

Recruitment, Admission, Retention, and Graduation Policies

Recruitment

Council for Relationships seeks to attract the best-qualified candidates who support the mission of the Council and who represent the organization's commitment to excellence through diversity. The Council is committed to equal opportunity and follows recruitment and selection practices that comply with all applicable employment laws. To this end, the Council recruits, admits, hires, trains, evaluates, disciplines, promotes, retains and dismisses individuals without discrimination based on color, race, gender, relationship status, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, disability, health status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, religious and spiritual beliefs and/or affiliations, veteran status, or age.

Admission Requirements

Mental Health Professional Track

1. A minimum of a master's degree in an appropriate specialty, such as clinical psychology, social work, medicine, counseling or psychiatric nursing.
2. A minimum of one year, supervised experience in the practice of individual, couple, or family therapy.
3. A clearly defined set of professional goals.

Clergy Track

1. A minimum of a Master of Divinity or Master of Hebrew Letters degree or equivalent from an approved theological seminary or rabbinical school.
2. A minimum of two years of experience.
3. A clearly defined set of professional goals.

1. The following application materials must be completed and submitted:

- a) application form
- b) biographical essay
- c) three letters of reference
- d) academic transcripts and
- e) application fee (waived for those who apply online).

2. Applicants must have prior clinical experience through their graduate school training in a mental health or related discipline or pastoral care experience in their ministries.

3. Applicants must be screened for readiness to engage in clinical practice by the director of the program in an admission interview. This interview assesses personal maturity, self-awareness, interpersonal comfort, and familiarity with the therapeutic process.

Applications will be accepted until July 31st for program entry in the fall term. Once completed applications are received, face to face interviews are scheduled with the Program Director. Notification of admission will be made in writing within four weeks of a final interview. Applicants who request to defer admission will be accepted into the program for the next academic year. Beyond that time an applicant must resubmit the application materials. Enrollment is official upon receipt of requested tuition deposit.

Accepted students are expected to adhere to the Council's policies on diversity, inclusion, ethics, and anti-discriminatory codes of conduct. Students are also expected to maintain professional and academic standards as described in the student handbook.

Retention Policy

The Program Director develops a program plan with each student in order to cultivate alignment between student goals and priorities and the program offerings. These program plans will be reviewed and updated at least annually with each student.

The Director will collaboratively monitor progress towards the successful completion of those plans with students, their supervisors and the faculty. Monitoring will occur through regular review of student progress in coursework and clinical practice, utilizing formal and informal assessment data. Students are encouraged to approach faculty, supervisors and administrators if they ever have concerns about their progress. Faculty members are available after class, and all students have access to email addresses and telephone numbers for all Program staff, who are all available for discussion with students.

The Post Graduate Program maintains a commitment to support and work with our students once they have been admitted to the Program. Program faculty, supervisors and administrators will actively address delays or disruptions in student progress. This will range from informal discussions to the utilization of the remediation processes identified in the Remediation and Dismissal Policy.

If life circumstances change, if a student is identified by faculty or supervisors as having 1) significant interpersonal difficulties within the program that are disruptive to the program, and/or 2) poor performance in their academic functioning or their clinical work, and/or 3) ongoing lack of compliance with administrative requirements, the issue will first be discussed with the student's supervisor. If the difficulty cannot be adequately addressed through the supervisory process, a meeting between the student and the Program Director will be scheduled. The goal of such a meeting is to identify the options that will permit the student to complete the program, if possible.

Graduation Requirements

1. Successful completion of 15 required courses and 4 mini-courses with a grade of C or better and an overall rating of 3 or better on the achievement of course objectives.
2. Fulfillment of at least 500 face-to-face clinical hours.
3. Successful attainment of clinical skills within the practice of MFT with an average rating of 3.5 or better on supervision evaluation forms.
4. Tuition and fees paid in full.
5. Closing of all student clinical files pursuant to CFR requirements.

Council for Relationships reserves the right to withhold academic transcripts and certificates if evidence of willful misconduct or falsified information is found. The Council will not withhold graduation rights to individuals based on color, race, gender, relationship status, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, disability, health status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, religious and spiritual beliefs and/or affiliations, veteran status, or age.