Frequently Asked Questions:

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, as there are only two sites that offer clinical experiences on the weekends. An effort is made to meet the needs of the students, however there may be days where students need to make accommodations to meet the needs of the program. For example, students are required to attend an EPIC electronic health record training, which is only offered on specific days during the week. An effort is made to give students advanced notice of class requirements, but again, some flexibility is necessary to meet course requirements.
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. Phase 1 is during the first few weeks of the fall semester. Students observe during this time and be accustomed to the roles and responsibilities of an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. Phase 2 occurs during the fall and first half of the spring semester. Students begin honing their skills and providing hands on care under the direct supervision of their preceptors. Phase 3 occurs during the second half of the spring semester. Students begin to care for mothers and infants independently, with the oversight of their preceptors.

External experiences are coordinated by the student, and must include experiences at Public Health Departments, prenatal breastfeeding classes, mother-to-mother support groups, and attendance at a professional organization meeting.

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.

**How does the program ensure I meet all the required hours in order to complete the program and be eligible for the exam?**

**Total Clinical Hours:**

Clinical rotation experiences each week (8-12 hour shifts) = 256+ hours

15 hrs of external experience* = 15 + hours

1 hr experiential sharing, clinical topic discussions = 30

**TOTAL: 301+ hours**

**Total Didactic Hours:**

2 hours topic lecture each week (fall semester) = 28 hours

2 hours topic lecture each week (spring semester) = 28 hours

4 days orientation and introductory lectures (fall semester) = 30 hours

1.5 days spring workshop = 11 hours

1 day of Breastfeeding and Feminism International Conference (spring semester) = 7 hours

**TOTAL: 104+ hours**

*Coordinating external experiences is the responsibility of the student and must include ALL of the following:

1. At least two mother-to-mother support meetings (minimum of 4 hours total)
2. At least two prenatal breastfeeding classes (minimum of 5 hours total)
3. At least two 3-hour periods with a WIC peer counselor or WIC Nutritionist (minimum of 6 hours)
All students are expected to attend at least one local/state coalition meeting (NCBC, TBA, etc.).

For information about meetings, go to:

North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition – www.ncbfc.org

North Carolina Lactation Consultant Association (see NCBC website)

Triangle Breastfeeding Alliance – www.nctba.org

What are the requirements for admission?

Early Registration and Admission Policy

The application documents for the MRTTI are posted on February 1st of each year. Applicants are informed of acceptance decisions by the end of May. The exception to this policy is for MSPH candidates, who are applying simultaneously to the UNC Masters in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health and MRTTI Programs. These students will be notified of their acceptance by March 30th.

Admission Policy

Admission to the MRTTI is based on the information provided by the individual’s program application, college transcripts, personal statement, and two letters of recommendation. An in-person meeting or conversation over the phone with/between the interested applicant and the Director of Training is recommended as part of the application process. A masters or clinical degree is encouraged, students who are in such a degree program at the time of application are also considered. Students must have completed the prerequisite courses as outlined by the Pathway Two Program guidelines set forth by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBCLE).

Prerequisite courses:

Biology

Human Anatomy

Human Physiology

Growth/Development

Nutrition

Psychology/Communication

Introduction to Research

Sociology/Anthropology

An applicant may still be considered for admission if one of the listed prerequisite classes has not been completed prior to the beginning of the program. It is expected that individuals in this situation provide evidence of enrollment in the remaining prerequisite class prior to beginning the MRTTI, and must show proof of successful completion. Failure to successfully complete the outstanding class will result in dismissal from the program.

It is imperative to recognize that transcripts submitted are reviewed only for application and admissions purposes, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that his or her prerequisite classes meet the requirements for the IBCLC exam. Please reference the IBLCE Health Sciences Education Guide.
**How do I enroll in the program, and how much will it cost?**

Please reference the chart below that illustrates the process for applying to the MRTTI as well as the process for applying to UNC- Chapel Hill based on your student/employment status once accepted to the MRTTI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. Applicants must apply to MRTTI first</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MRTTI Application</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transcripts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Letters of Recommendation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>2. Accepted MRTTI applicants must apply to take courses at UNC Chapel Hill</strong> (Individuals do not have to be formally enrolled at UNC to be accepted into this program)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apply to UNC based on current status</strong></td>
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| **Tuition** | Please visit this [website](http://www.fridaycenter.unc.edu) for a breakdown of costs. Costs of the program are based on the current status of the applicant at time of admission. |

**Additional requirements and fees**

| **Immunizations** | Proof of immunizations will be required prior to the start of the program. Required health documentation includes: 1. **Negative TB skin test** within the last year. For students who have no documentation of a TST within the last year, a 2-step TST screening procedure will be necessary to establish baseline results. Please see MRTTI Student Handbook on Health and Safety for complete details regarding the TB skin test. 2. Physician diagnosed and documented measles (rubeola), mumps, and rubella, or documented lab results demonstrating immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella, or documentation of 2 MMRs or a combination of (2)measles, (2)mumps, and (2)rubella vaccines. 3. Physician diagnosed and documented varicella (chickenpox), or documented lab results demonstrating immunity to varicella, or documentation of 2 varicella vaccines. 4. **Hepatitis B immunity** – Immunity confirmed by documentation, or documented lab results demonstrating positive immunity, or signed declination. 5. Adult-dose tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine, Tdap. |

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6. Students are required to submit documentation of the *seasonal influenza vaccine* by November 1st of the fall semester.

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<tr>
<td><strong>CPR</strong></td>
<td>BLS, such as CPR and/or neonatal pulmonary resuscitation will meet the requirement. Proof of current certification will be required. Please see Student Handbook for full details.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Background Check</strong></td>
<td>Students will need to successfully pass a background check prior to starting the program. The program administration will submit the background check on behalf of the student, the fee for this is included in the Clinical Practicum Fee. Please reference the Student Handbook for full details.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Practicum Fee</strong></td>
<td>All participants will pay a $4000.00 clinical practicum fee that is separate from the tuition fees. This fee encompasses the background check, student liability insurance, administrative costs, and costs associated with program including orientation and workshops.</td>
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**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. Career services links are:

The Friday Center: [http://www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cp/cs/resources.html#its](http://www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cp/cs/resources.html#its)

UNC Chapel Hill: [http://studentaffairs.unc.edu/departments](http://studentaffairs.unc.edu/departments)