ON-LINE
Post Graduate Training Program in
BOWEN FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY AND THERAPY
(with Clinical Practicum Option)

October 2020 to June 2021

Living Systems Counselling
Living Systems Counselling is a leading West Coast provider of counselling, education, training and research based on Bowen Family Systems Theory since 1971. The organization has multiple counselling offices in Lower Mainland, BC.

This program has been approved by the registrar of the Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB) of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training. The Post Graduate Program began in 1984 and has developed a reputation within the community for providing a quality training option for clinicians and other professionals.

Program Structure
The program is a two-year part-time training program. Training enables participants to learn how to use family systems theory in their work with individuals, couples and families. The program also has a pastoral counselling component that enables trainees to apply systems theory in their work with people and families for whom religious faith is important. The group meets on-line weekly, for four hours each week, early October through mid-June. In the second year the group meets on-line twice a month. Trainees ordinarily start a practicum with Living Systems in January. Adequate fluency is required if the trainee expects to counsel English-speaking families.

Theory and Practice
Knowledge of theory and the ability to apply theory to one’s own functioning is considered essential for the development of clinical excellence. Emphasis is placed on assisting trainees to understand their functioning in their own family and to develop a systems orientation to life. Trainees receive supervision of work in their own families as well as their work with clinical families.

Natural Sciences
Dr. Bowen’s effort to think toward the natural sciences is also represented in the program. Trainees are exposed to current thinking in such areas as brain research, the stress response, primatology, immunology and evolution. By focusing on the common biological bases of human behavior, the theory provides an approach that transcends culture. Previous trainees from various cultures have found the concepts of Bowen theory applicable to families of their culture.
Research
The program also introduces trainees to systems research. Trainees are encouraged to do small clinical research projects that use family systems theory to generate hypotheses that are then evaluated on the basis of clinical evidence. The efforts to think toward science offers students an opportunity to contribute to knowledge about human behavior from a systems perspective.

Accreditation/Careers
Trainees may use clinical hours and supervision time toward accreditation by such groups as the BCACC or BCAMFT or CCC. Trainees in Masters programs often can use the training program toward fulfilling requirements for their degree. For an hourly breakdown of the first- and second-year program please refer to the Program Outline. The program contributes to students becoming competent marriage and family therapists, clinical counsellors, school counsellors, pastoral counsellors, social workers, human resource managers and is useful for people in law, business, education and psychiatry. The program has included trainees from all of these professions.

Tuition
The tuition for the first year is $3,900 due on the first day of the class in October (or a payment plan is available upon request). There is a $100 admissions interview fee. Tuition for the second year is $2,600.

Faculty
Faculty and supervisors of the program have extensive training and experience in the use of Bowen theory in therapy. Randy Frost, M. Div, RCC, the Training & Research Director, trained under Dr. Bowen and Lois Walker, M. Div, RCC, completed the post graduate program founded by Dr. Bowen. Other faculty members have over 10 years of extensive training and experience with the theory.

Benefits of the Program
The program is unique in that trainees receive thorough training in a theoretical orientation that has wide applications beyond the field of counselling. The program has an excellent student-instructor ratio and trainees receive regular individual and group supervision. Trainees are paid to see clients which can help offset the tuition for the program. Monthly clinical conferences provide an opportunity for trainees to learn from counsellors trained in Bowen theory.

Application Procedures
Applications are due by August 15. Late applications will be considered depending on space available. Applicants either have or are pursuing a Master’s degree in the social sciences or related fields, or they demonstrate a combination of life and work experience that, in the judgment of the Director of Training, will enable them to function successfully in the program. For applications procedures or for more information contact Randy Frost, Training and Research Director, 604 926 5496 Ext 304 or info@livingsystems.ca. Please visit www.livingsystems.ca (training tab).

Please note: we are officially waiting confirmation from the Private Training Institute that we can continue to offer this program on-line in but we do not anticipate any problems with this request.