



International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education

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www.ifta-familytherapy.org

Tier 2 - Advanced Accreditation Standards for Systemic Therapy Education and Training Programs

2017

Mission Statement of the International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education

Created as a semi-autonomous body under the auspices of the International Family Therapy Association (IFTA), the International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education (IACSTE) focuses on the development and implementation of quality standards for programs around the world that provide systemic therapy education and training. These standards are created to enhance the development of professionals who will be qualified to provide systemic therapy for individuals, couples, and families in the communities in which they live and work.

Standards for Education and Training

The Standards set forth in this document are intended to serve as:

1. The advanced preparation standards for practice recommended by the International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education (IACSTE).
2. Standards for application by national/local registration,



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licensing/registration, and accrediting bodies in a progressive fashion in the culture in which the program exists. That is, as family/systemic therapy education and practice mature, programs may choose to increase offerings and establish the higher expectations expressed in these standards.

Two different patterns for the preparation of family/systemic therapists exist:

- 1) The practice of family/systemic therapy: This pattern involves adding specialist preparation to the basic preparation acquired in another field. Substantive knowledge and supervised clinical training in family therapy are added to the original education.
- 2) The profession of family/systemic therapy: This pattern involves education through masters or doctoral degree programs and supervised clinical practice specifically in family/systemic therapy. This pattern exists, for example, in North America where there are scores of accredited graduate programs and licensure/certification of Marital and Family Therapists is established in all 50 states of the USA, as well as in parts of Canada, where other professionals also practice within the scope of their practice.

These IACSTE Standards are concerned with education and training for the practice of family therapy and not necessarily with the establishment and development of a distinct profession of family therapy. They are intended for guidance in building on theoretical and clinical training and experience generally gained in a mental health or closely related discipline.



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Components of Education and Training

These Tier 2 Advanced Standards are similar to the generic standards of most of the US state licensing requirements. They are designed to be equivalent to or part of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. They are also designed to be for accreditation of either a master's degree program or a post-degree training program.

Academic work:

- 1 course in human development and family studies.
 - 1 course in assessment and psychopathology.
 - 6 courses marital and family theory and therapy
 - 2 courses in couple theory and therapy/treatment
 - 4 courses in family theory and therapy/treatment
 - 1 course ethics from a systems theoretical perspective
 - 1 course in research methodology
- * 1 course = 3 credit hours*

Practicum:

- 300 hours of direct clinical systemic therapy with individuals, couples and families who are physically present in the therapy room.



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Clinical Supervision:

- 100 hours of supervision of which at least 50 of which must be face-to-face individual supervision
- Supervisors need to be either AAMFT Approved Supervisors, licensed supervisors by their state or nation, or have supervised for at least 5 years and certify their training in supervision.
- At least one faculty member must be supervising students for the program.

Duration:

The training program needs to be at least two years in length

Fees:

The IACSTE has established fees for both the processing of the applications and for the accreditation status. As in Tier #1, the fees for Tier #2 are based on the country classification system provided by the United Nations.

Application Fee

Category I: \$250

Category II: \$200

Category III: \$150



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Accreditation Status Fee (3-year period)

Category I: \$800

Category II: \$600

Category III: \$400

Accreditation Approval Options:

The IACSTE may 1) approve a program, 2) offer a provisional status pending changes or additions to the program, or 3) make programmatic suggestions and request that the program file another application after changes have been made. Provisional status may be granted for 1 or 2 years, with the fee based proportionately on the category fee.