

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM
MASTER'S OF SCIENCE DEGREE
HARDING UNIVERSITY

Application Information
Admission Requirements and Program Procedures

Acceptance of an applicant by the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy is based on a review of all available evidence predictive of probable academic success and professional achievement. To be admitted to the graduate program leading to the Master's of Science Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, an applicant must comply with all general regulations of Harding University. An applicant must complete the Application for Admission to the Graduate Program and meet/complete the following admission requirements.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Academic. The applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and have an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75 with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 in all courses taken at graduate level at all schools attended. Applicants who have less than a 2.75 overall grade point average, but have relevant work experience since receiving the bachelor's degree, and who are otherwise judged qualified as indicated below, may qualify for admission by taking courses to strengthen academic preparation.

2. Breadth and Quality of Undergraduate Preparation. It is recommended that the applicant have an undergraduate degree with major emphasis in one of the social/behavioral sciences, e.g., psychology, sociology, or in a closely related field. Background courses in learning theory, personality theory, behavior pathology, measurement, human development, and family relations are recommended. At least 6 semester hours in the behavioral sciences at the undergraduate or graduate level are required. Applicants lacking background courses may be advised to defer their applications until they are prepared to enter as regular graduate students.

3. Graduate Record Examination. The Graduate Record Examination (General Aptitude) is required of all applicants and must be taken in time for scores to reach us by the **April 1** deadline. The applicant should check immediately with the University Testing office in his/her geographical area regarding the dates when it may be taken. The MFT program at Harding University requires a minimum of 900 in combined verbal and quantitative scores.

4. Assessment instrument. Applicants will take the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis as a descriptive assessment of self and interpersonal dynamics. Married applicants are encouraged to have the T-JTA completed by their spouse to assist with relational assessment. Tests are provided at no cost by the Department of Marriage & Family Therapy.

5. Personal and Work Experience. Consideration is given particularly to those applicants whose personal and work experience demonstrate commitment to the field of marriage and family therapy. Personal experience and motivation are considered to be important qualities, and they are assessed to the best of the MFT Program Committee's ability. Work experience in a helping profession is viewed favorably, e.g., counseling, social work, ministry, nursing, agency work, education, related volunteer work.

6. Letters of Recommendation. A minimum of three letters of recommendation from those familiar with the applicant's academic and work experience is required. Applicants already working in the mental health field should obtain at least one letter of recommendation from a current supervisor. Letters of recommendation should attest to productivity in effort and personal integrity in lifestyle.

7. Resume. The applicant will need to attach a copy of his/her resume to the application materials.

8. Statement of Professional Goals. The applicant must write a statement of his/her professional goals, emphasizing those life experiences which are relevant to the field of marriage and family therapy. This statement should enable the committee to learn more about the applicant as a person. The typed paper should discuss the following:

- a. Why I want to be a marriage and family therapist.
- b. What critical incidents in my life have most influenced my wanting to be a marriage and family therapist.
- c. What my professional goals are upon completing the marriage and family therapy program.
- d. What I consider my strengths that will help me achieve my professional goals.
- e. What I consider the areas in myself that need most attention during my training in marriage and family therapy.
- f. Why I am interested in pursuing this course of study at Harding University.

9. Transcripts. Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate study must be sent to Dr. Lewis L. Moore, Chairman, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas 72149-2262.

10. Scholarships. There are five (5) half tuition scholarships available to entering, full-time students. The application form for these scholarships will be included in the Application Packet. To be considered for a scholarship, **ALL** application materials are due in our office by **April 1**. Information regarding scholarships available once you have entered the program is also included in the Application Packet.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

1. Deadline. Admission to the program is conducted once a year. Applications are screened and evaluated on a "first come, first served" basis with the deadline for consideration being **April 1**. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all of the above materials are received in the MFT office by this date. **Formal materials should be accompanied by a \$25 non-refundable application fee.**

2. Screening and Notification of Acceptance. The admission process includes evaluation of your GPA, the GRE, letters of recommendation, your goals, the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis and an interview with faculty. The initial screening is based on the first four criteria. Students who are qualified are then invited for an extended introduction to our program and an interview with faculty. **Final student selections are made shortly after the interviews and are based primarily on the perceived "fit" between the student and graduate program.** The screening of applications and notification of status will be completed no later than April 30.

3. Other Information. The Application for Admission, GRE scores, and all other materials, including the letters of recommendation, should be forwarded to Dr. Lewis L. Moore, Chairman, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, Harding University, Box 12262, Searcy, Arkansas 72149-2262. Requests for information regarding financial assistance should be directed to Dr. Jon Roberts (501-279-4257). Requests for information regarding housing should be directed to Mrs. Patricia Barrett (501-279-4256).

PROGRAM PROCEDURES

1. The Masters of Science Degree Program in Marriage and Family Therapy consists of 60 semester hours course work and 500 hours of face-to-face therapy with at least half being couples and families. Recommendation for the granting of the M.S.M.F.T. Degree requires the completion of prescribed course work with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale and completion of 500 hours of face-to-face direct-client-contact therapy with individuals, couples, and families, and 100 hours of faculty supervision, of which not more than 50 hours may be group supervision. A minimum of 250 client contact hours must be with a couple or family.

2. Students should progress through the program without major difficulty. After 20 hours of study are completed the student's progress is reviewed by the MFT faculty and should there be a need, options are suggested, e.g., additional course work, time-out from the program for personal growth experiences, reconsideration of vocational plans and academic alternatives, withdrawal from the program totally or for a given period of time.

3. Near the end of the Summer semester in which the student is enrolled in MFT 690, Marriage and Family Practicum I, the student is formally evaluated by the MFT faculty with regard to personal preparedness for and admission to MFT 691, Marriage and Family Practicum II. The faculty reviews such things as personal openness and maturity, motivation, ability to utilize supervision and establish clinical relationships.

4. In addition to completion of course work and 500 hours of therapy, students are required to demonstrate pre-professional competence in the following areas before final approval for graduation: personal maturity and integrity, adherence to Harding University's Code of Conduct, conceptual understanding of personal and interpersonal behavior, familiarity with marriage and family theory and therapy literature, coherent therapeutic methodology, insight into own personality, and sound ethical judgment culminating in a satisfactory internship experience.

HARDING UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

(CHECK THE BOX NEXT TO THE ONE FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO APPLY)

DATE:

NAME:

FIRST	MIDDLE	MAIDEN	LAST
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PRESENT ADDRESS:

STREET OR POST OFFICE BOX

CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
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PERMANENT ADDRESS:

STREET OR POST OFFICE BOX

CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
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E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF AVAILABLE):

DATE OF BIRTH:

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

CHURCH AFFILIATION:

SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

ETHNIC INFORMATION: Please answer the following two questions.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? (This includes anyone of Spanish culture or origin.) Yes NO
2. Please select any of the following racial groups that apply to you: _____ American Indian or Alaskan Native

- _____ Asian
- _____ Black or African American
- _____ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- _____ White

**FOR THE GRADUATE OFFICE OF MFT USE:
(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)**

	\$25.00 non-refundable application fee.
	Graduate Record Examination scores sent from Educational Testing Service (Must be taken no later than December in order for scores to arrive by April 1).
	Transcripts from <u>all</u> post secondary institutions attended.
	Three or more letters of recommendation arranged by you and sent directly to MFT admissions. These letters should address professional, academic and character qualities.
	Current resume
	Statement of Professional Goals
	T-JTA
	Scholarship Application and two reference letters
	On-campus interview when all paperwork has been received in the MFT office (This is strongly recommended, but not required).

APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THE GRADUATE RECORD EXAM TO HARDING UNIVERSITY NO LATER THAN APRIL 1.

If approved for admission, I agree to abide by the regulations and requirements of Harding University.

Signed

RETURN TO:

CLINICAL DIRECTOR
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
HARDING UNIVERSITY BOX 12262
SEARCY, ARKANSAS 72149-2262

**CURRICULUM
MASTER OF SCIENCE
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**

SEMESTER 1 (FALL)

DEPT #	TITLE	HRS
MFT 600	General Systems Theories	3
MHC 610	Basic Counseling Skills	3
MHC 611	Diagnosis of Abnormal Behavior/DSM/Psychopathology	3
MFT 630	Life Span Development/Parent Child Interaction	<u>3</u>
		12

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)

MFT 616	Domestic Abuse (Physical & Sexual)	3
MFT 620	Ethical, Legal & Professional Issues	3
MHC 621	Communication & Language Models	<u>3</u>
		9

SEMESTER 3 (SUMMER)

MHC 615	Group Processes (Intersession)	3
MHC 640	Research Methods in MFT (Summer 1)	3
MFT 631	Human Sexuality & Therapy (Summer 2)	3
MHC 694	Practicum (Summer 2)	<u>3</u>
		12

SEMESTER 4 (FALL)

MFT 613	Marital Therapy	3
COUN 605	Career Counseling	3
MHC 695	Practicum	<u>3</u>
		9

SEMESTER 5 (SPRING)

MHC 612	Substance Abuse Counseling	3
MHC 650	Seminar in Professional Practice	3
MHC 696	Practicum	<u>3</u>
		9

SEMESTER 6 (SUMMER)

MHC 633	Psychopharmacology (Summer 1)	3
MHC 641	Psychological Testing (Intersession)	3
MHC 622	Social & Cultural Diversity (Summer 2)	<u>3</u>

MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

600. GENERAL SYSTEMS THEORY. (3) Fall.

A study of the historical development of systems theory and cybernetics as these relate to human interactions. An integration of these principles with clinical concerns and practical treatment issues. A conceptualization of the critical epistemological issues in marriage and family therapy.

605. CAREER COUNSELING (3) Fall.

A study of the establishment and delivery of guidance information systems, kindergarten through adult, with emphasis on sources and uses of personal-social, occupational and educational information. This course is required for anyone planning to license in the state of Arkansas.

610. BASIC COUNSELING SKILLS. (3) Fall.

Introduction and basic skill development in clinical practice. Attention is focused on therapist/client interaction and effective use of attending and influencing skills. General introduction to diagnosis and treatment of disorders is provided in context of case review and role playing experiences.

611. DIAGNOSIS OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR/DSM/PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. (3) Fall.

A concentrated study of the basic concepts of psychopathology including the development, description and treatment of psychological disorders. Knowledge of the principles of assessment from the DSM-IV-TR is heavily emphasized with a special focus on diagnostic criteria from all five axes. Hundreds of case study vignettes will be used as students learn to focus on information relevant to differential diagnosis in a wide range of clients exhibiting abnormal behavior, including clients from divergent cultures. Discussions of diagnostic considerations and coding will follow each set of assessments/evaluations. This course is designed to be a clear road map for making clinical judgements in negotiating the complexities of applying the DSM diagnostic system guidelines.

612. SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING. (3) Spring.

Theoretical underpinnings and clinical applications of the Strategic and Structural family therapy models as used in families with substance abuse issues. The focus will be on the family dynamics and systemic patterns where at least one family member is a substance abuser. Both adolescent and adult substance abuse contexts will be studied.

613. MARITAL THERAPY. (3) Fall.

A focus on two major interdependent components: diagnosis/assessment and treatment processes. Within the context of marital and family systems, students will learn to diagnose and treat both dysfunctional relationship patterns and nervous and

mental disorders within the marital dyad. An emphasis will be given to premarital counseling, human sexuality and treatment of sexual dysfunctions, dyadic interventions from a social-learning perspective, divorce, and remarriage.

615. GROUP PROCESS. (3) Summer.

An introduction to group dynamics and group processes as presented from a systems perspective. The uses of groups for support, prevention and therapy are explored.

616. DOMESTIC ABUSE (PHYSICAL & SEXUAL). (3) Spring.

A study of Marriage and Family Therapy with family abuse. Emphasis is on spouse and child abuse which includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. This course will address therapeutic approaches that address intervention in ongoing abuse as well as healing in the aftermath of abuse.

620. ETHICAL, LEGAL, AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES. (3) Spring.

Students will be assisted in the development of a professional identity as a Marriage and Family Therapist and/or counselor. Areas of study will include professional organizations and their utility in the practice of therapy; licensure and certification; legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice; Family law; confidentiality and privilege; AAMFT's and ACA's code of ethics; and interprofessional cooperation. The content of this course will be specific to the practice of mental health therapy.

621. COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE MODELS. (3) Spring.

A twofold study of Milton Erickson's contributions as a therapist and the development of hypnosis as an integral agent of change. Course content includes the Ericksonian legacy of clinical intervention, and an overview of historical hypnosis and experiential exercises with creative choice.

622. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY. (3) Summer.

Study of unique characteristics of individuals, couples, families, ethnic groups and communities, and includes, but not limited to, the following:

1. Attitudes, beliefs, understandings and acculturative expressions and learning activities.
2. Therapeutic strategies for working with diverse populations and ethnic groups via models or theories of identity development.
3. Cultural awareness of therapist regarding self, biases, prejudices and process of discrimination or behavior detrimental to individual and family development.
4. Ethical and legal considerations.

630. LIFE SPAN DEVELOPMENT/PARENT CHILD INTERACTION. (3) Fall.

Theories and research in parent/child interaction and individual development throughout the life span.

631. HUMAN SEXUALITY & SEX THERAPY. (3) Summer.

A study of gender and sexuality as they relate to marital and family therapy. An emphasis will be placed on an introduction to the field of sex therapy; understanding sexual dysfunction; and on working with couples presenting with sexual difficulties.

633. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY. (3) Summer.

The study of physiological/medical aspects of mental illness and the medications that are used to treat specific common disorders.

640. RESEARCH METHODS IN MFT. (3) Intercession/Summer.

Introductory course in research methodology and statistical analysis with attention to marital and family issues from both a quantitative and qualitative research perspective.

641. PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING. (1-3) Summer.

An examination of assessment tools appropriate for individual, marital and family therapy. Content focuses upon ethical responsibility for administration and application of various instruments (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis, and Prepare/Enrich). Additional emphasis is given to basic statistics, research, and utilization for professional practice.

650. SEMINAR IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. (3) Spring.

Didactic and experiential examination of principles and practices of therapy. Attention is given to skill acquisition and promotion of effective case conceptualization and treatment perspective. Additional focus is placed on roles and responsibilities in the counseling setting, community network of service, and professional development. Primary resources include video presentations of therapy, professional speakers, and various materials relevant to successful development of a counseling career.

694. PRACTICUM. (3) Summer.

695. PRACTICUM. (3) Fall.

696. PRACTICUM. (3) Spring.

Clinical training integrates didactic and clinical material. Each of these practicums is a part-time clinical experience which is completed concurrently with didactic course work. A practicum typically results in five-ten direct contact hours per week and includes such activities as supervision, staff meetings, community relations, and record keeping. Both in-house practica with intense supervision by core MHC faculty, and off-site practica, are provided to insure diversity of clientele and supervision.

*Upon completion of two semesters, graduate students will be reviewed by the MHC committee and assess preparation for clinical practica. Students will be notified, in writing, if additional preparation is required prior to beginning the first clinical practicum.

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

Federal financial aid is available to graduate students. For additional information or to apply, go to www.harding.edu/finaid, or contact the office of Student Financial Services at 501-279-4257.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition at this point in time (Spring 2007):

Tuition for the MFT Program is \$485.00 per hour

plus

a \$200.00 Technology/academic Enrichment fee per semester

plus

Whatever your books will cost.

plus

In the Fall semester of the second year, a "Request for Degree" form is to be submitted to the Registrar. At registration for the final summer session, indicate that you plan to graduate in July and the graduation fee will be added to your bill.

Harding University's M.S. in Marriage & Family Therapy Scholarship Information

The following are a listing of the scholarships available at present for students enrolled fulltime in the Marriage in Family Therapy Program.

GENERAL HALF TUITION SCHOLARSHIP - This scholarship is awarded based on a combination of academic excellence, professional goals, integrity, and financial need. There are currently five (5) of these scholarships available.

SETH DECKER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND - This scholarship was established in memory of Seth Decker the son of Cendy and Dwight Decker, a member of the MFT graduating class of 1997. It is awarded based on scholarship, leadership, diligence, demonstrated capability, and financial need. Recipients shall maintain a satisfactory grade point average and a good reputation among faculty and students. The amount is determined on a yearly basis dependent on available funds.

NANCY MEADOWS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY - This scholarship was established to honor Nancy Meadows by her husband, Rusty Meadows, a member of the MFT graduating class of 1997. It is awarded based on scholarship, leadership, diligence, demonstrated capability, and financial need. Recipients shall maintain a satisfactory grade point average and a good reputation among faculty and students. The amount is determined on a yearly basis dependent on available funds.

ROGER AND MARY LUALLEN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND - This scholarship is awarded to applicants who have completed at least one semester in the Marriage and Family Therapy program. Preference will be given to applicants who are members in good standing of the church of Christ. The amount is \$500.00/semester.

For application information please contact the Marriage and Family Therapy Department.

Masters of Science in Marriage & Family Therapy Academic Scholarship Application

The Scholarship is awarded based on a combination of academic excellence, professional goals, integrity, and financial need.

Name: _____ Date:
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

SSN

Undergraduate GPA: _____ Current GPA:
(If Applicable)

Please provide information that will aid in determining financial need. (i.e., amount of student loans, other financial obligations, number of dependents, etc.)

Please indicate how you intend to use your MFT training.

Please provide two letters of recommendation. (Letters need to be provided by non-MFT faculty members.)

The scholarship will be awarded on a semester by semester basis dependent on the student maintaining a 3.5 GPA throughout the program, maintaining a high moral standard, and per faculty review.