

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
HANDBOOK**

**A GUIDE FOR MASTER OF
DIVINITY (COUNSELLING)
STUDENTS AT
TYNDALE SEMINARY**

Why bother with membership with a professional association?

If you intend to work in any capacity as a therapist or counsellor, it is vitally important that you adhere to a Code of Ethics, Standards of practice and engage in regular supervision.

Legislation in the Province of Ontario:

Bill 171 containing the Psychotherapy Act has been presented to the government. Once in effect, this will mean that only regulated professionals will be able to offer psychological services.

What are my options?

This handbook is meant to give students an idea of the kinds of professional associations that exist and some guidance as to how to evaluate which organization(s) may be appropriate for the work you intend to pursue. Keep in mind that we believe that membership is imperative whether or not you choose to work in a church context.

What does an MDiv train me to do or become?

Unlike Master degrees in secular programs of Social Work (MSW), Psychology (MA) or Education, (MEd) or Couple and Family Therapy, the MDiv Counseling program at Tyndale focuses on both the theological and the psychological training of students. Students may choose from one of two tracks, one oriented towards service in chaplaincy or church and the other oriented towards clinical work, either in Christian or secular settings.

Is there a specific theoretical bias in the Counselling program?

Yes. The theoretical bias is Family Systems Theory (focus on relationship rather than individual functioning) and the courses are geared to Marriage and Family Therapy.

Do students then have to become Marriage and Family Therapists?

No. While many of the courses have an emphasis on marriage and family, some students choose to pursue careers in Pastoral Ministry, Pastoral counselling, Missions, Para-Church organizations, Chaplaincy in prisons, hospitals and seniors' residences.

Based on reports from our graduates, any applicants who sense a call to professional ministry are advised to investigate what the entry –level requirements are for employers in their area of interest (type of degree, experience, registration with a particular College or Association, etc.) before they enroll in the MDiv (Counselling major). This is also a helpful search for students envisioning church-based ministry. Some denominations may have a set credentialing process for its pastoral counsellors and chaplains.

What follows is a list of four professional associations who have set standards of practice, code of ethics, supervision and education requirements for their members. Their respective websites are also listed.

Let the search begin.

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)

AAMFT is composed of division based on geography. All membership applications are processed their head office in Virginia; however, members are meant to network with their division, in our case Ontario (OAMFT). Contact via www.aamft.org or www.oamft.on.ca

Organization name	Ontario Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (OAMFT)
Minimum academic degree required for entrance	Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy or a related mental health discipline from an accredited university
Number of hours of formal academic training (i.e # of courses/hours of coursework)	<p>Eleven courses at the graduate level covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Three in Marriage and Family Studies b) Three in Marriage and Family Therapy c) Three in Human Development d) One in Research e) One in Ethics <p>Within an approved MFT program, this is at least 2 years (24 months) of training</p>
Number of clinical hours of supervised practice	A minimum of 300 hours of supervised clinical practicum during graduate program and 1000 hours of direct client contact (couples, families and individuals) post graduation
Number of hours of supervision	200 hours (minimum of 100 hours of individual supervision and maximum of 100 hours of group supervision, done concurrently with the 1000 hours of post-grad direct client contact) by an Approved Supervisor
Certification title (protected or not)	Registered Marriage and Family Therapist (RMFT), legally protected in Canada
Exam (oral, written, take home, etc.)	Not required for membership in OAMFT. Thesis, major research project, etc. often required in the masters program.
Other	<p>Applicant needs to complete the prescribed form to be sent o the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (in Virginia) documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Courses taken and their description 2. Official transcripts 3. Name(s) of supervisor(s) 4. Number of client and supervision hours completed 5. Applicant's agreement to abide by the AAMFT Code of Ethics

Do all Tyndale counselling courses meet the requirements of AAMFT (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy)?

No, not all courses fulfill AAMFT requirements. However, if the student chooses wisely, she or he will be able to obtain the 11 required AAMFT course requirements at Tyndale.

While Tyndale Seminary is **NOT** an AAMFT accredited school, it does offer the following courses that are related to the AAMFT guidelines for graduate courses required for clinical membership. The following is only our best guess based on past student experiences when submitting course work to the AAMFT. For a full course description please consult the Tyndale Seminary Catalogue.

Marriage and Family Studies (a minimum of three courses required)

Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to systems theory. The student should learn to think in systems terms across a wide variety of family structures and a diverse range of presenting issues (i.e. gender, culture, and substance abuse). Topic areas may include: systems theory, family development, subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families, etc.

Tyndale courses that have been recently accepted:

COUN 0671 Cross Cultural Perspectives in Marriage and Family Therapy

COUN 0675 Integration of Systems Approach to Counselling Theories (may soon be discontinued as a course offering)

COUN 0677 Family Systems Theory

COUN 0673 Violence in Relationships: Therapeutic Perspectives and Approaches (sometimes put in Developmental category)

COUN 0776 Aging and the Family: A Multi-Systems Perspective (sometimes put in Development category)

Accepted in the past, not currently offered:

COUN 0677 Gender and Socio Economic Perspectives in Marriage and Family Therapy

Accepted in the past but probably not now

COUN 0676 The Therapeutic Relationship

COUN 0683/PAST 0741 Pastoral Counselling and Crisis Intervention

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

Courses in this area should have a major focus on advanced family systems theories and systemic therapeutic interventions. This area is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation. Major Theoretical approaches might include: strategic, structural, object relations family therapy, behavioral family therapy, communications family therapy, intergenerational family therapy, and systemic sex therapy.

Courses that have been recently accepted:

COUN 0772 Theories and Methods of Family Therapy I

COUN 0773 Couple Therapy: An Integrative Perspective

COUN 0774 Theories and Methods of Family Therapy II

Human Development (a minimum of three courses required)

Courses in this area should provide knowledge of individual personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant coursework in human development across the life span, which includes special issues that effect an individual's development (i.e. culture, gender, and human sexuality). This material should be integrated with systems concepts. Topic areas may include: human development, child/adolescent development, psychopathology, personality theory, human sexuality, etc. Test and measurement courses are not accepted toward this area.

Courses that have been recently accepted:

COUN 0573 Foundations II: The Nature of Personhood **(no longer offered)**

COUN 0654 Human Development and Learning

COUN 0672 Human Sexuality and the Therapeutic Relationship

COUN 0674 Personality Theories

COUN 0679 Current Issues in Psychopathology

COUN 0688 Child and Adolescent therapy

COUN 0780 Therapeutic and systemic Approaches to Addictions

COUN 0673 Violence in Relationships: Therapeutic Perspectives and Approaches

COUN 0688: Child and Adolescent Therapy **(sometimes put in the Studies category)**

COUN 0776 Aging and the Family: A Multi-system Perspective **(sometimes put in the Studies category)**

Accepted in the past:

COUN 0682 Adolescent Development and Culture (YMIN 0591) (no longer offered?)

Note:

0574 Foundational Perspective of Christian Counselling, Labs I and II, and 0796 Counselling Adolescents and Their Families have been consistently rejected

Professional Ethics (a minimum of one course required)

Courses in this area are intended to contribute to the professional development of the therapist. Areas of study should include the therapist's legal responsibilities and liabilities, professional ethics as a marriage and family therapist, professional socialization, and the role of the professional organization, licensure or certification legislation, independent practice and interprofessional cooperation. Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses are not accepted toward this area.

Course that has recently been accepted:

Research (a minimum of one course required)

Courses in this area should assist students in understanding and performing research. Topic areas may include: research methodology, quantitative methods and statistics.

Course that has recently been accepted:

COUN 0680/CHED 0758 Research Methods in Education and Counselling

Practicum Requirement: Minimum one (1) year, supervised clinical practicum, with 300 hours of direct client contact with individuals, couples, and families. This requirement may be completed during master's or doctorate degree without an AAMFT approved supervisor. Applicants who did not complete a clinical practicum may document this requirement with their first 300 post-graduate client contact hours, supervised by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, supervisor candidate or by an alternate supervisor accepted by the AAMFT specifically for you.

Courses recently accepted in this area:

COUN 0701 Counselling Major Internship

Important note:

Since pursuing membership with AAMFT is not a requirement of the MDiv (Counselling), students need to be aware of the process issues involved with membership:

1. Since Tyndale Seminary is not an accredited AAMFT school, we are not able to guarantee that any counselling course that we develop will be automatically approved by AAMFT. The above list is only a record of past, not future designations by AAMFT.
2. AAMFT will only pre-approve graduate level marriage and family therapy related coursework for *individuals* who are Student Members of the association.
3. Once you submit your application for membership, you will receive a worksheet detailing how many courses in each category you must complete in order to fulfill the academic requirements for each membership category.
4. You may, with membership, send a course description to AAMFT for pre-approval and placement in one of the AAMFT categories. It is therefore *your* responsibility to submit course descriptions in advance of registration if you only wish to take counselling courses that will be accepted for credit by AAMFT while studying at Tyndale. After graduation AAMFT will continue to evaluate courses taken through other graduate level institutions and through the University of Guelph Open Learning department.

Please specify if your association has the following elements in place and describe them briefly if they do:

Item	Yes/No	Description
Code of Ethics	Yes	Revised and 3 rd edition adopted July 2001
Ethical complaints	Yes	Handled by the Ethics committee of AAMFT

review/discipline process		
Standards of Practice	Yes	Articulated throughout Code of Ethics and listed on AAMFT website (www.aamft.org)
Continuing Education (Professional Development) requirement/process	No	
Periodical competency review process	No	Membership is maintained on a yearly basis by completion of a form and submission of dues barring any ethical sanctions
Other items such as Supervisor qualification requirements, Program accreditation standards, etc.	Yes	<p>Clinical members can apply for the Approved Supervisor designation once they have completed the following under the supervision of an Approved Supervisor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One course on MFT supervision 2. Set period of providing supervision while under supervision of an Approved Supervisor (supervision of supervision) 3. Completion of other requirements <p>Once both the candidate and supervisor mentor are satisfied that all requirements have been met, an application is submitted to AAMFT</p> <p>Approved Supervisors are required to renew their designation every five years and to report on any continuing education in supervision they have received</p> <p>Program accreditation standards are set by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Education of AAMFT</p> <p>OAMFT produces a directory of all Clinical Members and Approved Supervisors, as well as an enhanced listing for members and agencies who pay an extra fee</p> <p>All members are required to carry active liability insurance.</p>

Ontario Society of Psychotherapists (OSP)

OSP can be contacted at www.psychotherapyontario.com

Clinical Membership Requirements

Normally Clinical Members shall:

1. Hold an appropriate graduate degree from a recognized university (psychology, counselling, social work, medicine, divinity, humanities, or a program substantially similar), a copy of which should accompany the application.

Alternatively, seasoned psychotherapists who do not have a graduate degree will be considered for membership on an individual basis by the Membership Committee. Both experience and training will be assessed as an equivalent to the graduate program.

These Clinical Members shall have 3,000 hours of clinical experience and demonstrate learning in at least four (4) of the following six (6) areas as they relate to psychotherapy:

- theory
- methodology/clinical skills
- research/literature review
- assessment/testing
- intellectual enquiry
- writing skills.

Knowledge in these areas may be drawn from the following sources: courses, seminars, training workshops, professional conferences and work experience. These sources shall be in addition to personal psychotherapy or psychotherapy training.

2. Have specific training in psychotherapy or have completed an academic graduate degree counselling practicum.
3. Have completed a minimum of one hundred hours of one-to-one supervision. Ordinarily an applicant is expected to have at least two supervisors, neither of whom have concurrently served as the applicant's personal psychotherapist.
4. Have a minimum of one thousand hours of professional clinical work as a psychotherapist. This clinical work must be mainly with individuals.
5. Have completed a minimum of one hundred and fifty hours of personal psychotherapy. At least fifty hours of this must be individual and consecutive with one psychotherapist.
6. Provide two current references, neither of whom is your current psychotherapist one from a supervisor or trainer and the other from a colleague familiar with your work. Both references must be Clinical Members or qualified to be Clinical Members of OSP.
7. Have, or apply and be approved for, professional liability insurance.
8. Sign an agreement to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics.
9. Pay the current membership fee.

Clinical Members shall hold all the rights and privileges of full membership within OSP including the right to serve on any Provincial Committee, the right to be nominated for Executive Office or for the Chair of any Committee, and the right to be nominated as a voting member of the Delegate Council.

Clinical members have the right to use the designation "Clinical Member, OSP."

Student Membership Information

A Student Member shall:

1. Hold an undergraduate degree or diploma in a humanities related field, a copy of which should accompany the application, or either hold or be enrolled in an appropriate graduate program in a recognized university (psychology, counselling, social work, medicine, divinity, humanities or a program substantially similar), a copy or verification of which should accompany the application.
2. Show proof of enrolment in psychotherapy training each year at membership renewal, or have completed or be enrolled in an academic graduate degree counselling practicum, verification of which is required.
3. Have one-to-one supervision if doing clinical psychotherapy.
4. Have completed or be completing the minimum hours of personal psychotherapy (150 total). At least fifty hours must be individual and consecutive with one psychotherapist.
5. Provide two references, neither of whom is the applicant's current therapist one from a supervisor or trainer. Both references must be Clinical Members or qualified to be Clinical Members of OSP.
6. Have or apply and be approved for professional liability insurance if seeing clients.
7. Sign an agreement to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics.
8. Pay the current membership fee.

Student Members hold some of the rights and privileges of full membership within OSP, including the right to serve on Provincial Committees (excluding the Complaints and Discipline Committees), eligibility for insurance coverage, the right to receive mailings and attend conferences of the Society, and the right to vote at the OSP Annual Meeting.

Student Members have the right to use the designation "Student Member, OSP" and no other designation.

Ontario Association of Consultants, Counsellors, Psychometerists and Psychotherapists (OACCPP)

www.oaccpp.on.ca/home

OACCPP Membership Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for General Members:

1. Hold a Masters Degree (preferred) from a recognized university in psychology, counselling, education, social work, divinity, medicine or other related programs with a significant component being psychology;
2. Have specialized training and practicum experience in one or more of consulting, counselling, psychometrics or psychotherapy, during which time the applicant had at least 2 approved supervisors;
3. Demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to, their specialty area of competency in mental health by attending conferences and workshops;
4. Abide by the Code of Ethics of the Association;
5. Payment of annual membership dues.

Eligibility requirements for Certified Members:

1. Fulfill all General Member requirements;
2. Provide proof of professional liability insurance through OACCPP or other equivalent insurance coverage;
3. Have a minimum of 2 years of supervised practice in an educational institution, hospital, clinic or private practice;
4. Present 2 references by professionals attesting to their ability to function according to standards set by the Association;
5. Submit and critique one or more work samples in their area of expertise or specialization;
6. Have their submissions and application for certification be presented to the Board of Directors for approval;
7. Provide proof of annual professional upgrading to be presented every 3 years for renewal of certification.
8. Successfully pass both written and oral examinations in addition to the above requirements.
9. Payment of annual membership dues.

Eligibility requirements for Psychological Associate Members

- Masters Degree
- Registered with the College of Psychologists
- Demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to, their specialty area of competency in mental health by attending conferences and workshops;
- Abide by the Code of Ethics of the Association;
- Payment of annual membership dues.

Eligibility requirements for Associate (Student) Members are as follows:

- Graduate student in behavioural sciences;
- Payment of annual membership dues.
- Associate Members are eligible to serve on some OACCPP committees and eligible to vote but cannot hold offices in the Association.
- Associate Members are eligible for the same benefits from the Association as General or Certified Members including accessibility to group liability insurance.

Eligibility requirements for *Affiliate Members*:

- Post-secondary diploma in Behavioural Sciences, (accredited college or university)
- Demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to, their specialty area of competency in mental health by attending conferences and workshops;
- Abide by the Code of Ethics of the Association;
- Payment of annual membership dues.

Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC)

CASC can be contacted at www.cappe.org

What is a Pastoral Specialist?

- A Specialist is a member of the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (C.A.S.C) who is certified as a specialist practitioner in *pastoral care* or *pastoral counselling*.
- Specialist's are grounded in a faith commitment and commissioned by their respective faith community to provide spiritual and religious care in a multifaith context.
- The Specialist is accountable for maintaining professional certification, continuing education and for active participation in the vision, direction and activities of the association.

Qualifications of a Pastoral Specialist:

- Graduation from a recognized college or university
- A qualifying graduate degree in theology or in a related clinical field.
- Ordained or commissioned by a faith community
- Demonstrated pastoral and professional experience
- Membership in C.A.S.C.
- A minimum of 2000 hours of training including advanced S.P.E. education and demonstrated professional competence as certified by C.A.S.C.

How are Specialists certified?

Specialists are certified by the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education. C.A.S.C. is an interfaith organization that promotes clinical practice and education in ministry through Supervised Pastoral Education. This training comprises a minimum of 2000 hours of experiential clinical pastoral training and is conducted in accredited centres by certified teaching supervisors. Once certified, Specialists undergo a peer review every five years. Supervised Pastoral Education is available in accredited centres across Canada.