

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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.

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.

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.

What is the tuition cost for each program?

Graduate tuition is offered at a 30% discount off the standard rate for all programs. For the most up-to-date hourly rates, visit <https://financialaid.tcu.edu/cost/cost-of-attendance/graduate.php>.

Are graduate students eligible for financial aid or scholarships?

Yes, graduate students are eligible for financial aid through TCU. Please visit TCU's Graduate Studies at <https://graduate.tcu.edu/financial-support/> for information regarding financial assistance. At this time, the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development does not offer scholarships or financial aid directly.

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Are international students eligible for the MS and certificate programs, and does TCU provide support?

Yes, international students are eligible for both the master's and certificate programs. Most countries recognize degrees from legitimately accredited U.S. institutions. You can verify TCU's accreditation at <https://ie.tcu.edu/accreditation/>. TCU provides support for international students through the International Services office at <https://internationalservices.tcu.edu/>.

Will Graduate Assistantships be available?

Yes, two graduate assistantships will be available each year. These positions are open to MS and 4+1 program participants. 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/>

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.

When are applications open?

Applications are open November 1 - March 1. Applicants will be notified of a decision by May 1.

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.

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: <https://registrar.tcu.edu/calendars.php>.

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What classes will I take?

Courses such as Trauma & Relationships with TBRI, Trauma & Behavior with TBRI, Advanced Neuroscience, Interactive Data Analysis, and Advanced Developmental Psychology will be offered. Additional courses will be offered as electives for students such as Therapeutic Arts, Advanced Social Development, and Advanced Developmental Research.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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:** Personal statements are required for the MS program (not for certificate programs) and are evaluated for clarity of goals, alignment with program mission, and fit based on applicant's background and aspirations.

How are the graduate program and TBRI Practitioner training different?

The TBRI Practitioner Program is designed to equip professionals to practice TBRI. It requires online pre-work and one week of in-person training. Graduate coursework is designed to immerse you in the science and research around trauma-informed care, developmental trauma, and the principles and practices of TBRI. The program develops critical thinking and a in-depth of knowledge around trauma-informed care and TBRI.

Who is an ideal candidate for the programs?

The graduate programs are ideal for people who want to lead others in transforming cultures of care and trauma-informed care paradigm shifts, pursue higher education, and/or gain a deeper understanding of each TBRI principle, strategy, and concept. Ideal candidates seek to understand the depth and breadth of each practice and are prepared to apply this knowledge in leadership roles.

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Will study abroad be an option in this program?

We are proposing a summer study abroad course. All TCU study abroad programs must be approved by TCU Global.

Where can I work with this degree?

Graduates are prepared for leadership and administrative roles in organizations serving children and families, leading implementation and training of trauma-informed practices within organizations.

Is TBRI Practitioner training included in this program?

No, TBRI Practitioner training is not included in the graduate program.

If I am a TBRI Practitioner, do I get course credit or an additional discount on tuition?

No, TBRI Practitioners do not earn course credit for the TBRI Practitioner Training or receive additional discounts on tuition.

Are in-person classes an option in this program?

No, all courses are online and asynchronous.

Is the summer orientation required?

In-person orientation is optional and highly recommended. A Zoom option is available for the program preparation. Orientation topics include:

- TCU resources - library, Dean of Students, student accommodations, etc.
- TCU Online – learning management program
- KPICD structure, organization, and resources
- Networking and relationships
- Fort Worth fun
- Scientific reading and writing