

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY (MS)

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Master of Science (MS) in Marriage and Family Therapy provides the knowledge and skills needed to become a licensed marriage and family therapist and an American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Clinical Fellow. This 60-credit degree program prepares graduates for work in private practice, counseling centers, mental health agencies, hospitals, family service clinics, shelters, and state departments for children and family services.

Marriage and family therapy is one of the core mental health disciplines, and is based on the research and theory that mental illness and family issues are best treated in a systemic context. Therapists in this area focus on understanding their clients' symptoms and interaction patterns within their existing environment. All licensed marriage and family therapists are trained and licensed to independently treat mental health and substance abuse issues within an individual, couple, and family format.

Admission Requirements Admission Process

Professional organizations recommend that program admissions criteria include consideration of the applicant's openness to self-examination and personal and professional self-development. For this reason, students need to participate in an interview with the program coordinator in addition to the general admission requirements. An admissions decision will be made upon completion of both the application and admissions interview.

For information on Admissions Requirements please visit the Graduate Admissions webpage at <https://www.plymouth.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions> (<https://www.plymouth.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/>)

A 15-credit graduate certificate is also available for those who want to add a concentration in a related mental health counseling program or for professional development that could lead to dual licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

Degree Requirements Curriculum Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Curriculum Requirements		
CO 5670	Working with Children and Families	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3

CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3
CO 5130	Psychopharmacology and the Biological Basis of Mental Health	3
MFT 5100	Practicum	3

Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization Component

MFT 5010	Foundational Methods in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5020	Current Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5030	Foundations and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5040	Human Sexuality	3
MFT 5900	Seminar and Internship in Marriage and Family Therapy	1-9

Total Credits 52-60

Optional Concentrations in this Major Addictions Treatment

Curriculum Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
CO 5130	Psychopharmacology and the Biological Basis of Mental Health	3
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3
CO 5670	Working with Children and Families	3
CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3
CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
CO 5100	Practicum	3

Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization Component

MFT 5010	Foundational Methods in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5020	Current Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5030	Foundations and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5040	Human Sexuality	3
MFT 5900	Seminar and Internship in Marriage and Family Therapy	1-9

Addictions Treatment Component

CO 5730	Addictions Treatment Modalities	3
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Total Credits 55-63

Eating Disorders

Curriculum Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3

CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
CO 5130	Psychopharmacology and the Biological Basis of Mental Health	3
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3
CO 5670	Working with Children and Families	3
CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3
CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
CO 5100	Practicum	3
Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization Component		
MFT 5010	Foundational Methods in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5020	Current Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5030	Foundations and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5040	Human Sexuality	3
MFT 5900	Seminar and Internship in Marriage and Family Therapy	1-9
Eating Disorder Component		
CO 5150	Eating Disorders Clinical	3
CO 5160	Eating Disorders: Awareness and Prevention	3
CO 5170	Treatment Modalities for Eating Disorders	3
CO 5180	Nutrition Fundamentals and Counseling in the Recovery of Eating Disorders	3
CO 5190	Medical and Physiological Aspects of Eating Disorders	3
Total Credits		67-75

Play Therapy

Curriculum Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
CO 5130	Psychopharmacology and the Biological Basis of Mental Health	3
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3
CO 5670	Working with Children and Families	3
CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3
CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization Component		
MFT 5010	Foundational Methods in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5020	Current Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	3

MFT 5030	Foundations and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5040	Human Sexuality	3
MFT 5100	Practicum	3
MFT 5900	Seminar and Internship in Marriage and Family Therapy	1-9
Play Therapy Component		
CO 5210	Dynamic Play Therapies	1
CO 5220	Child Centered Play Therapy	1
CO 5240	Expressive Play Therapies	1
CO 5250	Special Populations in Play Therapy	1
Add 4 Elective Play Therapy Courses		4
CO 5200	Adlerian Play Therapy	
CO 5270	Special Topics: Play Therapy	
CO 5280	Group Play Therapy	
CO 5290	Nature Based Play Therapy	
CO 5370	Play Therapy in School	
CO 5380	Family Play Therapy	
CO 5390	Play Therapy with Traumatized Children	
Total Credits		60-68

Graduate Certificate

Curriculum Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
MFT 5010	Foundational Methods in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5020	Current Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5030	Foundations and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	3
MFT 5040	Human Sexuality	3
MFT 5900	Seminar and Internship in Marriage and Family Therapy	3-6
Total Credits		15-18

Learning Outcomes

Marriage and Family Therapy:

- Students will demonstrate awareness and regulation of self in system including engagement with cultural and contextual differences.
- Students will demonstrate MFT clinical competency skills in the areas of technique proficiency, assessment and diagnostic ability, treatment planning, and theoretical integration across a variety of contexts and multicultural groups.
- Students will demonstrate an applied knowledge of MFT legal and ethical guidelines and professional standards.
- Students will demonstrate an applied knowledge of MFT historical and current theoretical information.
- Student will demonstrate knowledge and skills as a researcher in the field of MFT.

Play Therapy:

- Students will be able articulate and assume the ethical practice of play therapy.

- Student will demonstrate play therapy technique competency and proficiency.
- Students will articulate a working knowledge of the major play therapy theoretical models.
- Students will develop an understanding of the common contemporary issues affecting children.
- Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of how to incorporate the larger system into the practice of play therapy.

Career Pathways

This program will prepare graduates to provide marriage and family therapy in a variety of settings, (but not limited to):

- private practice,
- counseling centers,
- mental health agencies,
- hospitals,
- family service clinics,
- shelters,
- prisons, and
- state departments for children and family services.