LEARN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION