

Professional Organizations
and the CRPO
information session

- This presentation can be found at:
- <http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/counselling/downloads/documents>

Professional Organizations

- AAMFT, CAMFT, OAMFT, OACCCPP, etc. are all professional organizations instituted to protect the provider and offer services and training at better rates, and present a united voice for Marriage and Family Therapists and other health care providers.
- I am going to talk about three today, AAMFT, OAMFT and CAMFT.

Steps towards AAMFT Clinical Fellow Designation

AAMFT

- American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy
- Provides a unified voice for many marriage and family therapists and is somewhat known internationally.

Membership Categories

- Student
- Pre-Clinical Fellow
- Clinical Fellow

Clinical Fellow Membership

Evaluative Requirements

- Educational Requirements: Master or doctorate degree from an educational institution **accredited by** the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).
- Or a master's or doctoral degree in a related mental health field and substantially equivalent course of study from a regionally accredited educational institution or post-graduate training institute accepted by COAMFTE.

- Tyndale is not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
- Tyndale graduates must apply under the **“evaluative track”**
- Each course must be approved and categorized by AAMFT
- Keep a permanent copy of every syllabus of every counselling course
- Keep a copy of all AAMFT correspondence

Curriculum Requirements

- **Marriage and Family Studies** (a minimum of three courses required)
 - 1. Family Systems Theory**
 - 2. Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Marriage and Family Therapy**
 - 3. Gender and Socioeconomic Perspectives in Marriage and Family Therapy**

- **Marriage and Family Therapy** (a minimum of three courses required)

1. **Theories and Methods of Family Therapy 1**

2. **Theories and Methods of Family Therapy 2**

3. (need one elective)

Currently Couples Therapy, EFT, and (rarely) Child and Adolescent Therapy have been accepted in this category.

- **Human Development** (a minimum of three courses required)
 1. **Personality Theory**
 2. **Current Issues in Psychopathology**
 3. (need one elective)

Electives that could qualify: Human Development and Learning; Human Sexuality; Child and Adolescent therapy; Therapeutic and Systemic Approaches to Addictions; Violence in Relationships)

- **Professional Ethics** (a minimum of one course required)

- 1. **Professional Ethics**

- **Research** (a minimum of one course required)

- 1. **Research Methods**

- Total: 11 courses

Practicum Requirement

- Minimum one (1) year, supervised Clinical Fellow practicum (internship), with 300 hours of direct client contact with individuals, couples, and families.

- **Tyndale's Internship only provides 150 face to face counselling hours**
- The other 150 hours can be accomplished after graduation (must be supervised by an AAMFT approved supervisor after graduation)
- Once the total of 300 face-to-face Internship hours has been completed, one may begin to log 1000 post-graduation hours

Post Graduate Requirements

- **Minimum of two (2) years of professional work** experience in marriage and family therapy following receipt of master's or doctorate degree.
- Individuals must complete a **1000 additional hours of direct client contact hours with a minimum of 200 hours of supervision** concurrently.

Steps to take

- Once accepted into the Counselling Major one can apply for AAMFT student membership at any time
- Typically around the end of first year is a good time to apply
- Application can be done on-line
- Once you become a member, keep your membership active

Advantages of membership

- Pre-approval of courses within the categories
- Post-degree applications will be simpler if you have updated your file regularly

Tyndale Courses

- Not all Tyndale Counselling courses are accepted by AAMFT.
- <http://tyndale.ca/seminary/counselling/downloads/documents>
- AAMFT Clinical Membership - Evaluative Track
- This file has a list of all of the courses that AAMFT has accepted in the past and the categories in which they are typically placed

AAMFT Contact Person

- The current AAMFT contact person for students seeking to have courses pre-approved is Dorothy Bose:
- Dbose@aamft.org
- Turn-around time for requests to categorize courses is often two months or more (so start your process early)

Our Canadian History:

- AAMFT, the professional organization that **provided the most credibility in the past** for therapists practicing at the Masters level.
- Requirements set at appropriate standards including training, and supervised internships.
- With the advent of Provincial licensing, **credibility is provided now by the College of Registered Psychotherapists**, whose standards are, in fact, very similar to those of AAMFT.

- AAMFT suspended all local divisions several years ago which has left Canada in a position to consider other options
- OAMFT, a former division of AAMFT has changed its relationship to AAMFT and is still somewhat connected and operating for Canadian therapists.
- CAMFT has evolved as a new organization, similar to AAMFT but Canadian with a Canadian understanding of the needs of therapists in this country.

AAMFT Advantages and Disadvantages

- Well known Organization in US and somewhat internationally and credible
- Provides some services even in Canada
- Services of membership have been slower and not necessarily “Canadian friendly”

CAMFT

- Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy:
- Evolved after AAMFT suspended all local divisions several years ago
- Legally holds the title for RMFT's
- CAMFT has recently set standards for membership very similar to AAMFT and has become the Canadian answer to AAMFT

Post Graduation

- Course work has the same categories as AAMFT
- Requires additional study of the Canadian issue of Residential Schools and the Truth and Reconciliation document.

After Graduation:

Applicants must receive a minimum of **200 hours of supervision** while concurrently providing at least **1,000 hours of direct client contact** in therapy with individuals, couples or families **which is demonstrably systemic**

Two Categories

- For programs which are approved by CAMFT's Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education: all hours acquired within the program are counted toward the 1000 hours total required to become an RMFT.
- Programs which are not COAMFTE approved: Must provide 150 direct contact hours with supervision and the rest of the 300 practicum hours must be completed before beginning to acquire the 1000 hours required to become an RMFT

- CAMFT is currently in the process of accrediting various training institutions and has invited Tyndale and some 7 other Canadian Universities and Seminaries to participate in setting these standards.
- We believe that CAMFT will be more reasonable and sensitive to Canadian needs than we have found AAMFT to be.

- Kern and I are involved in meetings with CAMFT and believe this organization will provide the most desirable membership for Canadians at the end of the day.
- There is good reason to believe that Tyndale will be an accredited program with them very soon.

OAMFT – Wilma Nevers

Director Family Life Centre

- Ontario Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- An International Independent Affiliate of the AAMFT
- Three board members at Tyndale:
Winnie Lai, Melissa Johari, Wilma Nevers

- In 2017, AAMFT had a major restructuring and changed its relationship with all its previous divisions (including OAMFT).
- The OAMFT (the Ontario Association for Marriage and Family Therapy) opted to be an International Independent Affiliate of AAMFT
- This relationship allows for more leadership autonomy within the OAMFT while keeping the close association with AAMFT

- The OAMFT recognizes the specialized training in systems therapy and now offers the **Certified Couple and Family Therapy (CCFT)** certification to Clinical Fellows who are Ontario members
- Significantly, OAMFT is **THE VOICE** of marriage and family therapy in Ontario
- Represents MFTs on the collaborative group of therapy organizations that meet with/impact the CRPO

- OAMFT provides services for members and opportunities that focus on advocacy, education, and networking within Ontario.
- To become a member of the OAMFT, you must [register with the AAMFT](#) and opt-in to International Independent Affiliate of Ontario to tailor your member benefits.
- Membership requirements, then, are those of AAMFT.

- As an OAMFT member you are eligible to receive the services, resources, and conveniences provided by the AAMFT.
- You are also eligible for additional benefits which include exclusive member discounts on products and services such as OAMFT courses, webinars, and the annual conference. **These are very useful for PD credits for CRPO**
- The annual registration fee is covered by the discounts accessed for services mentioned above.

CRPO

- None of this affects CRPO membership
- AAMFT/OAMFT/CAMFT are all professional organizations - **membership is wise but not required** for practice.
- **Registration with the CRPO is required** and unrelated to membership in a professional organization.

The College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario

- <http://www.crpo.ca/>

Controlled Act of Psychotherapy

- The controlled act of **psychotherapy** has been proclaimed and is **one of 14 "controlled acts"** or healthcare activities which are restricted to members of certain regulated professions.

**The RHPA defines the controlled act of
psychotherapy as follows:**

“Treating, by means of psychotherapy technique, delivered through a therapeutic relationship, an individual’s serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory that may seriously impair the individual’s judgment, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning.”

CRPO Registration Categories

- Qualifying Member
- Registered Member – still under supervision
- Registered Member – independent practice

Steps toward Registration

- **Who is a “regular applicant”?**

All applicants are regular applicants, except those already registered in another province or territory, who are applying for registration in Ontario under labour mobility rules.

In general, regular applicants are individuals who have **recently completed graduate-level psychotherapy programs:**

- May be an independent psychotherapy program that requires an undergraduate degree for admission
- May be a university master's programs.

Tyndale's **Mdiv Counselling Major Clinical Track** has been recognized as an education and training program by the CRPO

This permits students of that track to apply more easily to the CRPO without having to prove their competencies.

CRPO applicants must complete:

- their education and training program within one year immediately prior to application; **or**
- their clinical experience requirement within the one year immediately prior to application; **or**
- 750 currency hours within the three years immediately prior to application; **or**
- upgrading activities approved by Registration Committee.

Registration requirements for regular applicants

- In addition to meeting the educational requirements for all applicants, regular applicants must complete the following: **the Professional Practice & Jurisprudence e-Learning Module**

Qualifying Members

- Virtually all regular applicants will spend a period of time as a Qualifying Member, i.e. RP (Qualifying), until they are deemed eligible to write the registration exam and have successfully completed it.
- To be eligible to write the exam, a Qualifying Member must have completed all education and training requirements for RP registration, but not necessarily all required direct client contact hours and clinical supervision hours.

Qualifying Members

- When all requirements have been completed, the RP (Qualifying) will move to full RP status. (completed the competencies exam and 450 direct contact hours with supervision)

RP Qualifying Members

- Individuals nearing completion of their education and training program can apply for registration as a Qualifying Member during the final semester/ segment of their program
- An RP (Qualifying) will be required to practice with clinical supervision and must be actively engaged in completing registration requirements to become registered as an RP.

- Qualifying members will be permitted to use the titles:
- Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) or RP (Qualifying)

Order of Steps to Registered Psychotherapists

- Complete education program
- 30 hours of competency development in safe and effective use of self (SEUS); normally included as part of an applicant's education and training program; this can take the form of coursework, experiential learning, and/or personal psychotherapy focused on SEUS;
- Jurisprudence exam

Registered Psychotherapists

- 450 direct client contact hours (can be part of the applicant's education and training program and/or completed subsequently);
- 100 hours of clinical supervision; (a minimum of 50 hours of individual/dyadic supervision
- successful completion of the registration exam, i.e. the national Assessment tool offered by the COMPASS Centre for Examination Development, a national body established to develop and administer the exam.

Registered Psychotherapists

- **Currency requirement: must have completed education/ training program, or clinical experience requirement, (450 client contact hours and 100 hours clinical supervision) within 12 months prior to application;**
- OR completed 750 currency hours within previous 3 years

Currency Hours

- direct client work
- Record keeping and preparation in relation to direct client work
- professional development in psychotherapy
- engaging in clinical supervision as a supervisee
- conducting research or writing in the field of psychotherapy

Currency Hours

- supervising
- teaching
- managing
- consulting
- other professional activities that impact the practice of psychotherapy.

Independent practice

- RPs will not be permitted to **practice independently**, i.e. without clinical supervision, until they have completed 1000 direct client contact hours and 150 hours of clinical supervision over the course of their professional career.

Steps for CRPO membership

- Graduate
- Take Jurisprudence Exam
- Register to become a Qualifying Member
- Accrue 450 hours of direct client contact + 100 hours of supervision
- Complete 30 hours of SEUS

- Take the Exam – **become RP under supervision.**
- Finish direct client contact hours and supervision hours (total of 1000 direct client contact hours and 150 hours of clinical supervision)
- Become an **RP (independent practice)**

Tyndale Electives to Consider

- Therapy Interventions for Trauma, Abuse and violence (trauma issues)
- Violence in Relationships (trauma issues)
- Human Development and Learning (human development)

Safe & Effective Use of Self Category

Alternate means of meeting this criteria

- Personal Counselling
- Use of assessment tools
- Family system research
- Increase understanding of one's own cultural paradigms
- Self reflection