Application Requirements
Application form available at: www.ssw.uconn.edu > Our Programs > STEP Professional Development

1. **Priority will be given** to licensed clinicians or those under clinical supervision in preparation for licensure with a Master’s degree in social work, counseling or related discipline.

2. **Then,** Master’s level professionals (social work, counseling or related discipline) that do not hold a clinical license and are not under clinical supervision.

3. **Lastly,** Bachelor’s level social workers with at least 5 years of adoption experience.

4. Must be currently employed in a clinical practice setting.

5. Must demonstrate in your personal statement and resume:
   - A strong clinical background
   - An interest in working with adopted persons, prospective adoptive parents, birth parents and birth families, adoptive families and kinship families in a clinical setting.
   - Describe how you will incorporate the learning from the TAC program into your clinical practice.

**Space is limited.** The Review Committee will evaluate each applicant’s resume, written statement, and application and advise of its determination.

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Where and When

The training will alternate between the UConn School of Social Work, West Hartford and Southern CT State University, New Haven on Mondays and Fridays from 9—4:00 p.m. (includes an hour lunch break).

Participants must be able to commit to all of the training dates (and make-up sessions) and complete pre-session assignments that will be due before every class:

- Friday, March 28, 2014
- Monday, April 7, 2014
- Friday, April 25, 2014
- Monday, May 12, 2014
- Friday, May 30, 2014
- Monday, June 9, 2014
- Friday, June 20, 2014
- Monday, July 28, 2014
- Friday, August 22, 2014
- Monday, September 15, 2014
- Friday, October 3, 2014
- Monday, October 27, 2014

**Make-Up Dates (if needed):**
- Monday, November 3, 2014
- Friday, November 21, 2014
Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) is a comprehensive training for professionals in the social work, mental health, and child welfare fields. The training will provide you with the clinical knowledge and skills needed to effectively serve the adoption kinship network.

UConn is one of several sites across the United States certified by The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) to provide this training.

- TAC is a standardized training program that is being replicated across the United States.
- TAC is a rigorously evaluated, competency-based, training curriculum developed in collaboration with national experts in the field of child welfare, adoption, and mental health.
- TAC is a 78-hour, 13-session (1 online, 12 face-to-face) program followed by 6 monthly group clinical case consultation sessions.

Content Areas

- Adoption, History, Law and Process
- Introduction to Adoption Competent Mental Health Practice
- Clinical and Ethical Issues in Planning, Preparing for and Supporting Adoption
- Clinical Issues in Providing Therapeutic Services: Grief, Loss, and Separation
- Trauma and Brain Neurobiology
- Clinical Issues in Providing Therapeutic Services: Attachment
- Adopted Adolescents and Identity Development
- Adoptive and Birth Families
- Adoptive Family Formation, Integration, and Developmental Stages
- Clinical Work with Adoptive Families: Managing Challenging Behaviors
- Openness in Adoption and Birth Family Culture
- Race and Ethnicity
- Integrating Knowledge, Values and Skills

Trainers: Cathy Gentile-Doyle, LCSW  
Mary Harris-Miller, LCSW

TAC Learning Objectives:

- Learn the theoretical framework and therapeutic approach of adoption competent mental health practice.
- Understand the legal and ethical issues that impact adoption.
- Develop clinical skills in working with birth families, children and prospective adoption parents.
- Develop clinical skills in working with adopted children and adoptive families—loss, grief, separation, impact of genetics, etc.
- Learn how trauma impacts adopted children and tools and techniques to support recovery.
- Learn how to support adoptive parents in developing therapeutic strategies in responses to children’s challenging behaviors.
- Develop assessment and interventions skills with different types of adoptive and birth families.
- Learn the developmental stages of adoptive families and the process of adoptive family formation and integration.
- Develop skills in working with adopted children, youth and adults, adoptive families and birth families on issues of openness and connections.
- Develop an understanding of the racial, ethnic and cultural issues in adoption and how to work with transracial and transcultural families.
- Learn how to assess and refer adoptive and birth families to adjunct therapies.
- Learn how to work effectively with service systems and the community.

Fee: $1125  
Payable by check to: UCONN SSW
Payment can be made in three installments of $375 per month (February, March, April). The fee includes 78 hours of instruction and 6 months of case consultation. There are partial scholarships available. Call or email for more information.

For more information: SSWSTEP@uconn.edu  (860) 570-9129  www.ssw.uconn.edu > Our Programs > STEP Professional Development