

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Mary Rose Tully Training Initiative?

The Mary Rose Tully Training Initiative (MRT-TI) is a 2 semester Lactation Consultant training program. It is considered a graduate level program, and students earn a total of 6 graduate course credits, 30 Continuing Education Units, and earn the 300 clinical hours and 90 didactic hours required of a Pathway 2 Training program. MRT-TI is an intensive course and should not be viewed as a “test prep course” or a “continuing education course”. Students are expected to perform at the graduate level.

Is the program accredited?

The Mary Rose Tully Training Initiative is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Lactation Education and Approval Review Committee. The program earned its initial accreditation on January 21, 2016 and is current until January 31, 2021.

Is the program offered in a distance format?

At this time, the program is only offered residentially. The residential setting of the program helps facilitate group sharing and bonding, which is further enhanced by the small class size, typically consisting of 12 students. Weekly didactic lectures are frequently delivered by experts in the field of lactation, medicine, public health, and nutrition. The ability to interact in person with these individuals is a distinct advantage of having a residential program.

Do I have to be a student in order to apply to the program?

No, you do not have to be a student when applying to this program. Some applicants choose to apply to this program as part of their current program either at UNC or schools that participate in an [inter-institutional agreement](#) with UNC. Other applicants choose to take this program without enrolling in any other courses through UNC.

Am I able to work and do this program at the same time?

It is a personal decision as to whether someone can balance work and family responsibilities in addition to the program. There is a variety of students in the program, ranging from full time or part time students, those who are employed full time or part time, to stay-at-home parents. It is important to note that the courses that are required for this program are considered Master’s level courses. Students are required to complete assignments including research article presentations, clinical case studies, fall and spring semester projects, and end of course exams in addition to assigned readings from articles and the Core Curriculum text.

When does the program begin and how long is it?

The MRTTI runs from mid-August through May, and for the most part, follows the UNC Chapel Hill academic calendar. There is a mini-workshop immediately prior to the start of the program in mid-August, and another in January immediately prior to the spring semester. Attendance at both workshops is mandatory. MRTTI students are supported to attend the Breastfeeding and Feminism International Conference in March.

When does the course meet?

Didactic classes are held on Friday each week, either from 9:05 am to 12:05 pm or from 1:25 pm to 4:25 pm. The time is selected based on the time that works best for the majority of the accepted students.

Students complete one clinical day a week, typically consisting of an 8 hour day, students are not to exceed 12 hours per clinical day. Clinical days are assigned by the Director of Training, based on the preferences listed by accepted students. The majority of students will complete their hours Monday through Friday.

Due to the need to meet the 300 required clinical hours, on weeks where there are University holidays, clinical days may need to be adjusted to keep the student on target. These adjustments will be made at the discretion of the Director of Training.

What does the clinical experience look like?

Students go through three phases of learning throughout the program, progressing from an observation phase to supervised independent practice. In addition to clinical experiences in the hospital setting, students go to a variety of external sites.

Students are required to be signed off on clinical competencies throughout the program. The Director of Training tracks student progression through the course to ensure students are meeting the requirements of the program and progressing at an acceptable pace.

Does completing this program guarantee employment?

Completion of this program does not guarantee employment of any kind, however, the skills gained through taking this program in combination with attaining an IBCLC certification makes graduates qualified for a variety of employment settings. Many graduates have found that the addition of an IBCLC certification to their other professional credentials makes them highly marketable.

Past graduates of the program have been employed at hospitals, birth centers, Universities, Milk Banks, Public Health Departments, and some have started private practices. Many graduates have gone on to become researchers and advocates with a focus on breastfeeding related issues.

MRTTI students have access to career services based on their student admissions status. Additionally, graduates of the program have access to a closed Facebook page that is used for networking and sharing any job postings.