

Professional Licensure Disclosure Form

The instruction provided by the ICDL Graduate School will prepare students to become leaders in a new field for which no licensure standards have yet been set. Most graduates will already be licensed in their fields and this degree will enhance their existing professional expertise and can be integrated into their work. The interdisciplinary nature of the program brings health, education, and social protection components together in a comprehensive curriculum that will help students to develop competencies in all of these areas. Students graduating from this program will be prepared to work in different settings (e.g. health, education, social protection, policy) and improve the life of infants and young children with an integrated approach.

Employment opportunities include, among others, working as consultants creating educational programs for parents, supporting pediatric offices in well-baby exams, coordinating multidisciplinary teams that involve health, education, social protection professionals, teaching positions in academic settings, leading or supporting infant mental health research initiatives, and informing new infancy and early child development policies at the state and federal level.

The comprehensive content of the curriculum will prepare students to seek, if interested, one of the following professional accreditations in California:

- Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) License
- Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential
- Specialist Credential in Early Childhood Special Education

The PhD in Infant Mental Health and Developmental Disorders includes specific coursework that meets the requirements of California Business and Professions (B&P) Code Sections 4980.37 and 4980.40¹. Students interested in pursuing a MFT license in California will work together with an ICDL Faculty Advisor, assigned to them during their first year (course IMH 102), to ensure that they take all the elective courses designed to meet California MFT license requirements. The ICDL Faculty Advisor will be an American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT) approved supervisor. The ICDL Faculty Advisor will also ensure that key required practicum of the *ICDL Graduate School* (IMH 212, 303, and 309) are supervised by a Marriage and Family Therapist with an active license in California.

Students that graduate from the doctoral program offered by ICDL will be ready to apply for registration as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Intern in California². This internship will require students to complete 3,000 hours of supervised experience, gained in no less than two calendar years, and obtained over a period of not less than 104 weeks. Completing the additional required hours of supervised experience, students shall submit a MFT licensing application to the Board of Behavioral Sciences of the State of California. ICDL will initiate the process to seek accreditation of its doctoral program by the

¹ Board of Behavioral Sciences. Statutes and Regulations Relating to the Practice of: Marriage and Family Therapy, Licensed Clinical Social Work, Licensed Educational Psychology. January 2006. www.bbs.ca.gov

² Board of Behavioral Sciences. MFT Intern and License information. <http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lic-req2.htm>

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy³ as soon as possible.

The PhD in Infant Mental Health and Developmental Disorders curriculum, strongly focused on early child development and developmental disorders, also prepares students to meet the requirements to apply for an Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential and/or the Specialist Credential in Early Childhood Special Education⁴. The ICDL Graduate School will seek accreditation by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing⁵ to become a “commission approved program”, as soon as possible. Students interested in pursuing one of these educational credentials in California will work together with their ICDL Faculty Advisor to ensure that their practicum experiences are done in educational settings to meet the requirements for these credentials. The ICDL Faculty Advisor will also guide the student through the process of obtaining these credentials.

The ICDL Graduate School makes no representation, warranty, or commitment that the completion of the offered degree will allow the student to obtain a licensure or credential. The ICDL Graduate School encourages applicants to research the licensure or credential requirements of the state/states in which the applicant may wish to seek a license or credential.

The ICDL Graduate School has received full approval by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE) to operate as a California private postsecondary degree-granting institution. Due to the particular requirements of California law and the resulting required disclosure concerning unaccredited institutions with graduates in the field of psychology, the proposed PhD program will not enable graduates to take psychology licensure exam. Prospective students should be aware that as a graduate of an unaccredited school, you may face restrictions that could include difficulty in obtaining licensing in a state outside of California, or obtaining a teaching job or appointment at an accredited college or university. It may also be difficult to work as a psychologist for some federal government or other public agencies, or to be appointed to the medical staff of a hospital. Some major managed care organizations, insurance companies, or preferred provider organizations may not reimburse individuals whose degrees are from unaccredited schools. Graduates of unaccredited schools may also face limitations in their abilities to be listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers or to hold memberships in other major organizations of psychologists.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that it is the clear intent of the ICDL Graduate School and the national Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders to seek full accreditation for the Ph.D. program in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Learning Disorders at the earliest opportunity.

³ American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. www.aamft.org

⁴ California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. www.ctc.ca.gov

⁵ California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/default.html>