

### CORE INSTRUCTORS

- *Gina Buck, Ph.D.*
- *Debra Castaldo, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.*
- *Claudine Chiarmonite, L.C.S.W.*
- *Ellen Kelly, L.C.S.W.*
- *Jacquelyn Lowe, L.C.S.W.*
- *Alice Nadelman, Ph.D.*
- *Pat Carter-Sage, L.C.S.W.*

### **CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN ADOPTION**

This certificate program offers comprehensive training and professional development to mental health practitioners in the core issues facing most adoptive families. Theory and research workshops will present the psychology of adoption of infants or older children. Intervention workshops will include attachment-focused family therapy, management of behavior/discipline for the traumatized child, and other individual and family-focused therapies for adopted children. Elective workshops will focus on birth family issues, transracial/transcultural adoption and other topics.

This certificate program was originally developed through an Adoption Opportunities grant (90-CO-0943) from the Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the New Jersey Adoption Program.

The Certificate Program consists of 7 required and 2 electives workshops, a total of 9 days. Certificates of completion will be offered after each workshop. Participants interested in receiving the final certificate must fill out an application form and pay a one-time enrollment fee of \$20.

Individual workshops can be taken by participants not enrolled in the certificate program. For more information and an application please call (732) 445-3178.

All required workshops are offered once a year. (Fall and Spring semesters). Participants can start taking workshops at any time.

School of Social Work  
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
 Institute for Families  
 Continuing Education and Professional Development Program  
 Building 4161, Livingston Campus  
 100 Joyce Kilmer Avenue  
 Piscataway, NJ 08854-8045

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 The State University  
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**CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN ADOPTION****PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**

Ada Saperstein, M.S.

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Email: [awasap@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:awasap@rci.rutgers.edu)**ADMINISTRATION**

- Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D. *Dean*
- Robert Nolan, M.A., *Associate Dean for Administration and Finance*
- Antoinette Farmer, Ph.D., *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*
- Allison M. Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., *Director, Institute for Families*
- David Bess, M.S.W., *Associate Director, Continuing Education and Professional Development Program*
- Ada Saperstein, M.S., *Assistant Associate Director, Continuing Education and Professional Development Program*

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Phone: (732) 445-3173  
Fax: (732) 445-0580  
Web Site: <http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/catalogs/html>

**REQUIRED WORKSHOPS**

(7 Days Total)

Foundation Workshops (recommended prior to core workshops)

**1. The Psychology of Adoption** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Contemporary Trends in Adoption
- Psychological benefits and risks associated with adoption
- Stress and coping models in adoption
- Family life cycle tasks in adoption
- Implications for post-adoption services

**2. Life Cycle Experience of Adoption: Infant Placement** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Core issues of adoption at various ages and stages
- Differences between families formed by birth and by adoption
- Dimensions of loss for an adopted child
- Managing sibling relationships within the family
- Using normative crisis to support families and children

**3. Life Cycle Experience of Adoption: Older Child Placement** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Life in the child welfare system/ common survival behaviors
- Adoption as the permanency plan
- Developmental tasks of middle childhood
- Interplay between adoption and child development
- Characteristics of successful adoptive families

**Core Clinical Workshops****4. Attachment-Focused Therapy for Adoptive Families** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Recognizing the symptoms of impaired attachment
- Impact of impaired attachment on the adoptive family
- Facilitating family attachment
- Assessment/treatment/clinical strategies

**5. Family-Focused Therapy for Post Institutionalized Adopted Children** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Behavioral symptoms common to post-institutionalized children
- Impact on the adoptive family
- The adoptive family as the primary source of care and healing
- Assessment/treatment/clinical strategies

**6. Behavior Management and Discipline with Adopted Children** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Discipline as protection and care
- Supervision as a form of discipline
- Testing, limit-setting, rewards, consequences incentives, punishment
- Skill building for adoptive parents
- Crisis intervention

**7. Individual Therapy with Adopted Children** 5 C.E.H. Clinical

- Assessment and treatment approaches
- Identity development
- Separation problems
- Strategies and techniques for various ages

**ELECTIVE WORKSHOPS (choose two)****Some Examples:**

- Trans-racial Adoption
- Group Therapy in Adoption
- The Impact of Deprivation and Trauma on Development: Implications for Adoption
- Birth Family Issues in Adoption
- Clinical Service to Birth Families
- Understanding and Responding to Children who have Sexual Behavior Problems

**PROGRAM NOTES**

- ❖ All participants in the Adoption Certificate workshops will receive Clinical Continuing Education Hours (C.E.H.) for social workers. (5 C.E.H. per workshop).
- ❖ All workshops are also approved by the N.J. Department of Education for Continuing Education Hours for teachers (#1965).
- ❖ Workshops sessions are held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with one-hour for lunch.
- ❖ On-site workshops can be requested by agencies and organizations through our Traveling Workshop Program. Please call (732) 445-3178 for more information.
- ❖ For workshop dates and fees, please call (732) 445-3178 and request the workshop brochure.