



ONLINE REMOTE LEARNING

FERTILITY COUNSELING POSTGRADUATE COURSE

Live, Interactive Teleconference

Ten Monthly Sessions

September 2023 to June 2024

This FCPG course is a foundational step in learning the key aspects of fertility counseling and has been a long-standing course taught by experts, Sharon Covington, MSW and Linda Applegarth, Ed.D. Continuing the quality, integrity and legacy of this work, this course will be taught by two professionals with an abundance of training including past collaboration with Sharon and Linda teaching on this topic. Drs. Koser and Covington have numerous publications, course teachings, and presentations in the fertility counseling field.

Whether infertility is a presenting problem or occurs during the course of therapy, clinicians need to understand challenges faced by individual clients as they navigate the complex and multifaceted world of assisted reproduction. The FCPC will address the following topics including:

- Psychological and Medical Overview
- Treatment Approaches
- Donor-Assisted Reproduction & Gestational Surrogacy: Assessment and Counseling
- Modern Families: LGBTQ+ and Advanced Age, etc.
- Racial/Cultural Diversity Issues
- Pregnancy and Postpartum Adjustment
- Reproductive Trauma and Loss
- Fertility Preservation
- The Pregnant Therapist
- Complex Issues in Family Building
- Transference and Countertransference
- Legal/Ethical Challenges
- Practice Building

Readings and discussion are based on the texts:

- (2022) *Fertility Counseling: Clinical Guide, 2nd Ed.* and *Fertility Counseling: Case Studies, 2nd Ed.* S.N. Covington (Ed.)
- (2006) *Infertility Counseling: A Comprehensive Handbook for Clinicians, 2nd Ed.* SN Covington and LH Burns, (Eds.)
- Selected articles provided by the instructors.

register your spot today!

APPLICATION: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/V4AMEFQCM78NJJ5BA](https://forms.gle/V4AMEFQCM78NJJ5BA)
FERTILITYCOUNSELINGCOURSE@GMAIL.COM

The FCPG course is a formal, live, interactive, teleconference-based program in fertility counseling for mental health professionals to address a broad range of issues seen in clients experiencing impaired reproduction and psychosocial functioning. This is a 10-month closed cohort course, that utilizes didactic, interactive visual presentations and clinical case discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to integrate knowledge into practice.

The class will be conducted live by a HIPAA secure teleconference platform. Materials will be provided via email for participants to download. Participants must have a PC or MAC computer with a WIFI bandwidth speed of 50 mb with a camera and audio.

The fee for the 10-month study group is \$2000, which can be paid in two segments (September and January). There will be two monthly class options available: **Wednesday 9am-12pm (ET) and Thursday 12pm-3pm (ET). All classes are taught as a closed cohort of no more than 20 students, providing opportunity to build collegial relationships throughout the course.**

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will integrate reproductive medical technology with the psychological impact of infertility on individuals and couples.
- Participants will utilize relevant clinical approaches for clients who have had or who are currently experiencing impaired reproduction and reproductive loss.
- Participants will apply their understanding of the long-range implications for families created through assisted reproductive technologies (ART).
- Participants will assess and incorporate the ethical challenges occurring when counseling clients using assisted reproduction and/or working in a reproductive medical setting.
- Participants will assess their own transference and counter-transference reactions when working with a broad range of reproductive issues.
- Participants will be able to apply this knowledge to clinical work and practice.

Kristy Koser, PhD, LPCC is in private practice in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia and is an author, speaker, and educator on the topic of reproductive mental health. She has been invited to speak, collaborate and contribute to the growing field of reproductive psychology many times over the last decade. Dr. Koser has written extensively in peer reviewed journal articles and other outlets about infertility and the impact on the couple relationship. She has created several self-help courses for fertility patients and along with her colleagues created a successful educational course with PESI that is available to professionals world-wide. In addition, Dr. Koser has contributed countless blog posts, guest lectures, and more recently several book chapters in foundational fertility counseling texts. She is a member of ASRM and her speciality areas include the working with couples during and after fertility treatment and the transition to parenthood.

Laura Covington, PhD, MSW, works in private practice with Covington & Associates and is a member of the counseling staff of Shady Grove Fertility in the Washington, DC metro area. Dr. Covington's written several publications, include topics related to trauma and the impact related to reproduction, being a pregnant practitioner, known donation, and postpartum care after infertility. She has also been invited to speak and provided education and training around assisted reproductive technology (ART) care and third-party reproduction, including through American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and an educational course with PESI which is available worldwide. Her special interest include providing counseling to individuals, couples and groups around reproductive health issues, including primary ovarian insufficiency (POI), and reproductive traumas, with a focus on the military and combat-related injuries that impair fertility. Dr. Covington provides counseling for the use of donor conception and/or gestational carriers and the transition to pregnancy and parenting after fertility challenges. She also volunteers on Support Group Oversight Committee with RESOLVE and is a member of the ASRM Mental Health Professional Group and ESHRE.

***This course will offer 30 hours of continuing education hours**

Kristy Koser, PhD is a clinician at Aporia Counseling and Psychotherapy, PLLC

Aporia Counseling & Psychotherapy, PLLC has been approved by the **National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)** as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6985. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Aporia Counseling & Psychotherapy, PLLC is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.



Covington & Hafkin and Associates is authorized by the **Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland** to sponsor social work continuing education learning activities and maintains full responsibility for this program. This training qualifies for 30 Category I continuing education units, including 3 for Ethics.

Licensed psychologists can submit a post-program approval form with their state board to determine eligibility.

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