



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Behavioral Health

# Marital and Family Therapy MS Program



## MS PROGRAM IN MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

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## INTRODUCTION

The program emphasis is systemic and relational practice within the scope of couples and family therapy. The curriculum is designed to give students an excellent clinical and academic background, meeting COAMFTE standards for practice. Students are well prepared to work in a variety of settings, including mental health, public and private agencies, medical, private practice, educational, managed care, church, and legal.

## MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

**MISSION:** Educating MFT students to provide effective and competent care to diverse families in local, national, and international communities.

**VISION:** MFT students will learn how to "make diverse families whole." The definition, configuration, and experience of family vary widely; and students are trained to regard, respect, and value human difference and family types so as to work effectively with all those who seek the services of a marital and family therapist.

### VALUES:

**Compassion**—The sympathetic willingness to be engaged with the needs and sufferings of others. Among the most memorable depictions of compassion in Scripture is the story of the Good Samaritan.

**Integrity**—The quality of living a unified life in which one's convictions are well-considered and match one's actions. Integrity encompasses honesty, authenticity, and trustworthiness.

**Excellence**—The commitment to exceed minimum standards and expectations.

**Freedom**—The competency and privilege to make informed and accountable choices and to respect the freedom of others. God has called us not to slavery but to freedom.

**Justice**—The commitment to equality and to treat others fairly, renouncing all forms of unfair discrimination.

## ADMISSIONS

In addition to Loma Linda University admissions requirements, admission to the MS in Marital and Family Therapy Program is governed by the policies and procedures established by the School of Behavioral Health. Additional admission requirements include:

- Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college.
- Applicants should have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale) in bachelor's coursework for at least the final 45 units prior to graduation. Applicants with lower grade point averages will be considered if the last 45 quarter credits (30 semester units) of coursework shows significant improvement or if they have additional attributes that demonstrate preparedness and an appropriate fit for Marital and Family Therapy education. Work and volunteer experiences must be verified by employer/supervisor statements on official agency stationery. Further consideration will also be given to individuals who provide evidence of additional certifications and/or training that illustrate commitment to a career in Marriage and Family Therapy.
- All applicants must complete an online application, which includes a personal statement, three letters of recommendation (one from an academic source and one from a work supervisor), and submission of all undergraduate transcripts.
- Individual admission interview with a member of the faculty.

## LICENSURE AND PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COMAFTE), the accrediting body for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). The national commission functions to ensure that academic and clinical training programs adhere to the highest standards of the profession.

## CLINICAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCES

At minimum, 500 clinical hours and 100 direct supervision hours are required. Of the direct client contact hours, at least 200 hours must be with couples and families. Of the direct supervision hours, at least 50 hours must be with raw data (video, audio, and live supervision). For every week in which clients are seen, the student must have at least one hour of individual supervision. The ratio of supervision hours to treatment hours must not be less than one hour of supervision to five hours of clinical contact. Students enrolled in the program should consult the clinical training manual regarding clinical training requirements.

## DEGREE COMPLETION

- 90 quarter units of graduate work, which includes core courses, electives, and a 3-unit religion course. The program takes two years to complete, at minimum.
- Successful completion of a written comprehensive examination (taken before advancement to candidacy) and an oral examination (taken at the end of the program).

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

First-year classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday and second-year classes are held on Monday and Wednesday.

| Courses   |  | Units     |
|---|--|-----------|
| <b>Foundations of relational/systemic practice, theories &amp; models</b> |  | <b>9</b>  |
| MFAM 551  | Family Therapy: Foundational Theories and Practice                           | 3         |
| MFAM 553  | Family Systems Theory  | 3         |
| MFAM 564  | Family Therapy: Advanced Foundational Theories and Practice                  | 3         |
| <b>Clinical treatment with individuals, couples, and families</b>         |  | <b>15</b> |
| MFAM 515  | Crisis Intervention and Client-Centered Advocacy                             | 3         |
| MFAM 552  | Couples Therapy: Theory and Practice   | 3         |
| MFAM 638  | Family Therapy and Chemical Abuse  | 3         |
| MFAM 644  | Child Abuse and Family Violence  | 3         |
| MFAM 674  | Human Sexual Behavior  | 3         |
| <b>Diverse multicultural and/or underserved communities</b>               |  | <b>9</b>  |
| MFAM 528  | Culture, Socioeconomic Status in Therapy                                     | 3         |
| MFAM 567  | Treating the Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill and the Recovery Process | 3         |
| MFAM 604  | Social Context in Clinical Practice: Gender, Class, and Race                 | 3         |
| <b>Research and evaluation</b>  |  | <b>6</b>  |
| MFAM 501  | Research Tools and Methodology: Quantitative                                 | 3         |
| MFAM 502  | Research Tools and Methodology: Qualitative                                  | 3         |
| <b>Professional identity, law, ethics &amp; social responsibilities</b>   |  | <b>6</b>  |
| MFAM 614  | Law and Ethics   | 3         |
| MFAM 635  | Case Presentation and Legal Issues   | 3         |

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| <b>Biopsychosocial health and development across the life span</b>              |   | <b>7</b> |
| MFAM 547  | Social Ecology of Individual and Family Development | 3        |
| MFAM 584  | Advanced Child and Adolescent Development           | 3        |
| COUN 675  | Dynamics of Aging                                   | 1        |
| <b>Systemic/relational assessment and mental health diagnosis and treatment</b> |   | <b>9</b> |
| MFAM 524  | Psychopharmacology and Medical Issues               | 3        |
| MFAM 556  | Psychopathology and Diagnostic Procedures           | 3        |
| MFAM 624  | Individual and Systems Assessment                   | 3        |
| <b>Contemporary issues</b>  |   | <b>8</b> |
| <i>Select from the following:</i>   |   |          |
| COUN 574  | Educational Psychology                              |          |
| COUN 575  | Counseling Theory and Applications                  |          |
| COUN 576  | Exceptional and Medically Challenged Children       |          |
| COUN 577  | Assessment in Counseling                            |          |
| COUN 578  | College and Career Counseling                       |          |
| COUN 678  | Consultation and Program Evaluation                 |          |
| COUN 680  | Field Experience in Counseling                      |          |
| MFAM 516  | Play Therapy  |          |
| MFAM 539  | Solution-Focused Family Therapy                     |          |
| MFAM 544  | Family and Divorce Mediation                        |          |
| MFAM 549  | Christian Counseling and Family Therapy             |          |
| MFAM 555  | Narrative Family Therapy                            |          |
| MFAM 559  | Cognitive-Behavioral Couples Therapy                |          |
| MFAM 585  | Internship in Family Mediation                      |          |
| MFAM 605  | Gestalt Family Therapy                              |          |
| MFAM 606  | Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy                 |          |
| MFAM 615  | Reflective Practice                                 |          |
| MFAM 665  | Structural and Multidimensional Family Therapy      |          |
| MFAM 670  | Seminar in Sex Therapy                              |          |

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| MFAM 694   | Directed Study: Marriage and Family             |           |
| MFAM 695   | Research Problems: Marriage and Family          |           |
| <b>Community intersections and collaboration</b> |   | <b>15</b> |
| MFAM 535   | Case Presentation and Professional Studies      | 3         |
| MFAM 536   | Case Presentation and Documentation             | 3         |
| MFAM 537   | Case Presentation                               | 3         |
| MFAM 636   | Case Presentation and Client-Centered Advocacy  | 3         |
| MFAM 637   | Case Presentation and Global Practices          | 3         |
| MFAM 731   | Clinical Training <sup>1</sup>                  |           |
| MFAM 732   | Clinical Training <sup>1</sup>                  |           |
| <b>Religion</b>                                  |   | <b>3</b>  |
| RELR 564   | Religion, Marriage, and the Family <sup>2</sup> | 3         |
| <b>Group</b>                                     |   | <b>3</b>  |
| MFAM 568   | Groups: Process and Practice                    | 3         |
| <b>Total Units</b>                               |   | <b>90</b> |

<sup>1</sup> 700-numbered courses do not count toward total didactic units required for the degree.

<sup>2</sup> May be substituted with another 3-unit 500-numbered Religion course.

### WHY ATTEND LLU?

1. The Loma Linda University MFT is one of the most well-established programs in the state of California and has the distinction of being COAMFTE-accredited. COAMFTE is the commission that falls under the American Association for Marital and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the only national organization which represents the marriage and family therapy profession.
2. The program is based on the values of compassion, integrity, excellence, freedom, and justice.
3. The program's mission is to prepare practitioners who will promote the health, hope, healing and well-being of diverse individuals, couples, families, and communities. This mission supports the notion that transforming relationships in diverse families is essential.
4. The program strongly encourages and accepts a diversity of students and faculty, challenging all who are involved to learn from the richness of multiple perspectives.
5. Faculty are committed to working as a team and helping to ensure student success. Small class sizes ensure excellence in academic and clinical training and allow for substantial academic and professional mentoring.
6. The marital and family therapy program emphasizes a multi-systemic approach that addresses the medical/biological, psychosocial, and spiritual aspects of human life within a larger systems

framework. We believe that relationships are the context in which change occurs. As people become more connected to each other and their communities, the potential for growth and healing is enhanced.

7. The program supports the development of individual student strengths and allows a thoughtful, holistic integration of personal practices of faith and professional work.

## TUITION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### TUITION:

Based on tuition rates for academic year 2020-2021:

- Tuition per quarter unit is \$845 (90 units).
- Cost per clinical training/non-academic unit is \$50 (15 units).
- Enrollment fee per quarter is \$900.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

- Resources and answers to questions regarding financial aid, student finance, Federal Work Study, and other financial inquiries can be found here: <https://home.llu.edu/campus-and-spiritual-life/student-services/financial-life>.
- Some scholarships are available within the School of Behavioral Health. For further information, inquire with the Department of Counseling and Family Sciences.
- Some placement sites pay students.
- Loan repayment plans are available through certain Federal and State agencies, depending upon the placement site.

## APPLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES

- For more information on important dates and deadlines please visit: <http://www.llu.edu/explore/step2.html#LLU.28.2830.009.2276.0000.005.000>.
- To plan a visit or attend an upcoming Open House or Information Session, please contact the department (Suzie Monell at 909-558-4547 x47001 or [smonell@llu.edu](mailto:smonell@llu.edu)) or visit: <https://home.llu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply>.

## JOBS OBTAINED AFTER DEGREE IS AWARDED

Our students have obtained excellent jobs after graduation in a variety of settings. These include, but are not limited to, medical, legal, educational, mental health agencies, managed care, hospital, public mental health, church settings and private practice.