Acceptance of an applicant for the Master's of Science in 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.

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 April 1, if you are applying for a scholarship. 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 require a minimum of 900 in combined verbal and quantitative scores on tests taken prior to August 1, 2011. On tests taken on or after August 1, 2011, the required score for the combined verbal and quantitative will be 286.

4. **TOEFL.** Effective immediately, all students applying to the MFT program for whom English is a second language, the TOEFL will be required. Acceptable scores are 80 on the Internet Based Test (IBT) and a speaking sub-score of 27.

5. **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.

6. **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.

7. **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.**

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

9. **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/mental health counseling. 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 therapist/counselor.
   b. What critical incidents in my life have most influenced my wanting to be a therapist.
   c. What my professional goals are upon completing the 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.
   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 72149-0001.

10. **Scholarships.** There are five (5) one-quarter 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. 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 $40 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.**

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, 915 E. Market, Box 12262, Searcy, Arkansas 72149-5615. 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. Kathy Allen (501-279-4256).

PROGRAM PROCEDURES

1. The Masters of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Program 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 MSMFT 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, the student is formally evaluated by the MFT faculty with regard to personal preparedness for and admission to MFT 691, Marriage and Family Practicum. 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.
The master of science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy was offered for the first time in the fall of 1993. Over the last 20 years, Harding's goal has been to provide quality training that prepares its MSMFT graduates to serve as counseling ministers in congregations, as counselors in private mental health practices and in various other capacities in psychotherapeutic settings.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. The Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy consists of 60 semester hours course work, 500 hours of face-to-face direct-client-contact therapy (with at least 50% being with couples and families), and 100 hours of faculty supervision (of which 50% or more should be individual supervision). Recommendation for the granting of the MSMFT degree requires the completion of prescribed course work with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and completion of the client contact and supervision hours.

   Students seeking to become Licensed Professional Counselors in Arkansas (and other states) are encouraged to take six (6) additional hours, which are offered by our program.

2. Students are required to demonstrate working knowledge of the DSM-5 prior to beginning practicum. Students must indicate A or B level of competence in MFT 611 or satisfy remedial work approved by the program director. Practicum in the Clinic may begin during the latter part of the spring semester. Beginning date is determined by client load and contact hours of the second year class.

3. Third semester initiates clinical practicum (3 hours) and nine (9) hours of academic course load. Students will continue practicum for four semesters, and are evaluated continuously during that period.

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.
**CURRICULUM**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE**  
**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY**

**SEMESTER 1 (FALL)**

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<td>Basic Counseling Skills</td>
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<td>MFT</td>
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<td>Diagnosis of Abnormal Behavior/DSM/Psychopathology</td>
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<td>620</td>
<td>Ethical, Legal &amp; Professional Issues</td>
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**SEMESTER 6 (SUMMER)**

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<td>Practicum [if needed] (Summer 2)</td>
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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.

601. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF MFT. (3) Spring.
Major theories of marital and family relations and their therapeutic implications are examined. Attention is given to dysfunctional manifestations within family systems and factors related to family strengths. Students will be given a comprehensive survey of the major models of system change that will include but not be limited to: structural, strategic, intergenerational, contextual, behavioral, experiential, and systemic.

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.

614. WHITAKER AND BRIEF SOLUTION FOCUSED MODELS. (3) Spring.
Theoretical underpinnings and clinical application of the Bowenian, Experiential, and Brief solution focused family therapy models.

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.
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.

690. **PRACTICUM.** (3) Summer.

691. **PRACTICUM.** (3) Fall.

692. **PRACTICUM.** (3) Spring.

693. **PRACTICUM.** (3) *As needed if hours are incomplete.*

   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 MFT 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 MFT 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.*
HARDING UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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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/ other Pacific island
   - White
$40.00 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 all 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 letters of recommendation

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
915 E. MARKET, BOX 12262
SEARCY, ARKANSAS 72149-5215
AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

In regard to information about _______________________,

(name of applicant)

born, _______________________,

(date of birth)

I hereby give permission to the person writing a recommendation for my entrance into the Marriage & Family Therapy Program to release/discuss confidential information regarding my performance in class and/or their perceptions of my ability to succeed in the program(s).

(Signature of applicant) (Date)

(Signature of witness) (Date)

(Copy as many as needed)
FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

Federal financial aid is available to graduate students in the form of federal Stafford loans. All graduate students may borrow $20,500 each academic year ($10,250 per semester). The interest rate on these loans has been 6.8% since 2006. Repayment begins six months after graduation. For additional information or to apply, go to or contact Graduate Financial Aid at 501-279-4081 or Renee Bissell at 501-279-4958 or Judy Cuellar at 501-279-5671.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition at this point in time (Spring 2014):

Tuition for the MFT Program is $672.00 per hour

plus

a $240.00 Technology/academic Enrichment fee per semester

plus

Whatever your books will cost.

plus

You will be required to register for graduation on line sometime in the Fall Semester.
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 full-time in the Marriage in Family Therapy Program.

**General One-Fourth Tuition Scholarship** - This scholarship is awarded based on a combination of academic excellence, professional goals, integrity, and financial need. There are 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.
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 __________________________ or H

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 (2) letters of recommendation, in addition to the three (3) provided for admission. (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.