

Play and Creativity in Counseling Certificate

The Play and Creativity in Counseling Certificate program prepares counseling professionals to work with children and adolescents utilizing the most effective and developmentally appropriate theories and techniques. Additionally, clinicians are trained to use expressive arts and other creative evidence-based counseling techniques to counsel adult clients and family systems. The three certificate courses are designed to address the history, theories, techniques, and applications of play therapy and expressive arts and may be applied toward the educational requirements necessary for individuals seeking national Registered Play Therapist credentials.

As a result of completing the Play and Creativity in Counseling Certificate program, students will be able to:

1. Define play therapy and the role of the play therapist in the process
2. Compare and contrast the legal and ethical issues that are unique to play therapy and those shared with other modalities, i.e., documentation, competence, informed consent, confidentiality, boundaries, duty to warn and protect, use of touch
3. Classify multiple play therapy techniques by theoretical foundation
4. Distinguish stages and themes within the play therapy process
5. Apply play therapy skills including, but not limited to, structuring, tracking, reflection of content and feelings, returning responsibility, facilitating self-advocacy, and limit setting
6. Describe basic trauma symptoms and the brain functioning and structural differences that accompany these symptoms through the lens of Interpersonal Neurobiology
7. Demonstrate multicultural competence when selecting play therapy interventions for use with diverse populations
8. Determine appropriate family play therapy interventions based upon stage of therapeutic intervention
9. Explain the role of attachment in child development and ways in which family play therapy techniques impact attachment
10. Compare and contrast the theoretical constructs and legal/ethical issues of attachment theory with those of the attachment-based theories supported by empirical evidence
11. Identify diagnostic criteria and appropriate play therapy-based intervention strategies for specific childhood disorders
12. Experience, firsthand, expressive arts techniques involving the following media: clay, music, painting, drawing, photography, movement, and sand tray
13. Demonstrate advanced expressive arts facilitation and processing skills
14. Identify a minimum of three effective expressive arts techniques to be used as personal wellness and professional coping strategies

Play and Creativity in Counseling Certificate students are currently enrolled in a mental health related master's degree program (e.g., Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, Marriage and Family Counseling, Social Work, Psychology) or have earned a comparable master's degree from Stetson or another accredited program. Play and Creativity in Counseling Certificate program courses cannot be counted toward the 60-credit hour Counselor Education degree. The Certificate program will be an additional credential for our students which they can apply for and begin after taking the required prerequisite courses. Minimally, students are expected to have successfully completed graduate level coursework in the areas of human development, counseling theories, family systems, and basic counseling skills appropriate to their profession. Interested students will complete a separate application for the Play and Creativity in Counseling Certificate program prior to beginning certificate courses.

Code	Title	Credits
COUN 531	Play Therapy Theories and Practices	3
COUN 532	Play Therapy and Creativity with Families and Special Populations	3
COUN 533	Utilizing Expressive Arts in Counseling	3
Total Credits		9