



SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

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Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy



SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

Contact Information

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Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy



Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy is a non-thesis degree program requiring 51 units of course work, 6.5 units in continuing education and successful completion of a comprehensive written examination. As part of the program, students complete a 12-month clinical practicum where they accumulate 500 direct client contact hours, of which at least 250 hours are with couples and families. Students also receive over 200 hours of supervision from both faculty and site supervisors. The program emphasizes teaching students the clinical skills they need to be proficient marriage and family therapists. The program believes that all competent clinicians need to be able to utilize a biopsychosocial perspective. This perspective conceptualizes problems as the result of the complex interaction of biological, psychological and social variables. Our students are taught the importance of considering possible biological factors in the etiology of psychological and relational problems and how to collaborate with the multiple professionals who come in contact with their clients.

For full-time students starting in the fall semester, the degree can be completed in two full academic years. For students starting in the spring semester, the degree requires a minimum of two and a half years to complete since practicum placements begin only in the summer and fall. The majority of students are full-time although some part-time students are in the program. Part-time students are required to take six units each semester and usually work in a related mental health profession. Students enter the program from a variety of undergraduate majors, including family studies, psychology, communications, English and sociology.

Distinguishing Features

- The Marital and Family Therapy Program has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). The Commission is the standard-setting organization for family therapy designated by the Department of Education.
- The MFT program at the University of San Diego (USD) meets the guidelines for family therapy training set forth by the Board of Behavioral Sciences, which regulates licensure of marriage and family therapists in California.
- Clinical practicum experience in a community based agency
- Specialized training in medical family therapy
- Small class size and personalized attention from dedicated faculty
- International partnership with the Hong Kong University Family Institute
- Program faculty are authors of the widely adopted book, *Essential Skills in Family Therapy: From the First Interview to Termination, Second Edition* (Guilford Press).

Program Curriculum

The Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy consists of 51 units of coursework and 6.5 continuing education credits:

Prerequisite Courses

1. Human Development
2. Counseling Theories or Theories of Personality

Note: Students who have not had these courses in their undergraduate studies can complete these requirements by taking a course at USD, online, or in the community.

Required Courses (51 units)

MFTS 500	Research in Family Therapy	3 units
MFTS 523	Family Therapy Theories I	3 units
MFTS 524	Family Therapy Theories II	3 units
MFTS 528	Psychopathology	3 units
MFTS 529	Ethical and Legal Issues in Family Therapy	2 units
MFTS 532	Human Diversity	3 units
MFTS 533	Family Studies	3 units
MFTS 541	Assessment and Treatment of Child/Family Problems	3 units
MFTS 542	Psychological Testing and Evaluation	2 units
MFTS 543	Developmental Psychopathology (Human Development prerequisite)	3 units
MFTS 544	Psychopharmacology (Prerequisite: MFTS 528)	2 units
MFTS 545	Families, Systems, and Health	1 unit
MFTS 546	Couples and Sex Therapy (Prerequisite: MFTS 524)	3 units
MFTS 570	Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Problems	2 units
MFTS 595P	Practicum in MFT I	5 units
MFTS 596P	Practicum in MFT II	5 units
MFTS 597P	Practicum in MFT III	5 units

Note: Students must complete 27 units of required coursework before beginning the Practicum. The Practicum begins only in the summer and fall semesters.

Required Continuing Education (CE) Courses

EDUC X-571	Child Abuse	0.5 CEU unit
EDUC X-572	Gender Issues in Family Therapy	1 CEU unit
EDUC X-574	Domestic Violence	1 CEU unit
EDUC X-577	Professional Issues in Family Therapy	1 CEU unit
EDUC X-578	Spiritual Issues in Family Therapy	1 CEU unit

Elective Continuing Education (CE) Courses

Students are required to take two of the following CE courses:

EDUC X-573	Group Therapy	2 CEU units
EDUC X-575	Special Topics in Family Therapy	1 CEU unit
EDUC X-576	Self of the Therapist Seminar	1 CEU unit

International Experience

Students are required to include an International Experience within their program of study. Visit our Global Center or faculty advisor for more information regarding International Education Programs.

Admission Requirements

While applicants are evaluated based on a holistic method, the successful candidate for the program will demonstrate his or her candidacy in the following manner:

- Completed online USD application, available at www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php
- College or university transcripts. Applicants must submit one official sealed transcript from every college or university attended.
- Three professional letters of recommendation from supervisors, employers, or professors.
- Statement of purpose
- Resume
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in all undergraduate coursework
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test or Miller Analogies (MAT) with scores in the 50th percentile or above in each section

Application deadlines: Fall term is Jan. 15 (early) or March 1 (regular). Spring term is Oct. 15.

Financial Aid

Students may be eligible to apply for additional scholarships and financial aid through SOLES. To learn more about the opportunities available, please visit www.sandiego.edu/soles/financialaid.

Additional Requirements for International Students

- Transcripts must be issued in English by the academic institution or must be officially translated by an approved agency. Applicants are required to have their foreign transcripts evaluated by an independent credential evaluation service. Applicants may contact The International Education Research Foundation, Inc. and request a Detail Report, or World Education Services and request a Course-by-Course Report.
- Submit the official results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Minimum requirements are 83 (internet-based), 237 (computer-based), or 580 (paper-based).
- Submit Certification of Finances Form and supporting documents. Visit www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/international/.

