



ACCORD CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE SERVICE

Higher Diploma in Counselling (Marriage & Relationship)

Validated by

The Pontifical University,

St.Patrick's College, Maynooth,

Recognised for accreditation by The National Association for Pastoral Counselling & Psychotherapy (NAPCP)

ACCORD as a voluntary agency of the Catholic Church, provides a nation-wide professional service to couples preparing for, or seeking a deeper commitment, within the sacrament of marriage. ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service is seeking new members to train as counsellors. ACCORD counselling is non-directive; clients take responsibility for their own decisions and behavior.

Clients are accepted as being of unique worth and capable of self-determination and growth. ACCORD counsellors respect the beliefs and values of their clients, their dignity and inherent worth as persons, and their ultimate right to self-determination, while having due regard to the rights, interests and well being of other relevant persons.

Personal Suitability

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following attributes:

- An open and dialogic communication style
- Maturity, self-awareness and groundedness
- Good conflict management skills
- A warm, flexible, open, and non judgmental worldview
- A desire & ability to work within the ACCORD ethos and mission

Applicants' primary motivation in applying must not be for personal therapy or emotional support

Academic Background

Applications will be considered from individuals who possess a minimum of Leaving Certificate level although a third level qualification is preferable. Applicants without the relevant academic qualification will have their prior learning experience evaluated.

Course Content

Ten Modules:

1. Foundational Communication Skills
2. Foundation in Counselling Theory & Practice
3. Counselling Theory & Practice – Person Centered Approach
4. Christian Understanding of Marriage
5. Counselling Couples in Marriage/Relationships (1)
6. Counselling Couples in Marriage/Relationships (2)
7. Counselling Couples in Marriage/Relationships (3)
8. Spirituality, Meaning and Clinical Practice
9. Abnormal Psychology/Psychopathology
10. Advanced Theory and Practice in working with Relationships.

Clinical Placement

Participants will be required to attend monthly meetings and provide 200 voluntary sessions of counselling in their sponsoring centre during the course of their training. Participants will also be required to engage in personal therapy and clinical supervision.

Assessment

Participants are assessed on an ongoing basis, at the end of each module on both their academic knowledge and counselling skills. Clinical skills are also assessed during placement in their ACCORD Centre.

Cost

Successful applicants will have their course fees and supervision costs paid for by ACCORD. All other costs, including personal therapy, are met by the trainee. Trainees are required to contract with ACCORD to repay part of the costs involved in their training by providing counselling on a voluntary basis. If, for any reason a trainee cannot fulfill this requirement, they will be required to repay outstanding costs. Following Graduation a minimum commitment of 3 years is required.

The following steps are involved in the Application, Selection & Training process

- Download and send the Application Form to the address below
- Applications will be processed based on selection criteria. A panel will be formed from which highest scoring applicants will be invited to a Selection Conference for interview and group assessment, provided the applicant's Centre of choice is willing to sponsor a student.
- Following the Selection Conference successful candidates will be placed on a panel.
- Highest scoring candidates will be offered entry to ACCORD's Higher Diploma Training programme.
- Membership of ACCORD is contingent upon a satisfactory outcome to the ACCESS NI / Garda Vetting process.

Completed Application Forms to the address below by May 5th:

***Aisling Madden
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Maynooth
Co Kildare
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01 5053111***