

**1. As a SWC MA student, what is the advantage of getting a certificate versus just taking courses as electives?**

There are important professional development areas in the field of counseling that require specialty training. Having an area of expertise is a great way to market yourself as a professional and build up your resume. Being in the learning environment of the NEI certificate programs is also a great networking opportunity as you will be sharing space with licensed professionals working in the field.

**2. What can I do with a certificate from NEI?**

The certificate coursework can be taken to accrue continuing education credits for licensed professionals (i.e., nurses, massage therapists, chaplains, ministers, art therapists, counselors, psychologists). Degree seeking students can take certificate coursework to create a specialty within their program, which may give them leverage in applying for specific jobs.

**3. How do I apply to a certificate program?**

The application process is simple and easy. Just complete this [application form](#) which will go to the admissions office. (There is a drop-down menu where you can choose NEI Certificate Program Application.)

**4. Do I have to complete the application to take a certificate class?**

No, you do not. You can take one or more classes in any of the certificate programs and if you decide you want to complete an entire certificate, you complete the application form and submit it. All the certificate classes you took prior to the application will be counted toward the certificate. We encourage you to apply as soon as you decide you want to do a certificate, so that you are included on the certificate program student list and can receive news, information, and updates from your certificate director.

**5. Are there any fees for applying to the program?**

The application for a NEI Certificate program is free. However, you do have to pay tuition for each class, and the cost varies depending on if you register for college credit or not.

**6. For SWC MA students, there are two prices for the NEI certificate classes. Do I have to take the classes for “degree credit” (2 quarter units) for it to count for a certificate?**

Certificate classes taken at the lower rate (labeled “CEC”) as well as certificate classes taken as an elective for degree credit count toward certificate completion. The MA in Counseling and the MA in Consciousness in Action each have four required electives. The MA in Art

Therapy/Counseling and the MA in Art Therapy for Clinical Professionals each have one required elective. NEI courses must be taken for degree credit to count as an elective.

***7. How do I register for a certificate course?***

You can go directly to <https://newearth.regfox.com/nei-registration-form> to register online. Or you can call the registrar directly at 505-467-6809. We recommend you register early for classes as they can fill up.

***8. How much does an entire certificate program cost?***

The cost for each program will vary. Each program requires completing six classes. For the most part, each class can be taken at the non-credit rate of \$375. The Wilderness Fast in the Ecotherapy Certificate program rate is a higher price because it is a 9-day program.

***9. How long do I have to complete the courses needed for my certificate? As a MA student, do I have to complete my NEI certificates before I graduate?***

Students and community members pursuing a certificate through the New Earth Institute must complete all classes required for the Certificate within six (6) years of taking the first class.

***10. What if I register, but can't or don't attend?***

If you withdraw two weeks prior to the class, you will be charged a \$50 drop fee. If you withdraw with less than two weeks' notice, but three days prior to the class, you will be charged 25% of the tuition plus the \$50 drop fee. If you withdraw with less than three day's notice, there is no refund.

***11. How do I get a packet that describes all the certificate programs?***

You can complete the [Information Request](#) Form and we will send you a packet. You can also call us directly at 505-467-6815 or 505-467-6591 to get more questions answered.