

# Madonna University

## Master's-Level Certificate in Studies of Psychological Trauma ! College of Social Sciences

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### About the Program

#### Overview

The certificate program in Studies in Psychological Trauma affords a unique opportunity for specialization in the dynamics of and appropriate interventions for children and adults who have been traumatized.

This certificate program provides students with additional training to improve their work with the increasing number of individuals they are likely to encounter who have experienced traumatic events. Many jobs, including those in the child welfare system, domestic violence shelters, and the juvenile justice system, involve work with traumatized individuals. There is a pressing need for practitioners who can design and implement intervention programs in response to crisis situations.

This certificate is recommended for those who already hold the masters degree in clinical psychology or a related human services field. Students enrolled in such masters programs at Madonna University or other local institutions may be granted admission to this certificate program as well. Please note that students who complete the certificate coursework before earning the masters degree will not be awarded the certificate until their final masters transcript has been received by the Graduate Studies Office.

#### Certificate Requirements

The certificate requires three (3) courses taken in sequence:

##### PSY 7100

The Psychology of Traumatic Stress: History, Phenomenology and Theory (3 sh)

*Offered fall semesters, beginning in 2001*

A broad overview of the issue of trauma as it presents itself in clinical work with both children and adults. Topics include a history of the psychological understanding of traumatic stress, a cataloguing of the various symptoms of traumatic reactions and their underlying dynamics, and a review of the newly emerging trauma paradigm in psychopathology. Theoretical approaches (psychodynamic, cognitive and biological) explaining the etiology and persistence of traumatic reactions will be presented and discussed critically in light of their ability to account for post-traumatic phenomena while respecting the client's autonomy and agency. (3 sh)

##### PSY 7200

Intervention with Traumatized Children (3 sh)

*Offered winter semesters, beginning 2002*

Interventions with children exposed to traumatic circumstances, including abuse and neglect, high-conflict divorce, parental loss and abandonment, exposure to violence,

and severe illnesses, injuries and accidents. Emphasis on the idiographic particularities of each child's reaction and the interplay between psychic and environmental factors in determining the psychological outcome of trauma. Examination of key technical issues arising in individual treatment as well as more recently developed interventions (e.g., prevention groups).

##### PSY 7300

Intervention with Traumatized Adults (3 sh)

*Offered spring semesters, beginning 2002*

Interventions with adults who have experienced either recent traumatic experiences, traumas in childhood, or both. We will first develop a detailed understanding of traumatic reactions in adulthood and the legacy of childhood trauma for the adult. Then, the process of assessment and treatment with such individuals will be explored.

TOTAL = 9 semester hours



### For Admissions Information

Office of Graduate Studies  
Madonna University  
36600 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150-1173  
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800-852-4951  
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### For Program Information

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See Advisor/Admissions Office for current information.

Madonna University guarantees the right to equal educational opportunity without discrimination because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disabilities. 10/00

### Admissions Requirements and Process

Admission to this certificate program requires a masters degree in clinical psychology or a related human services field (e.g., social work, counseling, etc.) from an accredited institution. Students currently enrolled in such programs may also apply.

To apply, submit all of the following documents to the Graduate Studies Office:

1. Completed "Application for Admission to the Graduate Program" form
2. Two (2) letters of recommendation indicating potential in this area of practice, from supervisors or professionals familiar with the applicant's work or graduate school performance
3. Personal statement describing the reasons for pursuing this certificate and plans for applying the knowledge and skills gained in the program to future professional endeavors
4. Official transcript from the institution granting the masters degree

Once all these materials are submitted, the file is sent to the Psychology Department for review.

An admissions decision from the Dean of Graduate Studies will be communicated by mail, usually in about two weeks.

### Selected Faculty

Robert P. Cohen, Ph.D., L.P.  
Associate Professor  
MSCP Clinical Director  
Mental Health Program  
Coordinator

Jane A. Kessler, M.A., L.L.P.  
Adjunct Faculty

James O'Neill, Ph.D.,  
Assistant Professor

Stuart S Segal, Ph.D., L.L.P.  
Adjunct Faculty

Edythe B. Woods, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department Chair  
MSCP Administrative Director

