

The Financial RecoverySM training was great for many reasons...

- It covered the nuts and bolts of financial recovery "theory". I feel this was of great benefit. So much of it was in line with what I already "believed", but it connected a lot of dots. It also expanded my view in such areas as needs/wants, relationship of savings and debt, and under-earning.
- It had good focus on the behavioral/emotional side of personal finance. I love how our emphasis is on the needs of our clients. I like how we are encouraged to look beyond the numbers and dig deeper for an emotional connection.
- I liked that we were being taught by you and Mikelann who were/are experienced counselors. It showed us that this career path really is viable and there are opportunities available for us.
- There was excellent material on finding our niche, developing our elevator speech and marketing ourselves. I like how we were/are encouraged to be unique and define ourselves as counselors.
- I like the customized approach we are encouraged to give to clients. We don't have a preconceived path or steps that they must follow. Instead, we have a tried and true process that can be adapted to their needs and goals.
- There was crucial information on how to set and collect fees, deal with clients, and run a successful practice. This was very useful to me and a huge bonus that I did not expect. I really think this aspect alone would have sunk me had I pursued this career without the training.
- I like how we are required to "walk the walk" in our own "recovery" process. I believe I will be able to connect with clients on a whole new level because of this. Surprisingly, I underestimated the value of it at first.
- I liked the fact that we were encouraged to get clients and start implementing the theory. The call to action is great and encouraged me to "get going". It also clarified the theory when I had to put it into practice.
- I like having the MoneyMinder tool. This essentially ties all of the theory into something that becomes tangible and measurable. I also like the way it is setup differently from other budgeting and tracking programs out there. Although some of our class members got hung up on this, I would tout it as an advantage...I call it the "unbudget."
- The class makeup was great because we had a diverse group. I liked the class size and the "cohort" feeling of the group. I underestimated how much I would learn from other class members.

...I should add that I like the mentoring part also. The one-on-one component has been key when I have needed to dig deeper or ask more questions. I look forward to our remaining mentoring sessions.

Christian LeCheminant, Financial Recovery Counselor, March 2010