



Loma Linda University
School of Behavioral Health

Department of Counseling and Family Sciences
Systems, Families, & Couples PhD Program Curriculum
2025-2026
Years 1, 2, 3, and 4

Year 1			
Fall			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 519	Teaching in Higher Education	3	Online; synchronous Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
CFSD 601	Statistics I	4	Tuesday and Thursday (TBD)
CFSD 786	Professional Development Proposal	0	ARR
Quarter Total		7	
Winter			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 611	Qualitative Research Methods I*	3	Online; asynchronous
CFSD 602	Statistics II	4	Tuesday and Thursday (TBD)
CFSD 786A	Professional Development Portfolio	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		7	
Spring			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 612	Qualitative Research Methods II*	3	Thursday 9:00-11:50am
CFSD 603	Statistics III or PSYC 604A & 604B	4	Thursday (TBD)
CFSD 786A	Professional Development Portfolio	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		7	
First Year PhD Total Units		21	

Year 2			
Summer			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 501	Supervision in MFT (Elective)	3	Online; asynchronous
CFSD 546	Multi-Cultural and Global Mental Health	3	Online; asynchronous
CFSD 786A	Professional Development Portfolio	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		3-6	
Fall			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 506	Foundations in Systemic Thinking	3	Online; asynchronous
CFSD 634A	Doctoral Practicum—Larger Social Context (Elective)	3	Online; synchronous Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
CFSD 628	Needs Assessment for Families and Communities (Elective)	3	Online; synchronous Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
SWCL 610	Diversity Theory and Global Perspectives (Elective)	3	Online; Thursday 6:00-9:00pm
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development Portfolio	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		3-9	
Winter			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 606	Current Issues in Family Research**	3	Thursday 1:00-4:00pm
CFSD 548	Social Context and Health*	3	Online; Asynchronous
CFSD 624	Program Development for Families and Communities (Elective)	3	Online; synchronous Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
CFSD 634B	Doctoral Practicum—Self-of-the-therapist (Elective)	3	Online; synchronous Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
SWCL 650	Neuroscience, Resiliency, and Trauma-Focused Global Practice	3	TBA 6-8pm
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development Portfolio	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		3-12	
Spring			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 565	Neurobiology of Relationships, Stress and Trauma**	3	Thursday 1:00-4:00pm
CFSD 505	Advanced Family Studies: Theory Development*	3	Thursday 9:00-12:00pm
CFSD 634C	Doctoral Practicum—Spirituality (Elective)	3	Online; synchronous Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
CFSD 626	Program Evaluation and Monitoring (Elective)	3	Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm
CFSD 540	Introduction to Medical Family Therapy (Elective)	3	Online; asynchronous
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development Portfolio	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		9-12	
Second Year PhD Total Units		18-39	

Year 3			
Summer			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 625	Grant Writing	3	Online; asynchronous
RELX 5XX	Religion Course	3	TBD
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		6	
Fall			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 544	Health and Illness in the Family	3	Online; asynchronous
CFSD 525	Advanced MFT Assessment (Elective)	3	Online; Synchronous Thursday 6:00-8:00pm
SWCL 658	Advanced Policy Analysis and Research	3	TBA
CHLS 506	Therapeutic Play for Children Affected by Illness and Injury (Elective)	3	In Person; Thursday 5:00-7:50
CHLS 508	Grief and Loss (Elective)	3	In Person; Tuesday 4:00-6:50
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development	3*	ARR
Quarter Total		0-12	
Winter			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 605	Advanced Quantitative Research Methods**	3	In Person; Thursday 1:00-4:00pm
CFSD 555	Organizational Development and Change (Elective)	3	Thursday 6- 8:00pm
RELX 5XX	Religion Course	3	TBD
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development	4*	ARR
	Quarter Total	6-9	
Spring			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 545	Research and Practice with Couples and Families**	3	In Person; Thursday 1:00-4:00
CFSD 504	Advanced Theory in MFT	3	Online; synchronous Thursday 6:00- 8:00pm
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development	4*	ARR
Quarter Total		6	
Third Year PhD Quarter Units		19-34	

Year 4			
Summer			
Course		Units	Day/Time
RELE 5XX	Religion Course	3	TBD
CFSD 786A/B	Professional Development	4*	ARR
Quarter Total		3	
Fall			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 698	Dissertation	4	ARR
Quarter Total		4	
Winter			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 634B	Dissertation	4	ARR
	Quarter Total	4	
Spring			
Course		Units	Day/Time
CFSD 634B	Dissertation	4	ARR
Quarter Total		4	
Fourth Year PhD Total Units		15	
Total PhD Quarter Units		90	

*These are non-academic units. They do not count toward the 90-unit total and are charged at a significantly lower rate (1 unit = 25 professional development hours).