

# Marriage and Family Therapy (M.S.)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program at Seattle Pacific University is to provide the highest quality education and training in marriage and family therapy in a distinctly Christian context. The program focuses on the development of the self of the therapist through the integration of theory, research, and practice — all within a social-ecology perspective and guided by foundational Christian principles. People are viewed holistically, and training is guided by the values of openness, respect, curiosity, and accountability.

## PROGRAM DISTINCTIVES

Our training is offered through academic coursework and supervised clinical practice, leading to a master of science degree in marriage and family therapy. The program provides a seven-quarter practicum sequence that delivers fundamental and comprehensive clinical training. Graduates are equipped to provide professional services as marriage and family therapists and to be effective participants in the ever-changing health care environment.

This degree can be completed in either a two-year (full-time) or three-year (part-time) sequence. In exceptional circumstances students may also have up to four years to complete degree requirements. In order to maintain active status in the program, students are expected to complete 24 credit hours per year. Exceptions are to be approved by the chair of the marriage and family therapy program. Courses are generally held during mid-afternoon and evening hours, Monday through Thursday, for 10 weeks. A typical full-time schedule is as follows:

First year: Monday and Wednesday, 2–8:30 p.m. Second year: Tuesday and Thursday, 2–8:30 p.m. Full-time employment is discouraged for those who intend to pursue the two-year program. Full-time employment may be possible for those pursuing the three-year program. However, part-time employment is preferable.

## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) is the national professional organization dedicated to the practice of marriage and family therapy. The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) is the national accrediting agency for MFT training programs. The COAMFTE has set educational requirements and graduates of these COAMFTE accredited programs are considered to have completed all educational requirements for AAMFT Clinical Membership. The MFT Program at Seattle Pacific University is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and holds secondary accreditation through COAMFTE. Graduates with post-master's degree experience are eligible to apply for certification or licensure through Washington state's Department of Health. Five hundred (500) hours of clinical practice and 100 hours of supervision may be applied toward Washington state MFT licensure if an applicant graduates from a COAMFTE-accredited program.

The MFT degree prepares individuals for supervised service in clinical and agency mental health organizations, educational settings and private psychotherapy. Other professional opportunities include educator, consultant, mediator, administrator and medical family therapist. Marriage and Family Therapy program graduates work with individuals, couples, families and groups. Students will become skilled in providing professional therapeutic techniques in the treatment of family and individual issues based on a systems/relational understanding of people's lives.

The program provides a seven-quarter practicum sequence that focuses on the development of the self of the therapist and provides fundamental and comprehensive clinical training. This includes the following:

- Supervised internship at an approved site (500 hours of face-to-face client contact, of which at least 250 hours must be couples or family therapy).
- On-campus small-group supervision and individual/ group supervision at an internship placement

site. One hundred (100) total hours of supervision is required, which will include at least 50 hours of live, video, or audio supervision.

- A clinical portfolio, presented in the seventh quarter. This is an in-depth application of a theory to clinical practice and the integration of the self of the therapist with his or her clinical work. Supervisors and clinical practicum supervision group members attend the final presentation.

Seattle Pacific University also offers a certificate in medical family therapy that can be incorporated into the standard MFT curriculum. Post-master's students may also obtain a certificate in medical family therapy.

### **AAMFT/COAMFTE GUIDELINES**

Area I: Theoretical Knowledge (11 credits)

6200, 6300, and 6303 required; 6310, 6340, 6350, 6360, and 6370 (choose at least one).

Area II: Clinical Knowledge (23 credits)

6110, 6210, 6220, 6410, 6600, 6610, 6620, and 6630 required.

Area III: Individual Development and Family Relations (6 credits)

6100, 6641, 6642, and 6643 required and life span prerequisite.

Area IV: Professional Identity and Ethics (8 credits)

6301, 6810, and 6811 required.

Area V: Research (4 credits)

6700 and 6710 required, and statistics prerequisite.

Area VI: Additional Learning (5–6 credits)

6400 required; 6201, 6351, 6411, 6640, 6670, 6820, and 6912 (choose at least one), or another approved elective.

The marriage and family therapy core curriculum and electives are based on the AAMFT/COAMFTE guidelines.

### **COURSE SEQUENCE FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAM**

(70 credits)

A typical two-year course sequence is as follows:

Autumn One (12 credits)

MFT 6100 Social Ecology of Family (3)

MFT 6200 History, Systems, and Christian Perspectives (3)

MFT 6300 Theories of MFT I (3)

MFT 6631 Ethical Issues and Crisis Intervention (2)

MFT 6933 Clinical Practicum I (1)

Winter One (11 credits)

MFT 6600 Psychopathology and Family Therapy (3)

MFT 6301 Becoming a Systems Therapist (3)

MFT 6303 Theories of MFT II (3)

MFT 6934 Clinical Practicum II (2)

Spring One (11 credits)

MFT 6220 Gender Perspectives and Family Therapy (3)

MFT 6620 Measurement and Assessment (3)

MFT 6810 Issues, Ethics, and Law (3)

MFT 6935 Clinical Practicum III (2)

Summer One (7 credits)

MFT 6641 Treatment of Young Children and Families (1)

MFT 6642 Treatment of Adolescents and Families (1)

MFT 6643 Parenting and the Treatment of Families (1)

MFT 6936 Clinical Practicum IV (2)

*Plus one of the following:*

MFT 6310 Brief Therapy (2)  
 MFT 6340 Experiential Therapy (2)  
 MFT 6350 Narrative Family Therapy (2)  
 MFT 6360 Bowen Therapy (2)  
 MFT 6370 Internal Family Systems (2)

## Autumn Two (10 credits)

MFT 6210 Multicultural Issues in Family Therapy (2)  
 MFT 6610 Treatment of Abusive Systems (3)  
 MFT 6630 Psychopharmacology, Physiology, and Medical Issues (3)  
 MFT 6937 Clinical Practicum V (2)

## Winter Two (11 credits)

MFT 6400 Group Therapy (3)  
 MFT 6410 Treatment of Couples (3)  
 MFT 6700 Graduate Research I (3)  
 MFT 6938 Clinical Practicum VI (2)

## Spring Two (8 credits)

MFT 6110 Human Sexuality (3)  
 MFT 6939 Clinical Practicum VII (2)  
 MFT 6710 Graduate Research II (1)

## Plus one of the following:

MFT 6201 Christian Perspectives on Psychotherapy (2)  
 MFT 6411 Premarital Education (2)  
 MFT 6640 Medical Family Therapy (3) (offered Winter Quarter only)  
 MFT 6670 Grief, Death, and Culture (2)  
 MFT 6820 Current Trends in MFT (2)

Applicants may elect to take the psychology subject test of the GRE. Those who earn a score of 500 or higher may waive any unfinished prerequisite coursework, with the exception of the statistics course and the individual life-span development course.

**GENERAL ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**

The program begins in Autumn Quarter and admits students once a year. The application deadline is February 1. Listed below is a brief outline of University and program requirements for admission to MFT students. For detailed information on admission, please visit The Graduate Center Web site at [www.spu.edu/graduate](http://www.spu.edu/graduate). You may also request an application packet by email at [gradadmissions@spu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@spu.edu), or by phone at 206.281.2091 or 800.601.0603.

1. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in any field. Candidates will have a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in the last 45 quarter credits (30 semester credits) of coursework completed before applying for admission, or in all undergraduate work, whichever is higher.
2. A minimum of 18 semester credits or 24 quarter credits in the social and behavioral sciences, including a course in applied statistics and a course in individual life-span development, must be completed (at a regionally accredited institution) prior to full admission to the program. Students who have not already taken sufficient courses in this area are encouraged to take courses from the following areas: theories of personality, theories of counseling, abnormal psychology, and developmental psychology or family studies.

Applicants may elect to take the psychology subject test of the GRE. Those who earn a score of 500 or higher may waive any unfinished prerequisite coursework, with the exception of the statistics and individual life-span development courses.

3. A minimum score of 950 (only verbal and quantitative) for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or 430 scaled score (35 raw score) for the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required. The test must have been administered within five years of the deadline date for application to the program. Further information on these tests can be obtained by calling the numbers listed below:

Graduate Record Exam

800.GRE.CALL or 800.473.2255  
www.gre.org

Miller Analogies Test  
800.622.3231  
www.milleranalogies.com

UW Testing Center for (local applicants)  
206.543.1170

If the candidate has earned a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution, he or she can submit an official transcript on which the master's degree is posted and the GRE/MAT will be waived.

*Note: Candidates with significant qualifications and exceptional recommendations who fail to meet the GPA or GRE/MAT minimum scores may still be considered for admission to the MFT program, because the program admits all students on a probationary status (see "Admission Procedures").*

4. Applicants will submit three letters of recommendation, including (a) at least one from a person professionally qualified to recommend for a field of this nature (e.g., mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, pastoral counselor, psychologist); and (b) at least one from a person qualified to evaluate academic ability (e.g., educator). A third personal recommendation may include a reference from an employer and/or supervisor from a volunteer experience. Recommendation forms are included in the application brochure. Recommendations must be submitted on the forms provided. Forms should be sent to the applicant in sealed and signed envelopes to be included with the application package.
5. Applicants will submit a typed personal statement. Please present a succinct statement that provides an accurate indication of writing and grammatical skills. Generally, statements should be three to four pages in length.  
The personal statement should address (a) career objectives; (b) rationale for seeking the degree and choosing to attend Seattle Pacific University; (c) personal interest in marriage and family therapy; (d) professional and personal strengths as they apply to the mental health profession; (e) related volunteer or work experiences; (f) the way in which personal and professional life experiences have converged to motivate application to the MFT program; and (g) other insights as deemed appropriate by the applicant.
6. Those for whom English is not their first language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and present a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based test or 213 on the computer-based test.
7. Those who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States must provide an official confidential statement of financial support covering each year of intended enrollment.
8. Those interested in the Medical Family Therapy Certificate need to request application materials for this program also.

### **ADMISSION PROCEDURES**

The Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Admissions Committee will complete an initial applicant screening process based upon the application materials only. Finalists are invited to meet with members of the committee for an all-day group interview process in early April. It is highly recommended that applicants participate in the group interview process. Telephone interviews are also permissible, but only in exceptional circumstances.

Admission to the graduate program depends upon recommendation by the MFT faculty and approval from the chair of marriage and family therapy. The entire process is usually completed within 10 weeks after the final deadline date for applications.

All students are admitted on a probational status in order to allow faculty to be certain students are fully prepared for placement in an internship site. Full admission is required in order for placement in an internship site to occur. To be considered for full admission, students must complete a minimum of 11 units in the MFT program, with average GPA of 3.0 or better in all courses, and must be recommended for continuance by MFT faculty.

**TRANSFER OF CREDIT**

Students wishing to apply master's degree level coursework completed at a regionally accredited institution prior to application must provide applicable transcripts and/or syllabi. Each course must be at least three graduate quarter credits and be equivalent to courses taught in the MFT program at Seattle Pacific University. A minimum grade of B will be needed for transferred work, and a maximum of 9 quarter credits may be transferred.

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****MDFT 6630 Psychopharmacology, Physiology, and Medical Issues (3)**

Examines the most common physical and medical issues that surface in the practice of marriage and family therapy. Special attention is given to psychopharmacology, neurophysiology, and general medical conditions that affect emotional and interpersonal health of clients/families. Introduces students to the field of collaborative medicine. Family therapy will be examined in relation to current trends in medical and mental health care. Gives special attention to the biopsychosocial and spiritual implications of physical, emotional and relational suffering. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6640 Medical Family Therapy (3)**

Examines the emerging field and practice of medical family therapy. Emphasizes a medical perspective using a biopsychosocial model of health and illness. Students will learn methods and techniques to assess and intervene with psychosocial problems experienced by patients and families around health issues. Students will also become familiar with the operating constructs of medical culture and how to develop an on-site, successful collaborative relationship with medical practitioners. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6645 Beliefs, Spirituality, and Health (3)**

Explores the impact of individual, family and cultural beliefs/meanings on the illness experience. Examines family concerns regarding treatment, suffering, healing and death. Gives particular focus to eliciting patient/family/cultural beliefs around internal resources and faith practices, as well as external resources such as family, church and community. Reviews how to work with family belief systems and construct healing beliefs and behaviors, how to negotiate with other treatment providers and/or family who have conflicting beliefs, and how to strengthen a culturally sensitive provider/patient/family relationship. Course equivalents: CEU 2011 and MFT 6645. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6646 Applied Medical Family Therapy (3)**

Prerequisites: MDFT/MFT 6630 and MDFT/MFT 6640.

Builds on the theoretical and clinical knowledge of MFT 6640, Medical Family Therapy. Focuses on developing a broad knowledge base of the biopsychosocial and spiritual implications of common chronic illnesses. Examines the biological (etiology, diagnosis and treatment), pharmacological, emotional, relational and spiritual effects of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infertility, lung disease and chronic pain. Studies current treatment protocols including medication and complementary treatments. Students will become familiar with multidisciplinary treatment practices that have been successful in reducing suffering, improving quality of life, and reducing morbidity and mortality. Course equivalents: CEU 2012 and MFT 6646. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6900 Independent Study (1-5)**

Registration approval: Independent Study Agreement.

May be repeated for credit up to 5 credits.

**MDFT 6933 Clinical Practicum I (2)**

Recommended prerequisites: MDFT 6630, 6640, 6645, 6646.

Places students in a bio-medical outpatient setting (such as Medical Oncology or Family Practice) where they will provide, in collaboration with an attending health care provider, medical family therapy (i.e., individual, couple, family and group medical therapy) to patients and their families. These services will be provided under the supervision of a program faculty member. Training will take place in supervision groups as supervisors provide feedback on live and videotaped sessions. Medical clinics associated with the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy will be used as practicum sites for our students. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6934 Clinical Practicum II (2)**

Recommended Prerequisites: MDFT 6630, 6640, 6645, 6646.

Places students in a bio-medical outpatient setting (such as a Medical Oncology or Family Practice) where they will provide, in collaboration with an attending health care provider, medical family therapy (i.e., individual, couple, family and group medical therapy) to patients and their families. These services will be provided under the supervision of a program faculty and attending physician. Training will take place in supervision groups as supervisors provide feedback on live and videotaped sessions. Medical clinics associated with the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy will be used as practicum sites for our students. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6935 Clinical Practicum III (2)**

Recommended Prerequisites: MDFT 6630, 6640, 6645, 6646.

Places students in a bio-medical outpatient setting (such as Medical Oncology or Family Practice) where they will provide, in collaboration with an attending health care provider, medical family therapy (i.e., individual, couple, family and group medical therapy) to patients and their families. These services will be provided under the supervision of a program faculty member. Training will take place in supervision groups as supervisors provide feedback on live and videotaped sessions. Medical clinics associated with the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy will be used as practicum sites for our students. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MDFT 6936 Clinical Practicum IV (2)**

Recommended Prerequisites: MDFT 6630, 6640, 6645, 6646.

Places students in a bio-medical outpatient setting (such as Medical Oncology or Family Practice) where they will provide, in collaboration with an attending health care provider, medical family therapy (i.e., individual, couple, family and group medical therapy) to patients and their families. These services will be provided under the supervision of a program faculty member. Training will take place in supervision groups as supervisors provide feedback on live and videotaped sessions. Medical clinics associated with the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy will be used as practicum sites for our students. Class open to marriage and family therapy and medical family therapy majors.

**MFT 6100 Social Ecology of Family (3)**

Develops a broad knowledge base of the dynamics and functioning of different family forms: single parent, nuclear, post-divorce, remarriage, and intergenerational families and alternative family groups. Covers the life cycle of the family and the process and modification of family structures over time (e.g., birth of the first child, adolescent development, leaving home). Integrates findings regarding individual development from birth to death. Contextual issues (e.g., culture, gender, socioeconomics) will inform discussions of the family as well. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6110 Human Sexuality (3)**

Examines the place of sexuality in human life including developmental, cultural, psychological, biological, relational, and spiritual factors. Pays special attention to the issues of gender, intimacy, sexual functioning and sexual dysfunction from a psychotherapeutic perspective. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6200 History, Systems, and Christian Perspectives (3)**

Traces historical developments in formal and informal human services, historical developments in Christian thought, and how the two interrelate. Particularly important are theological and epistemological bases for human services vis-a-vis social ecology and systems thinking. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6201 Christian Perspectives of Psychotherapy (2)**

Recommended Prerequisite: MFT 6200.

Focuses on the dynamic relationship between Christianity and the art and science of psychotherapy. Consider how various Christian perspectives relate to clinical practices, ethics, treatment models, and social issues which particularly influence psychotherapy. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6210 Multicultural Issues in Family Therapy (2)**

Focuses on how ethnic, cross-cultural, multiracial and socioeconomic issues influence theories and practices of marriage and family therapy. Analyzes strengths and limitations of major modalities. Students will consider influences of their own cultural backgrounds upon their practice of marriage and family therapy. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6220 Gender Perspectives and Family Therapy (3)**

Acquaints family therapy students with the MFT literature pertaining to gender. Through readings, videos, and class discussions, students will learn the many ways that gender impacts self and relationships on the personal as well as socio-cultural levels. Implications for therapeutic practice will be a major focus. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6300 Theories of Marriage and Family Therapy I (3)**

Acquaints students with the basic theories and methods guiding the practice of family therapy, and the research basis for their use. Students will be encouraged to begin to develop their own personal style of therapy in light of those theories studied. Examines theoretical limitations and strengths in relationship to gender and to culturally diverse case studies. Students will be asked to critique and explore the limitations of each model presented. Class sessions will be divided between lectures and a practical application of theories. With MFT 6303, this course is intended to be the foundational theory course of the program and is taken in the first quarter of enrollment. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6301 Becoming a systems Therapist (3)**

Recommended Prerequisite: MFT 6300.

Builds upon MFT 6300 in the basics of learning to think and work systematically with individuals, couples and families. Bowen theory is the central organizing framework for the course and students will apply these theoretical constructs to their own family systems. Emphasizes defining the self of the therapist-in-training. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6303 Theories of Marriage and Family Therapy II (3)**

Recommended Prerequisite: MFT 6300. Continues to provide students with a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of basic theories and methods guiding the practice of family therapy, and the research basis for their use. Encourages students to begin to develop their own personal style of therapy in light of those theories studied. Examines theoretical limitations and strengths in relationship to gender and to culturally diverse case studies. Students will be asked to critique and explore the limitations of each model presented. With MFT 6300, this course is intended to be the foundational theory course of the program and is taken in the second quarter of enrollment. Class sessions will be divided between lectures and a practical application of theories. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6310 Brief Family Therapy (2)**

Examines primary models of brief therapy. Includes relevant research and clinical data. By working through actual cases and other clinical examples, students acquire the conceptual bases and primary methods of these models. Helps students assess how clients' attempted solutions of problems have been effective and ineffective, and how to plan interventions to enhance effectiveness. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6320 Structural Family Therapy (2)**

Examines a pillar of the systemic therapies. Following the tenets of the model, this is a course on family spatial and organizational metaphors. Students will learn the conceptual bases, primary methods and research regarding structural therapy. Class interaction includes working through actual cases and other clinical examples. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6340 Experiential Theory and Family Therapy (2)**

Provides an in-depth study and exploration of experiential family therapy. Examines the works of Whitaker and Satir in the light of their similarities and differences in the treatment of families. Presents research pertinent to experiential therapy. Emphasizes the development of the student's own self and style as a therapist. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6350 Narrative Family Therapy (2)**

Examines developments in narrative therapy and the implications for clinical practice. Focuses primarily on the works of Michael White and David Epston with an emphasis on developing consciousness of issues of power, forming collaborative relationships with people, and re-storying the lives of people who have problems. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6360 Advanced Bowen Theory and Therapy (2)**

Provides advanced knowledge, training, experience, and research in Bowen Theory and its applications. Gives students opportunities to explore clinical applications of the theory for their own work. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6370 Internal Family System Therapy (1)**

Provides an in depth study and exploration of Internal Family Systems Therapy. Develops clinical skills particularly relevant to working with trauma survivors and their families, as well as the development of self leadership within the clinician. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6400 Group Therapy (3)**

Examines the theoretical and practical applications of process-oriented groups. Pays particular attention to the development and implementation of family and couple groups. Additionally, participation in a group experience will enable students to increase knowledge and skill in the areas of group membership and group leadership. Research regarding participation in group processes will be reviewed. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6410 Treatment of Couples (3)**

Recommended Prerequisite: MFT 6300.

Reviews various models of couple interaction, couple evaluation and couple therapy. Provides students with the skills to help couples change and the ability to conceptualize and carry out interventions in complex marital, family, sexual dysfunction, divorce and remarriage situations consistent with major models of family and marital therapy. Examines ethnicity and cultural implications. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6411 Premarital Education (2)**

Provides a practical overview of the theory, research, and practice of premarital and remarital therapy. Reviews goals, topics, and formats of premarital therapy within various contexts and settings. Examines issues related to culture, gender, diversity and special populations. Class sessions will be divided between lectures, discussions and practical applications. Students will be able to design a premarital program in a setting of interest to them. Course equivalent: CEU 1801. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6600 Psychopathology and Family Systems (3)**

Introduces the concepts of psychopathology from a systems perspective with special attention paid to the role families play in the development and treatment of pathology. Uses the DSM-IV-TR as the organizing format for the class with special attention paid to the understanding of etiology, diagnosis and treatment using the DSM nosology in a family systems context. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6610 Treatment of Abusive Systems (3)**

Examines the dynamics and treatment of abusive cycles and systems, with particular focus on substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and eating disorders. This didactic and experiential course highlights the effects of abuse on recipients, abusers and others within the contexts of culture, gender and spirituality. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6620 Measurement and Assessment (3)**

Surveys models and instruments of family, couple, and individual assessment employed in marriage and family therapy, including the statistical underpinnings of validity and reliability. Students will learn to diagnose both dysfunctional relationship patterns and common mental health disorders within the context

of marital and family systems. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6630 Psychopharmacology, Physiology, and Medical Issues (3)**

Examines the most common physical and medical issues that surface in the practice of marriage and family therapy. Special attention is given to psychopharmacology, neurophysiology, and general medical conditions that affect emotional and interpersonal health of clients/families. Introduces students to the field of medical family therapy and collaborative medicine. Family therapy will be examined in relation to current trends in medical and mental health care. Gives special attention to the biopsychosocial and spiritual implications of physical, emotional and relational suffering. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6640 Medical Family Therapy (3)**

Examines the emerging field and practice of medical family therapy. Emphasizes the medical perspective using a biopsychosocial model of health and illness. Students will learn methods and techniques to assess and intervene with psychosocial problems experienced by patients and families around health issues, and become familiar with the operating constructs of medical culture and how to develop an on-site, successful relationship with medical practitioners. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6641 Treatment of Young Children and their Families (1)**

Provides a didactic and experiential format in which to explore issues around therapeutic work with young children and their families. Explores developmental and family systems issues in the light of working with young children and their families. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6642 Treatment of Adolescents and Families (1)**

Provides a didactic and experiential format in which to explore issues around therapeutic work with adolescents and their families. Explores developmental and family systems issues in the light of working with adolescents and their families. Class open to community counseling, counseling and family therapy and marriage and family therapy majors.

**MFT 6643 Parenting and the Treatment of Families (1)**

Provides a didactic and experiential format in which to explore issues around therapeutic work with children, adolescents and their families. Explores parenting, developmental and family systems issues in the light of working with children, adolescents and their families in various therapeutic contexts. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors.

**MFT 6645 Beliefs, Spirituality, and Health (3)**

Explores the impact of individual, family and cultural beliefs/meanings on the illness experience. Examines family concerns regarding treatment, suffering, healing, and death. Gives particular focus to eliciting patient/family/cultural beliefs around internal resources and faith practices, as well as external resources such as family, church and community. Reviews how to work with family belief systems and construct healing beliefs and behaviors, how to negotiate with other treatment providers and/or family who have conflicting beliefs, and how to strengthen a culturally sensitive provider/patient/family relationship. Course equivalents: CEU 2011 and MDFT 6645. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors.

**MFT 6646 Applied Medical Family Therapy (3)**

Builds on the theoretical and clinical knowledge of MFT 6640, Medical Family Therapy. Focuses on developing a broad knowledge base of the biopsychosocial and spiritual implications of common chronic illnesses. Examines the biological (etiology, diagnosis and treatment), pharmacological, emotional, relational and spiritual effects of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, neurological disorders, infertility and chronic pain. Studies current treatment protocols including medication and complementary treatments. Students will become familiar with multidisciplinary treatment practices that have been successful in reducing suffering, improving quality of life, and reducing morbidity and mortality. Course equivalents: CEU 2012 and MDFT 6646. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors.

**MFT 6670 Grief, Death, and Culture (2)**

Allows students to examine their own beliefs and philosophies about loss and death through exploring the

cultural narratives of grief and death that students bring to their clinical work. Discusses developmental issues relating to children's understanding of loss, as well as death and bereavement across the life cycle. Addresses traumatic and stigmatized loss. Knowledge will be enhanced through examining the manner in which other cultures create meaningful rituals for life and death. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6700 Graduate Research (3)**

Introduces graduate level statistics and research methods. Includes methods such as quantitative and qualitative designs in researching marriage and family therapy processes and outcomes. Develops skills in reviewing current research articles. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6710 Graduate Research II (1)**

Assists the student in the integration of clinical work and research practice, bridging the gap between researcher and clinician. Students will be expected to examine their practicum case studies and/or clinical theory from a qualitative research perspective. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6810 Issues, Ethics, and Law (3)**

Considers major professional issues and practices in marriage and family therapy in the contexts of Christian perspectives, the ethical guidelines of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and other professional organizations. Examines the role of national and local laws, research findings and cultural/personal values. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors.

**MFT 6811 Ethical Issues and Crisis Intervention (2)**

Focuses mainly on ethical issues and crisis interventions relevant to MFT clinicians and interns (e.g., harm to self and others). Provides initial preparation for student's placement in an internship site. Course is taken in conjunction with Clinical Practicum I (MFT 6933) Corequisite: MFT 6933. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6820 Current Trends in MFT (2)**

Focuses on the entry into the "real world" of therapeutic practice and setting up the "business" of therapy. Addresses current changes in the practice of couple and family therapy, and broadens career alternatives beyond the scope of private practice to include consultant, researcher, educator, trainer, and mediator. Class open to marriage and family therapy, nursing and school counseling majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6900 Independent Study (1-6)**

Registration approval: Independent Study Agreement.

Provides opportunity for the student to study a topic of special interest under faculty supervision. May be repeated for credit up to 12 credits. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students. Class open to graduate.

**MFT 6912 Seminar in Special Topics (1-4)**

Registration approval: Instructor.

Provides a lecture-discussion format for deliberation of significant matters in marriage and family therapy, mental health delivery or mental health topic. Credits vary according to complexity and depth of study for each topic. May be repeated for credit up to 12 credits. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6933-6937 Clinical Practicum I-VII (1-2)**

Assists students in the integration of self, theory and the practice of family therapy. This seven-quarter sequence is designed to build step-wise toward each student's development of a personal theoretical orientation of treatment and a clinical demonstration of mastery of his/her stated orientation in the final quarter (VII). Students will present individual and family cases which they are currently working with in their clinical placement settings. Groups will not exceed six persons. This is the required on-campus component of the off-campus practicum experience. Students are required to stay in sequence once they have committed to their practicum (a seven-quarter commitment). Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.

**MFT 6941 Advanced Clinical Practicum (1-4)**

Provides continued supervision for students who have completed the clinical practicum sequence, but have not fulfilled the 500 client contact hour requirement. May be repeated for credit up to 8 credits. Class open to marriage and family therapy majors. Class open to graduate students.