

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION NIU Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy

The SMFT program sounds great, but how much does it cost? Financial aid is available in the form of assistantships, practicum, tuition waivers, fellowships, and loans. This sheet will provide about all you'll need to know and the figures are up to date as of September 2009. Some overlap information is provided in the Questions and Answers and the Program Description sections in the SMFT application packet.

### **COSTS**

#### **Tuition for a full-time graduate student**

Out-of-state/international tuition, fees, and insurance:  
In-state residents tuition, fees, and insurance:

#### **Per semester**

\$8,327.36  
\$5,039.36

Housing. The University offers graduate students housing, but the majority of graduates students live in apartments near campus. Monthly apartment rentals range between \$450-\$600 for a studio or one bedroom to about \$600-\$800 for a two bedroom, plus utilities. Many students in the Specialization arrange to share apartments. Students who have families will find housing in a similar range.

Books add approximately \$400 to \$500 per year.

<http://www.niu.edu/fa/audience/graduate.shtml>

KEEP READING!

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Tuition is waived both years for all SMFT students**

Because SMFT students are offering a service on behalf of the university (that is, they're providing counseling), the university waives their tuition as a way of saying "thanks". This waiver reduces costs of general university fees and insurance down to approximately \$1,500 per semester for both in-state and out-of-state residents.

**Graduate assistantships** Students in the Specialization are often employed as graduate assistants helping faculty with their research or other tasks. Graduate assistantships in our department receive a monthly stipend ranging from approximately \$450 a month (10 hours per week work) to \$850 a month (20 hours per week work). Assistantships are typically given for the nine-month academic year (August to May).

**Student loans** NIU participates in the student loan program of the federal government and the Illinois Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Specific information is available from the Student Financial Aid Office at NIU (815) 753-1395 or <http://www.fa.niu.edu/>

**Fellowships and scholarships** The Graduate School Fellowships awards \$6,000 to the highest performing student (i.e., high GRE scores and undergraduate GPA as well as a recommendation of the faculty in each College). The Graduate School Minority/Jeffrey T. Lunsford Fellowships awards \$6,000 to minority students for superior performance.

Scholarship opportunities made available by the Graduate School and by various professional, service, and minority organizations may be explored through the Graduate School Grants and Fellowships Office (815) 753-0715 and the Student Financial Aids Office (815) 753-1395. The School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences (815) 753-1543 can also offer further information.

See the NIU Graduate Catalog for further information on financial assistance.