

Steps towards AAMFT Clinical Fellow 2012

- 1. The steps for AAMFT Clinical Fellow** are as follows:
Become a student member in your graduate program. You are eligible for membership as soon as you are enrolled, but you must balance this against a limitation imposed by AAMFT of 5 years as a Student Member. The cost of application for Student Membership is \$55.00 national dues, \$25.00 application fee, and \$15.00 Ontario dues. You must renew the membership and dues yearly. Application is conveniently on-line at the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy website (upper right hand corner – to join).
- 2. Why become a Student Member?** Only Student Members may request clarification of a course's eligibility for AAMFT Clinical Fellow or the designation in which it will be placed. This is done by emailing **Dorothy Bose of the AAMFT** at dbose@aamft.org. Dorothy handles all such requests from Ontario. You will submit a course description and a syllabus. Sometimes only the course description is needed if the course is established and submitted often. There are three AAMFT categories in which the same course may be placed. It is to the student's advantage that he/she know the designation of previously acquired courses so that the student may plan efficiently the remaining course choices and not have redundancy in the various AAMFT categories. At the end of your graduate experience, it will also become necessary to submit your courses ahead of registration so that you are sure that the course will

fulfill the desired category. Courses at Tyndale or elsewhere can **run from \$750 to \$1000 a course. You don't want to be inefficient here.**

3. **Also Student Membership** in AAMFT **provides** you with membership in the Ontario Division of AAMFT, the OAMFT. And with this comes certain monetary benefits with regard to various seminars, etc. This also allows you to become engaged with your future professional organization, with other professionals, and with the networks that result. This is good for your future business as an RMFT.
4. By the time you complete your last course and graduate, you should have submitted all your course work to AAMFT for evaluation. Save every e-mail from Dorothy so that you also have a record of the course's acceptance and designation. Dorothy keeps a running file on you, but always safeguard against system failure. You do not want to start over with this process. It is also wise to save every syllabus for each course submitted, just in case you do have to start over with submission of course work.
5. **At graduation from Tyndale** you will have completed between 150 and 300 face-to-face clinical hours, and you should have completed most if not all, of the course work needed for Clinical Fellow. You must, post graduation, finish off the last of the 300 hours under the direction of an AAMFT approved supervisor. When that is completed and you have at least 8 of the 11 required courses completed, you are **eligible for Pre-Clinical Fellow** membership. Again, applying is convenient on the AAMFT website. As

you follow the directions on this website for joining as a Pre-Clinical Fellow, know that **you did not attend a COMFTE accredited institution.** Follow the directions for the non-accredited schools. However, since you have already been in relationship with Dorothy, follow her directions with regard to how much information she needs on the forms you are to send in. I doubt you will have to outline all your course work again. The cost for Pre-Clinical Fellow membership is \$100.00 for new applicants and \$50.00 for transfer applicants (that's you). You must also pay the National Dues of \$140.00 and the Ontario dues of \$61.00.

6. In terms of **the record of face-to-face hours** (clinical hours) **and supervision hours** that you have attained and will continue to accrue, keep your own records, complete with supervisors' signatures. No one will do this for you reliably. Even at Tyndale we only keep records for short periods. You don't want to start tracking supervisors down with the hope that they will have those records. You will need a record of those hours when you apply for Clinical Fellow, which you may not do sooner than two years post graduation. You must complete your course work and accrue 1000 additional face-to-face clinical hours with 200 hours of supervision by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor to apply for Clinical Fellow.

FORMULA:

A qualifying Masters Degree in related field + 300 hours face-to-face clinical hours within graduate program + 1000 hours face-to-face clinical hours w/ 200 hours of supervision with Approved Supervisor after graduation + 11 required courses (most done in or outside Masters program) = Clinical Fellow