



CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE SERVICE

**Higher Diploma
In Counselling
(Marriage & Relationship)
2011**

Validated by
Pontifical University, Maynooth
Accredited by
**The National Association of Pastoral Counsellors
& Psychotherapists**



ACCORD

ACCORD is a voluntary agency of the Catholic Church providing a nation-wide service to couples preparing for or seeking a deeper commitment within the sacrament of marriage. We are seeking new members to train as counsellors.

SELECTION CRITERIA

PERSONAL SUITABILITY

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following personal attributes:

- An open and dialogic communication style
- Maturity, self-awareness and groundedness
- Good conflict management skills
- Warm, flexible, open, non judgemental worldview
- Desire & ability to foster ACCORD's ethos and mission
- Applicants' primary motivation in applying for the programme must not be for personal therapy or emotional support

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Applications will be considered from individuals who possess a minimum of Leaving Certificate level although a third level qualification is preferable. Applicants without the relevant academic qualification will have their prior experience evaluated.

Please Note: Candidates are required to have access to and be familiar with Microsoft word, email and the internet.

PROGRAMME DETAILS:

TIMESCALE AND TIME COMMITMENT

This programme is run part-time over three academic years, averaging one weekend per month. The course is family friendly, no lectures take place during holiday periods.

COURSE CONTENT

Foundational communication skills, foundation in counselling theory & skills, planning & structuring in counselling, Christian understanding of marriage, counselling theory & practice, counselling with married couples & relationships, preparation for practice & cognitive approaches, spirituality, meaning & clinical practice, advanced theory & practice of counselling, advanced theory & practice in relationship counselling. Abnormal Psychology, loss and bereavement

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Participants will be required to attend monthly meetings and provide 200 voluntary hours of counselling in their sponsoring centre during the course of their training. Participants will also be required to engage in personal therapy and supervision.

ASSESSMENT

Participants are assessed on an ongoing basis, at the end of each module on both their academic and counselling skills. Clinical skills are also assessed during placement in ACCORD Centre.

COST

ACCORD is a voluntary organization providing a professional service to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay. Successful applicants have their course fees and cost of professional development paid for by ACCORD. Trainees are required to contract with ACCORD to repay part of the cost of the course by providing professional counselling on a voluntary basis. If, for any reason a trainee cannot fulfill this requirement, they will be required to repay any outstanding fees. All other costs, including personal therapy, are met by the trainee.

**THE FOLLOWING STEPS ARE INVOLVED IN
APPLICATION, SELECTION & TRAINING**

- Forward the Application Form to the address below
- Applications will be processed based on selection criteria. A panel will be formed from which highest scoring applicants will be invited for interview and group assessment.
- Following interview and group assessment successful candidates will be placed on a panel.
- Highest scoring applicants will be offered entry to ACCORD's Counsellor Training programme.
- The offer of a place on the programme is contingent on satisfactory POCVA/Garda vetting outcome and reference checks.

**ACCORD
Columba Centre
Maynooth
Co Kildare**

**Tel: 01-5053118
e-mail dmulvaney@accord.ie
Closing Date April 8th 2011**