

Children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect and abandonment are at high risk of developing behavioral and emotional responses that challenge their adjustment with adoptive and foster families. Access to adoption competent mental health services is a critical component in promoting stable and healthy outcomes for these children and their adoptive families.

The adoption competent mental health or child welfare professional:

- Understands the nature of adoption as a form of family formation and the different types of adoption
- Understands the clinical issues that are associated with separation and loss and attachment
- Understands the common developmental challenges in the experience of adoption
- Understands the characteristics and skills that make adoptive families successful
- Is culturally competent with respect to the racial and cultural heritage of children and families
- Is skilled in using a range of interventions to effectively:
 - Engage birth, kinship, and adoptive families toward the mutual goal of helping individuals to heal
 - Assist adoptive families to strengthen or develop and practice parenting skills that support healthy family relationships.
- Is skilled in advocating with other service systems on behalf of birth and adoptive families

CASCW was established in 1992 and partners the University of Minnesota with county, tribal, state and community social services. CASCW's mission is to improve the well-being of children and families who are involved in the child welfare system through educating human service professionals, fostering collaboration across systems and disciplines, informing policy makers and the public, and expanding the child welfare knowledge base.

For more information about the Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate please contact:

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Center for Advanced Studies
in **Child Welfare**



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About the Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate

Permanency and adoption professionals and adoptive families in Minnesota have long expressed a need for improved availability and access to adoption competent clinicians. The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) at the University of Minnesota is pleased to offer the Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate (PACC), an advanced level certificate program for mental health and child welfare professionals.



With cohorts in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Duluth, the PACC serves mental health and social work professionals in urban and rural areas of the state. The certificate program includes:

- Thirteen in-class sessions
- Two self-guided (accessing online materials) sessions
- Six months (18 hours) of post-training clinical case consultation and supervision.

The PACC program will focus on the knowledge and skills that mental health and child welfare professionals need to work with individuals and families involved in permanency and adoption.

Participants that successfully complete the program receive a certificate of completion and inclusion on CASCW's directory of social workers and mental health practitioners that have successfully completed the PACC. Participants will also receive Continuing Education credits.

Program Schedule

Date	Time	Topic
9/9/11	9am-4pm	Introduction to Adoption Competent Mental Health Practice
9/23/11	9am-4pm	Adoption History, Law and Process
10/14/11	9am-4pm	Clinical and Ethical Issues in Planning, Preparing for and Supporting Adoption
11/4/11	9am-4pm	Clinical Issues in Providing Therapeutic Services: Grief, Loss, Separation and Identity
12/2/11	9am-4pm	Trauma and Brain Neurobiology
12/16/11	9am-4pm	Clinical Issues in Providing Therapeutic Services: Attachment Adoptive and Birth Families
1/20/12	9am-4pm	Adoptive Family Formation, Integration and Developmental Stages
2/10/12	9am-4pm	Working with Adoptive Families in Managing Children's Challenging Behaviors
3/2/12	9am-4pm	Openness in Adoption and Birth Family Culture
3/23/12	9am-4pm	Race and Ethnicity
4/13/12	9am-4pm	Adjunct Therapies and Cross Systems and Community Practice/ Integrating Knowledge, Values and Skills
5/4/12	9am-4pm	Integrating Knowledge, Values and Skills Child Welfare 1 – (including Indian Child Welfare Act and Customary Adoptions)
5/25/12	9am-4pm	Child Welfare 2 – (including Indian Child Welfare Act and Customary Adoptions)

Clinical Case Consultation: Six, monthly supervised clinical case consultation meetings will be scheduled June-November 2012. Participants will need access to Skype technology to participate in the six, 3-hour consultation sessions. Participation in the case consultation series is mandatory to be eligible for the certificate.

Application

Mental Health applicant requirements:

- Master's level degree in social work, counseling, psychology or related field
- Current licensure in professional field
- Current employment in a clinical practice setting.

Child Welfare applicant requirements:

- Baccalaureate degree in social work, counseling, psychology or related field
- Minimum of 5 years post-baccalaureate practice experience
- Current employment in permanency or adoption practice setting.

Applicants must complete an online registration and submit a copy of your resume.

Registration is at www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/cascw/PracResources/PACC

Tuition: \$1500.00 plus \$50 registration fee

Locations:

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus

University of Minnesota – Duluth campus