



COUPLES THERAPY POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

The Couples Clinic is offering 2-year Post-Graduate Fellowships in Couples Therapy, beginning this Summer. The Fellowships are designed to produce highly trained and competent therapists specializing in relationships. Fellows will fulfill the supervision and clinical contact hour requirements for full licensure in the state of Illinois.

- January 15, 2022: The reviewing of applications begins. Applications will continue being received until all fellowship positions are filled.
- February 15, 2022: First fellowship offers are made.
- July 1, 2022: Fellowships begin.

1. Description of the Fellowship Site

- The Couples Clinic and Research Institute in Geneva, Illinois, is the home of a team of therapists and researchers who have generated methods that are known and used by couples therapists around the world.

2. Fellowship Candidate Selection Philosophy

- We believe that your personal qualities are much more important than your experience. We do not expect for you to have any experience in couples therapy. We are looking for therapists who have a passion for relationship therapy and have a strong enough personality to hold the therapy room. We also are looking for individuals who are able to challenge and support clients at the same time.

3. Model of Couples Therapy

- We are the creators of Pragmatic/Experiential Therapy for Couples (PET-C). Detailed in our books, *Emotional Intelligence in Couples Therapy: Advances from Neurobiology and the Science of Intimate Relationships*, and *Developing Habits for Relationship Success*, our approach has been described by Oprah as “completely counterintuitive and wonderfully effective,” and the editor of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* called it “a tour-de-force of scientific wisdom and sophistication.” Step-by-step, you will become masterful in implementing this highly integrative and comprehensive treatment model for couples.

4. Training and Supervision

- Audio and video review of your therapy sessions will be a primary tool enabling moment-by-moment feedback from your supervisor.
- You will receive intensive training from Dr. Atkinson in Pragmatic/Experiential Therapy for Couples (PET-C)
- You will receive 186 hours of audio-video review individual supervision, 78 hours of

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discussion-based individual supervision, and 104 hours of group supervision from senior Couples Clinic supervisors.

5. Expectation of Fellows

- Fellows are expected to devote a minimum of 30 hours per week to fellowship responsibilities. After the initial training period, a minimum of 20 of these hours will involve conducting therapy sessions during “prime time” hours: 4-10 PM weekdays; 8AM – 6 PM Saturdays and Sundays (unless some of these hours can be scheduled with clients who are available during daytime weekday hours).
- Fellows are expected to attend all training and supervision sessions.
- Fellows are expected to audio or video-record their counseling sessions for review during supervision.
- Fellows are expected to engage in role plays facilitated by the clinical supervisors.
- Fellows are expected to be open to understanding their own relational tendencies and the etiology of those tendencies.
- Fellows are expected to read and be proficient with assigned materials prior to the beginning of the Fellowship, and during the Fellowship

6. Fellow Stipend, Leave, and Benefits

- The Post-Graduate Fellowship is a paid 2-year position.
- We offer a competitive compensation package including \$31,000 annual salary, plus training and other benefits. See the PDF titled, “[2022-2024 Fellowship Compensation Package](#) for more detail.
- The Couples Clinic provides liability and malpractice insurance.
- Fellows will receive all clinical supervision hours and client contact hours necessary for full licensure in Illinois.
- Fellows will receive 2 weeks of personal leave time per year.
- The Couples Clinic offers a retirement plan in which we match up to 3% of your salary for a SIMPLE IRA.
- Although there are no guarantees, it is our intention for those who demonstrate excellence during the Fellowship to become future Couples Clinic full team members once the Fellowship has been completed. (Couples Clinic therapists can earn up to six figures per year, doing the work that they love with an amazing team of colleagues who are like-minded in their commitment to excellence in couples therapy.)

7. Qualifications of Applicants

Minimum Qualifications:

- The completion of a Master’s or PhD degree in Marriage & Family Therapy, Social Work or Counseling by July 1, 2022 (special exceptions can be made for those graduating at the end of the summer 2022 semester).
- A willingness to commit to the entire 2-year Fellowship.

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- Interest in working for the Couples Clinic after completing the fellowship.
- An honest and sincere respect for relationships and a commitment to providing the best care possible.

Additional Preferred Qualifications (not mandatory)

- Knowledge of the major models of couples therapy.
- Sex therapy training
- Sex therapy education
- Knowledge of specific trauma models
- Experience with trauma therapies.

8. Application Procedures and Deadlines

- A. Record a video introducing yourself and answering the following questions. Email the video as an attachment or upload it to YouTube and send us the link (staff@thecouplesclinic.com.) (You can use your phone to record the video).
1. What about the Fellowship at the Couples Clinic is exciting to you?
 2. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 3. What adjectives best describe your personality?
 4. What are you like in a group? How do people experience you?
 5. In this fellowship, you'll receive lots of feedback about your personal habits of interacting with others, your habits of expressing yourself, and the way you organize and process thoughts and emotions. Have you ever received feedback on these sorts of things? Can you give an example? What do you think this feedback process will be like for you?
 6. Have you ever expressed a complaint to a supervisor or boss, or had a complaint but decided not to express it? (Please give an example). What was the decision-making process (to express or not to express) like for you? If you decided to express it, how did it go? What (if anything) would you do differently if you could do it over again?
 7. Do you believe that couples therapists should voice opinions about (and attempt to influence) dysfunctional communication and interpersonal habits evidenced by those involved in leadership and government? What is the biggest problem you have seen in leadership and government lately?
 8. If you were offered this fellowship – what would be your biggest hesitations in taking the position?
 9. Where do you envision yourself in 5 years? In 10 years?
 10. What else should we know about you?
- B. Email your resume or curriculum vitae to staff@thecouplesclinic.com, along with a message stating why you are interested in the Fellowship and summarizing why you think you would be a good candidate.



c. The Application Timeline

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