

Online Master's of Developmental Trauma & Certificate in Developmental Trauma and TBRI®* FAQ's



1. Why is the graduate program moving online?

The program is transitioning online to increase flexibility for students, expand access to our courses, and better support working professionals, international learners, and those with family or geographical restraints.

2. Will the curriculum change?

The core curriculum, learning outcomes, and degree requirements will remain the same. Some courses may be redesigned to optimize them for online delivery, but the academic rigor and credit hours will not change.

3. How will online classes be delivered?

Courses will be asynchronous. Students will learn on their own schedule. Content—such as videos, readings, discussions, and assignments—is available online at any time, so learners don't need to log in at the same time as instructors or classmates.

4. Will tuition rates change?

Graduate tuition charges will be reduced by 30%. To see the current hourly rate for graduate tuition, visit <https://graduate.tcu.edu/financial-support/tuition-and-fees/>.

5. Are graduate students eligible for financial aid?

Yes, please visit TCU's Graduate Studies site at <https://graduate.tcu.edu/financial-support/>.

6. Are international students eligible for the online MS program and certificate programs?

Yes, please check that your home country will recognize an online graduate degree from the US. Most countries will recognize degrees from institutions that hold legitimate accreditation where they are based. TCU's accreditation: <https://ie.tcu.edu/accreditation/>

7. Does TCU provide help for international students?

Yes, visit TCU's International Services office. <https://internationalservices.tcu.edu/>

8. Will scholarships or financial aid be available through KPICD?

At this time, the Kayrn Purvis Institute of Child Development does not offer scholarships or financial aid. Information regarding financial assistance for graduate students may be found using the following link.

[Graduate Financial Aid](#)

9. Will Graduate Assistantships be available?

Yes, two graduate assistantships will be available each year. The positions will be posted on TCU's Graduate Studies GA page. Both positions are in-person, on campus positions. <https://graduate.tcu.edu/financial-support/graduate-assistant-opportunities/>

10. Do I have to start the program in the fall semester?

Yes. You'll need to start in the fall because the courses build on one another and follow a planned sequence.

11. When are applications open?

Applications are open January 1- April 1. Applicants will be notified of a decision during the first week in May.

12. How long or how many hours is the MS program?

The MS in developmental trauma is a 30-hour program. Students will take 6 hours in the fall, 6 hours in the spring, and 3 hours in the summer for two years.

13. Is travel to TCU in Fort Worth required?

Travel to Fort Worth is not required, but highly recommended for the program orientation in August prior to the first day of classes. [TCU's academic calendar](#)

14. What classes will I take?

Courses such as Trauma & Relationships, Trauma & Behavior, Advanced Neuroscience, Graduate Statistics, Developmental Research and Evaluation, and Advanced Developmental Psychology will be offered. Additional courses will be offered as electives for students and are still being developed. New courses will also be developed based on students' needs.

15. How long or how many hours is the graduate certificate program?

The graduate certificate in Developmental Trauma & TBRI is a 9-hour program. Students will take 3 hours in the fall, 3 hours in the spring, and 3 hours in the summer.

16. Can the 9-hours earned in the graduate certificate be applied to the MS program?

Yes, the 9-hours you earn in the graduate certificate can be applied to the MS program's 30 hour requirement.

17. If I complete the graduate certificate program, do I still need to apply to the MS program?

Yes, an application is required to be admitted to the MS program for all students.

18. Can I transfer in graduate coursework to the MS or graduate certificate program from other universities?

No, transfer coursework is generally not accepted for either program. The courses at TCU are uniquely designed by the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development and are specific to Trust-Based Relational

Intervention (TBRI).

MS Program: In very rare cases, a graduate course from another university may be accepted only if it matches the TCU course's learning objectives exactly.

Certificate Program: No transfer credits are accepted under any circumstances.

19. How are students selected for the MS program?

Students are selected through a holistic admissions process designed to ensure strong academic preparation and a good mutual fit with the program. The admissions committee evaluates applicants on multiple dimensions, including:

- Academic Background: Earned degrees, relevant majors or minors, GPA, and prior coursework in developmental psychology, statistics, and research methods.
- Research Experience: Participation in research projects, familiarity with scientific reading and writing, and evidence of analytical thinking.
- Professional and Applied Experience: Work with vulnerable or diverse populations, relevant professional roles, and other experiences that demonstrate readiness for graduate-level training.

Personal statements are an important part of the review process. They are evaluated for clarity of goals, alignment with the program's mission, and the extent to which the applicant's background and aspirations indicate a strong fit for the MS program.

20. Who do I contact with questions?

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