The Counselor Education Department Offering Play Therapy Classes

Post Graduate Program in Play Therapy

NNU COUNSELOR EDUCATION’S APPROVED CENTER FOR PLAY THERAPY EDUCATION IS OFFERING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP PREAPARE CLINICIANS WORKING WITH CHILDREN TO BECOME REGISTERED PLAY THERAPISTS THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION FOR PLAY THERAPY (APT).

Play therapy is the oldest and most popular form of child therapy. Widely practiced across the world, it is expanding at an exceptional rate. Most child mental health professionals are well aware of the fact that it is through play that children are best able to form therapeutic alliances, express themselves, relate to others, learn new knowledge and skills, boost their egos, master stress, and develop their sense of self.

Over the past decade, the practice of play therapy has witnessed a number of innovations and refinements of existing procedures. Therefore, in order to promote the value of play, play therapy, and credentialed play therapists, the Counselor Education Department at Northwest Nazarene University wishes to increase the availability of play therapy instruction, application and research in this specialized area. The goal of this post graduate play therapy preparation program is to present a state-of-the-art academic rigor that will survey latest advances and developments in the field, including the three main pillars of therapy: theory, research and practice. The courses in this program will provide an overview of the essential elements and principles of play therapy, including history, theories, modalities, techniques, skills, applications and research. An experiential component throughout the emphasis will focus on basic play therapy skill development within the context of ethical and diversity-sensitive practice and supervised clinical applications will be gained through a structured lab component.

In brief, students and professional practitioners in this program will learn about the latest advances in both traditional and more contemporary play therapy theories. An update on the status of the growing movement toward evidence-based play therapy will be presented, together with descriptions of research on the effectiveness of specific play interventions, as well as play therapy with special populations. Other areas of instruction will include, for example, guidelines on using play therapy with sexually abused children, homeless children, children of divorce, adolescents displaying relational aggression, victims of violence or natural disasters, and culturally competent play therapy with culturally diverse children. In addition, practical strategies for the effective use of play therapy techniques for promoting resiliency in children through sound treatment planning and documentation are also detailed.
Benefits of Our Program

Currently, our program consists of ten courses scheduled for one weekend a month running from September through July. These courses move through a scheduled sequence that provides students with the opportunity to acquire the hours necessary across the APT content areas necessary for certification. This comprehensive program offers both knowledge and practice experiences in a lively, interactive learning environment. Students may complete all of the courses within an academic year or can enroll in individual courses at their personal pace.

What makes our program special?

**Accelerated:** Complete the coursework necessary to meet APTs requirements of 150 hours of play therapy specific instruction across their required content areas during one academic year if desired.

**Convenient:** Face-to-face courses are offered one weekend (Friday/Saturday) a month running from September through July.

**Affordable:** Each weekend class is either $150 and earns you 12 CEU hours or $250 and earns you 1 credit hour of university credit on a transcript for each course completed.

**Clinical Supervision:** At the beginning of your practicum, you will be assigned a supervisor with several years of experience as a RPT-S which is included in the cost of the play practicum course.

**Services Oriented:** Our student services are designed to meet the special needs of working adults. Clinical hours may be completed at locations convenient for you.

Requirements

Master's degree or higher in a mental health field from a regionally accredited college or university Professional school counselor's license, mental health license or working towards licensure. Completion of the Application and payment of the Application Fee is also required prior to enrolling in courses.

Cost

Our certificate program is a superior value when compared with other certification options. The costs includes course tuition AND clinical supervision. Plus a state-of-the-art Play Therapy instructional lab outfitted with videotaping for practice and security purposes is included in the package. Emphasis area students pay the current NNU graduate tuition for all coursework associated with this program. Emphasis area students must register for COUN numbers for play courses; pre-graduates are not allowed to take play therapy classes under professional development course numbers or for continuing education credit. Post-graduates or licensed professionals who register for the play courses and earn continuing education credit are required to pay a one-time, non-refundable application fee of $50. The tuition rate for post-graduates is $150 or $250 per weekend course depending on the need of the post-graduate.

For more information please go to our link listed below:

http://www.nnu.edu/academics/graduate-programs/counselor-education/degree-emphases/post-grad-play-therapy

Or, email us at:

playtherapy@nnu.edu