



*Saint Mary's University of Minnesota*  
*Graduate School of Professional Programs*  
*Graduate School of Health and Human Services*

**Marriage and Family Therapy Master of Arts**

**Program Handbook**

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**For clarification purposes...**

The official name of this institution is:

**Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.**

You are enrolled in the:

**Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs (SGPP).**

Our program is within the following department/school:

**Graduate School of Health and Human Services (GSHHS).**

We are located on the:

Twin Cities Campus  
2500 Park Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Please note that the proper listing of the University is to use the full word 'Saint'. The University never uses the abbreviation St.

**Welcome!**

Welcome to the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Master of Arts (MA) Degree Program! As a dynamic and transformational learning community, *Saint Mary's University of Minnesota strives to awaken, nurture, and empower learners into ethical lives of service and leadership* (see University Mission: [www.smumn.edu](http://www.smumn.edu)). As a training program for MFT professionals, these values are thoughtfully woven into the mission of the MFT training program: *Recognizing the relational and systemic qualities of life, the MFT program at Saint Mary's University exists to aid students in deepening their own understanding of relational health and their own skills in facilitating relational health in all kinds of human systems.*

## **Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Overview**

### **Mission**

Enriched by the Lasallian Catholic heritage, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota awakens, nurtures and empowers learners to ethical lives of service and leadership.

### **Vision**

Grounded in its Lasallian Catholic identity, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is a nationally ranked transformational and innovative university with a global footprint. Saint Mary's graduates gain the advanced knowledge, skills and critical thinking abilities necessary to be lifelong learners, successful workers, good neighbors and ethical citizens that ensure Saint Mary's standing as a well-known top-tier national university preparing tomorrow's leaders.

<https://www.smumn.edu/about/mission-vision>

### **Learning in the Lasallian Tradition: A Statement on Academic Quality**

Learning at Saint Mary's University is active, collaborative and contextual, and is supported by a Lasallian commitment to serve the needs of individual learners.

The Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs provides relevant and rigorous academic experiences for adult learners through an integration of practical, professional, and ethical education offered in dynamic and caring environments. The academic program of the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs offers coursework from the undergraduate through the doctoral level. Each school supports the individual learning expectations of each student and acknowledges the wealth of experience and prior learning that each adult learner brings to the classroom.

A relevant and rigorous education produces graduates who seek to deepen and expand their disciplinary knowledge and enhance their skills through critical thinking by:

- framing vital questions clearly;
- evaluating relevant information and its sources;
- demonstrating respectful engagement with others' ideas, behaviors, and beliefs;
- assessing the congruence between personal norms and ethical principles;
- applying diverse frames of reference to decisions and actions;
- resolving issues based on evidence weighed against relevant criteria;
- developing a subject, including relevance, logic, grasp of subject, and depth of discussion; and
- communicating with clarity and coherence.

This is the intellectual and empathic foundation for leading ethical lives of service and leadership.

### **Regional Accreditation**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Higher Learning Commission is an independent corporation founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the U.S. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region, which includes 19 states.

230 South LaSalle Street Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604, 800-621-7440,  
[www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org)

## **Marriage and Family Therapy Program Overview**

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) are mental health professionals trained in psychotherapy and family systems, and licensed to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders within the context of marriage, couples, and family systems. Marriage and family therapists treat a wide range of serious clinical problems including depression, marital problems, anxiety, individual psychological problems, and child-parent problems. Marriage and family therapists take a holistic perspective to health care; they are concerned with the overall long-term well-being of individuals and their families.

The Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy program prepares graduates for professional and systemic work in human services. Courses are designed to enhance the professional's understanding and use of systemic and relational interventions with diverse individuals, couples, and families who are dealing with mental, emotional, and relational issues. The curriculum meets the educational requirements for licensure with the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy so that graduates are prepared to seek licensure.

The program is guided by the professional standards set forth by the Minnesota Board of MFT, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) code of ethics, AAMFT core competencies, AAMFT educational guidelines, the American Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) national exam domains, and the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE) educational standards, along with university and program missions, input from communities of interest (such as students, alumni, faculty, supervisors, community members, etc.), and program evaluation processes.

### **Professional Accreditation**

The Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), 112 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 838-9808.

### **Program Mission and Goals**

Mission: Recognizing the relational and systemic qualities of all life, the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Saint Mary's University exists to aid students in deepening their own understanding of relational health and their own skills in facilitating relational health in all kinds of human systems.

The MFT Program Goals (PGs) reflect both the professional skills and practice required of program graduates and embody the result of effective core learning outlined for programs in the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs and the requirements of the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are indicators of program goals.

Upon completion of the program, students are expected to be able to do the following:

Program Goal 1: Reflect an understanding of and respect for cultural diversity through professional relationships and communication with diverse clients, peers, and organizations by:

SLO 1.1: articulating effects of their own social identities and power (social location) and experiences in professional relationships and practice.

SLO 1.2: analyzing sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and historical factors that can shape clients' lives.

SLO 1.3: integrating cultural diversity-centered assessment and intervention into clinical practice.

Program Goal 2: Integrate knowledge of MFT theory and models to clinical practice by:

SLO 2.1: demonstrating knowledge of a variety of systemic/relational theories and models of MFT practice.

SLO 2.2: applying systemic/relational theory and models to clinical case conceptualizations.

SLO 2.3: integrating systemic/relational theories and models with other conceptual frameworks (e.g. biological, psychological, sociological).

Program Goal 3: Develop a systemic perspective for the treatment of mental health issues of individuals, couples, and families by:

SLO 3.1: demonstrating knowledge of a variety of systemic/relational assessment methods.

SLO 3.2: demonstrating knowledge of the DSM-V diagnostic framework.

SLO 3.3: integrating systemic/relational assessment and DSM-V diagnostic systems into clinical practice.

SLO 3.4: designing treatment plans derived from integrative systemic/relational and DSM-V diagnostic assessment.

Program Goal 4: Create effective interventions to promote well-being in clients through preventative, developmental, systemic and/or remedial services by:

SLO 4.1: constructing interventions that derive from conceptualization and treatment planning.

SLO 4.2: applying a wide variety of developmental, systemic, preventative, and/or remedial services interventions.

Program Goal 5: Conduct clinical practice within an ethically-informed framework based on the AAMFT Code of Ethics, legal requirements, sound judgment, and professional compassion by:

SLO 5.1: evaluating clinical situations for ethical, legal, and professional issues affecting therapy.

SLO 5.2: intervening with clinical situations to maintain ethical, legal, and professional standards of behavior.

Program Goal 6: Demonstrate familiarity with MFT research literature and the relationship between MFT literature and practice by:

SLO 6.1: analyzing MFT research literature for its strength and limitations and sociocultural implications.

SLO 6.2: applying relevant research findings to clinical practice.

Program Goal 7: Develop and articulate their professional development plans and skills by:

SLO 7.1: articulating steps for future professional development.

SLO 7.2: demonstrating written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills with clients and professionals.

Additionally, the MFT program will annually attain accreditation achievement levels:

Program Goal 8: The Student Achievement Criteria reflecting student/graduate achievement data will meet COAMFTE requirements by:

SLO 8.1: Student cohorts' graduation rates will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements for

- Minimum rate of graduation (2.3 years)
- Advertised rate of graduation (3 years)
- Maximum rate of graduation (5 years)

SLO 8.2: Student cohorts' job placement rate will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements.

SLO 8.3: Student cohorts' therapy licensure exam pass rate will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements.



## **Program Staff**

### **Core Faculty**

The Program Director has primary responsibility for curriculum development, review, revision, and delivery, student mentorship and advising, faculty recruitment and development, and general program maintenance and improvement. The Associate/Clinical Director supports the program with primary oversight over related practicum requirements and student advising related to practicum. Responsibilities for core faculty include teaching, scholarship, service, and practice.

Program Director:

Samantha J. Zaid, Ph.D. Rev. LMFT,  
Brother Louis Hall #23, 612-728-5140,  
[szaid@smumn.edu](mailto:szaid@smumn.edu)

Associate/Clinical Director:

Sara Heinzen, M.A. LMFT  
Brother Louis Hall #24, 612-728-5117  
[sheinzen@smumn.edu](mailto:sheinzen@smumn.edu)

### **Course Contracted (Adjunct) Faculty**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota hires, develops, and maintains a qualified faculty as an essential component of carrying out its institutional mission. Teaching is the process of “awakening, nurturing, and empowering” students with primary emphasis on the learned and learning, rather than on the teacher and teaching (SGPP Faculty Handbook). Valuing practitioner-educators who are active in the field in which they teach, qualifications for MFT faculty are determined via academic credentials, content knowledge, professional expertise, teaching expertise, scholarly and creative productivity, and mission-focused empathic disposition. More information on faculty recruitment and ranking can be found in the SGPP Faculty Handbook and Human Resources websites. Additionally, MFT faculty are expected to be licensed mental health professionals who continue to serve, practice, and contribute to the field. Faculty represent diverse genders, ages, sexualities, abilities/disabilities, races, ethnicities, spirituality/religions/belief systems, political backgrounds, family formations, geographic origins, and have served professionally across diverse communities. Please see appendices for most recent faculty and supervisor demographic information.

### **Program Coordinator**

The MFT program coordinator is an administrative support person who is a resource to students, staff, and faculty. The person in this position can help direct you to the appropriate university contact to address questions. The Coordinator also helps support the Director and Associate/Clinical Director in their duties, including communications, data tracking, and other duties as assigned.

Program Coordinator:

Brother Louis Hall, #233, 612-238-4579

## **MFT Program Design**

### **Student Profile**

MFT students represent diverse genders, ages, sexualities, abilities/disabilities, races, ethnicities, spirituality/religions/belief systems, political backgrounds, family formations, geographic origins, and professional backgrounds. The program includes traditional students who have recently earned baccalaureate degrees, as well as those who have come to MFT as a second or third career. This diversity of experience and perspective reflects the diversity of client families which students and graduates will someday serve and makes the educational environment richer for all. Information on historic student demographics can be found in the student Fact Books published each academic year by the Office of Institutional Research. Please see Program Handbook appendices for most recent enrolled student demographic information.

### **Cohort Model**

The MFT program is designed as a cohort model in which students begin and travel through the program together. This model supports students' personal and professional development, and creates a "built in" network of professional relationships. It also creates predictability in scheduling so adult learners can better navigate the many competing priorities of graduate school, work life, personal/family relationships, and self-care. The program is designed to awaken, nurture, and empower learners towards ethical lives of service and leadership (SMU mission) in deepening and understanding relational health and facilitating relational health in diverse human systems (MFT program mission).

### **Curriculum Design**

Curriculum is designed to prepare students for each subsequent step in the program. Coursework prepares students to seek practicum; practicum and final requirements prepare students to graduate and seek licensure. While there is designated coursework for ethics, theory, multicultural responsiveness, critical thinking, integration of scholarly research, self-reflection, professional collaboration, relational and systemic conceptualization, and experiential application of learning, these components are woven throughout the curriculum and coursework. Course descriptions and student learning objectives can be found in the SGPP Catalog. Previous course syllabi are archived and available on the MFT Student Blackboard page.

### **Practicum**

The purpose of the MFT practicum is to provide an opportunity for students to apply course learning while gaining diverse practical experience in a supportive setting which offers structure and supervision. The practicum program requirements are based on the Minnesota Board of MFT rules and statutes as well as the current COAMFTE standards of education. Students will complete an off-campus practicum experience including 500 hours of client contact under the supervision of a Minnesota Board of MFT Approved or American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor (or candidate) across twelve months. At least 200 client contact hours of the total 500 will be relational in nature. On-campus practicum seminar class is facilitated by licensed marriage and family therapists who are both AAMFT and Minnesota Board Approved Supervisors. See the MFT Student Blackboard page for detailed definitions, expectations, processes, policies, forms, evaluation methods, and procedures of practicum. Additional supportive resources include the Associate/Clinical Director, Writing Center, faculty,

and supervisors.

### **Final Requirements**

***Integration Paper (Theory of Change Paper) and Oral Exam.*** The integration paper and oral examination are intended to provide students with the opportunity to integrate their education and practicum experience with professional scholarly research while articulating their personal theory of therapy. Through this final examination process, students have the opportunity to describe and demonstrate: ethical and critical thinking skills; multicultural competence; professional writing skills; appropriate application of scholarly research; and overall professional development. Students will work with a faculty advisor, as well as complete the final Capstone Course in preparation for the exams. The final oral exam is conducted by a panel of three faculty members. More information can be found on the MFT Student Blackboard page. Additional supportive resources include the program Director, Associate/Clinical Director, Writing Center, Library, and faculty.

***Basic Skills Evaluation Device.*** Practicum Site Supervisors will be asked to evaluate students twice each semester using the Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED). Additionally, Practicum Seminar Supervisors complete a BSED on students at the end of their practicum experience. The BSED and an article by Nelson and Johnson (1999) describing the development and use of this evaluation device are available on the MFT Student Blackboard page. Practicum Seminar Supervisors will also evaluate each student based on a Pass/No Credit basis based on criteria described in the course syllabus. Students must receive a grade of “Pass” in order for the practicum experience to meet the Minnesota State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy licensing requirements.

### **Student Feedback.**

As one of the main communities of interest, students and alumni are expected to provide feedback to the program for program improvement purposes. Student Ratings of Teaching and Learning are completed at the end of each course. Practicum sites and the site supervisor are evaluated three times throughout the year by current practicum students. Students complete an exit survey upon completion of the program. Ongoing alumni surveys are sent once a year. Lastly, one Supervisor or Employer Satisfaction Survey is sent after the first year post-graduation to gather feedback on the program from the perspective of employers/supervisors in the field. All data gathered are for program review and revision as well as for evaluation of program goals. Thank you in advance for your time on these important surveys!

The following schedules are the planned cohort schedules for Fall-start cohorts and Summer-start cohorts beginning Fall 2015 or later. Other combinations and sequences of courses are possible in cases of emergencies or leaves of absence (students may complete the program within five years, per University policy). You are encouraged to seek advice from the Directors of the MFT program if you need help in working out your schedule or your overall program.

**MFT Master of Arts Degree Fall-Start Program Plan  
9 Semester Full Time Program, 6-7 credits per semester**

*Most courses are offered Monday and Tuesday evenings.*

*Courses noted with an asterisk (\*) will be offered other days/times or additional days/times.*

Semester	Credits	Total Credits
<b>Semester 1</b>		
○ * MFT642 Professional Issues and Orientation to MFT	1	
○ MFT605 Individual and Family Lifespan and Development	3	
○ MFT620 Statistical Techniques and Research Methods in MFT	3	7
<b>Semester 2</b>		
○ MFT617 Foundations of Family Therapy I: Theoretical and Conceptual Origins	3	
○ MFT615 Multicultural Studies of the Family	3	6
<b>Semester 3</b>		
○ MFT619 Foundations of Family Therapy II: Contemporary Theories and Models	3	
○ MFT618 Intro to Trauma and Crisis Intervention in MFT	2	
○ * MFT500's Contemporary Topics in MFT	1	6
<b>Semester 4</b>		
○ MFT608 Psychopathology and Treatment Planning in Developmental Systems	3	
○ MFT616 Therapy with Couples and Intimate Partners	3	6
<b>Semester 5</b>		
○ MFT650 Assessment of Children, Couples, and Families in MFT	3	
○ MFT628 Advanced Applications of Relational Theory and Systemic Interventions	3	
○ * MFT645 Couple and Family Therapy Community Practicum	2	8
<b>Semester 6</b>		
○ MFT690 Ethical Issues and Professional Practices in MFT	3	
○ MFT635 Systemic Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Concerns	3	6
<b>Semester 7</b>		
○ * MFT671 Couple and Family Therapy Clinical Practicum I	2	
○ * MFT500's Contemporary Topics in MFT	1	
○ * MFT500's Contemporary Topics in MFT	1	4
<b>Semester 8</b>		
○ * MFT672 Couple and Family Therapy Clinical Practicum II	2	
○ * MFT680 Capstone Course in MFT	1	3
<b>Semester 9</b>		
○ * MFT673 Couple and Family Therapy Clinical Practicum III	2	
○ Integration Paper (no registration credits)		
○ * Oral Exam (no registration credits)		2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>48</b>

**MFT Master of Arts Degree Summer-Start Program Plan  
7 Semester Accelerated Program, 9-10 credits per semester**

*Most courses are offered Monday throughout the day/evening.*

*Courses noted with an asterisk (\*) will be offered other days/times or additional days/times.*

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>
<b>Semester 1</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ * MFT642 Professional Issues and Orientation to MFT</li> <li>○ MFT605 Individual and Family Lifespan and Development</li> <li>○ MFT620 Statistical Techniques and Research Methods in MFT</li> <li>○ MFT617 Foundations of Family Therapy I: Theoretical and Conceptual Origins</li> </ul>	1 3 3 3	10
<b>Semester 2</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MFT615 Multicultural Studies of the Family</li> <li>○ MFT619 Foundations of Family Therapy II: Contemporary Theories and Models</li> <li>○ MFT618 Intro to Trauma and Crisis Intervention in MFT</li> <li>○ * MFT500's Contemporary Topics in MFT</li> </ul>	3 3 2 1	9
<b>Semester 3</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MFT608 Psychopathology and Treatment Planning in Developmental Systems</li> <li>○ MFT616 Therapy with Couples and Intimate Partners</li> <li>○ MFT690 Ethical Issues and Professional Practices in MFT</li> </ul>	3 3 3	9
<b>Semester 4</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ * MFT645 Couple and Family Therapy Community Practicum</li> <li>○ MFT650 Assessment of Children, Couples, and Families in MFT</li> <li>○ MFT628 Advanced Applications of Relational Theory and Systemic Interventions</li> <li>○ * MFT500's Contemporary Topics in MFT</li> </ul>	2 3 3 1	9
<b>Semester 5</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ * MFT671 Couple and Family Therapy Clinical Practicum I</li> <li>○ * MFT500's Contemporary Topics in MFT</li> <li>○ MFT635 Systemic Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Concerns</li> </ul>	2 1 3	6
<b>Semester 6</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ * MFT672 Couple and Family Therapy Clinical Practicum II</li> <li>○ MFT680 Capstone Course in MFT</li> </ul>	2 1	3
<b>Semester 7</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ * MFT673 Couple and Family Therapy Clinical Practicum III</li> <li>○ Integration Paper (no registration credits)</li> <li>○ * Oral Exam (no registration credits)</li> </ul>	2  	2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>48</b>

## **University Policies**

The School of Graduate and Professional Programs (SGPP) publishes an annual catalog (available here: <http://catalog.smumn.edu/index.php>). This catalog contains information related to the graduate school which offers undergraduate certificate, bachelor degree completion, master degree, graduate certificate, specialist degree, and doctoral degree programs to adult students.

This electronic catalog is neither a contract nor an offer of a contract. The information it contains was accurate at the time of publication. Saint Mary's University publishes and prints its catalog annually. The PDF of the catalog matches the printed catalog. The electronic version is the most up-to-date version.

Fees, deadlines, academic requirements, courses, certificate and degree programs, and other matters described in this catalog may change without notice. Not all courses are offered each academic year, and faculty assignments may change.

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Saint Mary's University policies and procedures. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in the printed Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs Catalog and Student Handbook; however, when the printed and online versions differ, the official version is the online edition.

### **University Policies with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (see SGPP Catalog for more information on all important policies)**

#### **Academic Grading Policies**

Graduate students must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Students whose cumulative GPA is below 3.0 are placed on academic probation. To be removed from academic probation, students must complete the next nine credits to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or above. Failure to achieve a 3.0 or above will result in academic dismissal. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to register for practicum courses.

#### **Academic Integrity**

When one comes to Saint Mary's, one joins an academic community whose core values are fairness, mutual respect, trust, and honesty. To accomplish its mission to awaken, nurture and empower learners to ethical lives of service and leadership, the Saint Mary's community depends on the personal responsibility and integrity of all its members.

Academic integrity should not be understood as merely following certain rules; rather, it is a way of acting based on shared values that lies at the heart of any academic endeavor. A commitment to academic integrity facilitates the pursuit of knowledge and understanding by providing a framework for the open, honest and respectful exchange of ideas and information. It fosters creativity and critical thinking; it allows students to develop the self-confidence that comes from acquiring academic skills; it provides correct information to instructors so that they can give appropriate feedback in the essential relationship between students and teachers; and, ultimately, it ensures the integrity of the Saint Mary's degree.

### **Class Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students should not register for a course for which they will be absent. This includes time when the student will be late for class or time when the student will leave early. The university recognizes the diverse responsibilities of adult learners, and recognizes that unexpected and unavoidable absences may occur. The student is expected to contact the instructor prior to the absence. Additional class attendance policies may be found in program handbooks or on course syllabi.

### **Good Name Policy**

Members of the university community recognize that freedom means the acknowledgment of responsibility to the subjects used in classroom discussions. Students and faculty are responsible for protecting the good name of any organization under discussion. They should communicate no information that either implicitly or explicitly impugns the good name of an organization, person, place, or thing being discussed or studied.

### **Incomplete Grades**

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may or may not be given by the instructor at the student’s request when the required work is not completed. The student must submit a written request to the instructor prior to the final class session. In addition, the student must contact the instructor to ascertain what work remains to be done.

The instructor must report on the official grade roster the grade “I” followed by the grade that the student will receive if the coursework is not completed within 60 calendar days of the last day of the class (e.g. IN or IC or IB). Submission of the grade of “I” without the corresponding letter grade will be treated as an IN.

If the required work is completed in the specified time, the instructor will report a single final grade to the registrar. That grade will replace the Igrade, the incomplete will be removed, and the grade point average will be recomputed accordingly. Otherwise, the provisional grade which was assigned along with the “I” will become a permanent part of the transcript.

A request for an extension beyond 60 calendar days must be submitted, in writing, to the program director. The program director, after conferring with the instructor, may or may not grant the extension. If an extension is approved, a new deadline must be established. Students receiving incompletes in prerequisite courses will not be able to register for the subsequent course.

### **Program Time Limits**

All degree requirements must be completed within five years (15 consecutive semesters). The five-year period begins with the first semester of coursework. Students who cannot meet this requirement may request extensions in writing from their program director. Extension requests must show a willingness to complete the remainder of the degree requirements on a contractual basis with specific tasks and deadlines.

Students who transfer from one program to another within the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs will have five years to complete their degree, beginning with the first semester of the new program. All requirements in this policy apply in the event of a program transfer.

### **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota adheres to the principle that all persons have equal opportunity and access to admissions, employment, facilities, and all programs and activities of the University regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial status, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, or status with regard to public assistance. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the university's nondiscrimination policies:

Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator  
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
700 Terrace Heights, #38  
Winona, MN 55987  
(507)457-1421

The Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator may refer discrimination inquiries or complaints to other offices or individuals as appropriate.

### **Student Conduct**

Students are expected to comply with the legal and ethical standards of Saint Mary's University. Students are expected to uphold the Minnesota State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Ethics codes and guidelines <https://mn.gov/boards/marriage-and-family/lawsandrules/> as well as the American Association of MFT code of ethics ([https://www.aamft.org/Legal\\_Ethics/Code\\_of\\_Ethics.aspx?WebsiteKey=8e8c9bd6-0b71-4cd1-a5ab-013b5f855b01](https://www.aamft.org/Legal_Ethics/Code_of_Ethics.aspx?WebsiteKey=8e8c9bd6-0b71-4cd1-a5ab-013b5f855b01)).

Academic dishonesty and non-academic misconduct are subject to disciplinary action. Core values upheld by all members of this community include academic excellence, professionalism, personal integrity, responsibility, and compassion.

### **Writing Style**

Students should consult their program policies for the program-specific writing style to be adhered to for all classes within the program. A program-specific writing style must be a recognized published editorial style. The use of the American Psychological Association (APA) style is required.



## MFT Program-Specific Policies

The MFT program follows all Saint Mary's University of Minnesota policies. Additional program-specific policies are listed here.

### Student Retention

**Retention strategies.** Student retention is encouraged through early admissions review and advising, active collaboration through university and program support services in early coursework (such as Writing Center, Library, Student Services, a common program Blackboard page, Student Community Association events, etc.), and the cohort model which provides opportunities for development of professional relationships, networking, and supports. Students are encouraged to seek personal support through local therapeutic services as well as to rely on one another and their program staff, as appropriate, for a given challenge.

**University policies related to retention.** Students struggling academically generally fall under university policies (see SGPP Catalog) and will be offered remediation, withdrawal, or dismissal under the relevant policy guidelines.

**Retention and student behavior.** Students who are reported by peers or faculty to the program director due to dispositional or other concerns (see *Student Behavior* policies in the SGPP Catalog) will meet with the program director (and associate/clinical director as needed) to determine if additional support, a revised program plan, a formal complaint process, withdrawal, or other action is appropriate or required. Part of these conversations include professional mentorship and advisement for students to determine the best fit and course of action for their personal well-being and professional goals. For students wishing to remain in the program, a plan will be determined with those involved (e.g., director, student, and faculty or dean as needed) to correct or resolve the situation.

**Retention data.** Data on student retention and completion can be found in the University Fact Book (compiled and published by the Office of Institutional Research and updated annually) and on the MFT Program webpage under *Student Achievement Criteria* (updated annually).

### Student Recruitment (Please also see related policy Program Diversity Plan)

The program and University are committed to insuring equal and fair access to and consideration for admission to the MFT program. Recruitment procedures reflect and advance the University's non-discrimination policy and Lasallian mission. This policy is supported by the following procedures:

- Promotion of the MFT program's admission information through a variety of education and organizational environments inclusive of institutions for traditionally underserved populations.
- Opportunity for personal meetings with faculty and students and information tours prior to application.
- An advertising and outreach period that provides a lengthy period for seeking program information and application preparation.
- Early admissions review and advising.
- Outreach by graduates to the community.

## **Technology Requirements for Students**

All students are expected to have access to a computer with internet access or be able to access computer labs on campus in a timely fashion. Students will be provided with internet access on the University campus. Students are expected to have and use a University email address for all University-related communication. There are no preferred software programs, though students without regular access to campus computer labs will (minimally) need access to a word processing program, presentation software, and an internet browser. More information can be found on campus technology here:

<http://catalog.smumn.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=1276#Computer and Technology Services>

**Technical training for students, faculty, and supervisors.** If technical training is needed for any course or clinical practice, the instructor provides the training. Instruction for specific programs used for documentation of clinical hours, clinical recordkeeping, portfolio assessment, Blackboard, etc., is usually provided by the instructor but may also be provided by the University technical resources (e.g., use of the library by library staff; major transitions in applications technology by University IT staff, etc.). Students, faculty, and supervisors may be directed to other University resources for special or individual need (e.g., use of a particular program for a project, such as Excel). The IT Helpdesk is available here:

[https://techfaq.smumn.edu/index.php?&\\_ga=1.101717569.1190893139.1442949540](https://techfaq.smumn.edu/index.php?&_ga=1.101717569.1190893139.1442949540)

### **Information Technology Services (IT Services) HelpDesk contact information.**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Minneapolis Campus

LaSalle Hall Room #218

2500 Park Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55404-4403

Phone: (612) 728-5100 Ext. 7800

Toll-free (877) 437-2788 Ext. 7800

E-mail: [tchelpdesk@smumn.edu](mailto:tchelpdesk@smumn.edu)

## Program Diversity Plan

### Defining Diversity

The MFT program’s mission aligns with the core components of Saint Mary’s Lasallian educational mission: inclusion, social justice, cultural responsiveness, and the value of diversity. The University and program define *diversity* broadly, including commonly under-represented, disempowered, or marginalized demographic categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, spiritual and religious diversity, socioeconomic status, ability and disability, life experience, age, military service, employment history, country of origin and more. MFT students can expect to learn more about themselves and the clients they will serve through a lens of cultural responsiveness. In an effort to attract and retain a diverse student, faculty, and supervisor community, the following diversity plan was developed.

### Publishing Diversity Composition

Due to the sensitive nature of various diverse identities, and the potential liability or vulnerability for individuals, with asking students, faculty, and supervisor to disclose this sensitive information, the MFT program follows University procedures. New faculty/supervisors can choose to disclose gender (binary) and race/ethnicity at the time of hire and new students can choose to disclose the same information at the time of application. These demographic data are published on the program website (updated annually) and in this handbook (see appendices).

### Five-Year Diversity Plan

The MFT program has established a 5-year diversity plan that uses demographic data collected from new faculty and students (described above), as well as state-wide data for the MFT community, to establish diversity benchmarks and targets with the goal of advancing gender and racial diversity in the program. The 2015 Minnesota Marriage and Family Therapist Workforce report (published by the Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/workforce/mh/2016lmft.pdf>) provides demographic data for the Minnesota MFT community. While the current MFT program data show markedly more diversity than the broader Minnesota MFT community data, the program continues to strive for increased diversity in the coming years.

The MFT Program Diversity Plan establishes specific objectives and strategies across several program areas to meet targets for advancing and maintaining a diverse student, faculty, and supervisor Community. The table below indicates program objectives to support the advancement of diversity within the program.

	Minnesota MFTs (as of 2015)	Current Program representation (as of 2016)	Target 2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Student								
	Male 21.9% Female 78.1%	Male 13% Female 87%	25% Male, 75% Female	15% male	18%	20%	22%	25%
	93.6% White, 2.9% Asian 2% Black < 2% Hispanic, Native, Pacific	79% White 3.5% Hispanic 7% Asian 7% Black	No more than 75% White At least 25% students of color	22% students of color	23%	24%	25%	≥25%

	Islander, or “Other”	<2% Nonresident, Native, or multiple races						
Faculty/ Supervisors								
	Male 21.9% Female 78.1%	Male 38% Female 62%	Maintain with no more than 70% female or male					
	93.6% White, 2.9% Asian 2% Black < 2% Hispanic, Native, Pacific Islander, or “Other”	82% White 6% Hispanic 6% Black < 3% Native, etc.	No more than 80% White At least 20% faculty of color	18% <i>fac/sup of color</i>	19%	20%	≥20%	≥20%

### Objectives and Strategies for Advancing/Maintaining Diverse Student, Faculty, and Supervisor Community.

The table below indicates program objectives to support the advancement of diversity within the program.

Objective to support advancement of diversity	Strategies to meet objective	Applicable to Students	Applicable to Faculty/ Supervisors
Insuring a safe and respectful program climate.			
	New faculty/student orientation	X	X
	Accessible advising/consultation	X	X
	Providing mentor/mentee or peer leaders	X	X
	Gathering feedback on climate	X	X
	Guide faculty on how to identify and assist with unintended racist, sexist, prejudicial talk		X
Insure a fair and equitable recruitment/admissions or hiring process			
	Review outreach/advertising	X	X
	Review program materials for	X	X

	demonstration of inclusiveness		
	Demonstration of multicultural interest/skills as admission criterion	X	X
	Using variety of ways for demonstration of qualification/potential for MFT field	X	X
Enhancing retention-supportive activities			
	Accessible advising/consultation	X	X
	Opportunities in curriculum to pursue own interests	X	X
	Training for faculty in diversity		X
	Gathering feedback	X	X
Enhancing diversity-relevant knowledge and experience in curriculum			
	Get feedback on quality of attention to diversity (especially from minority identified students)	X	X
	Include opportunities for pursuing own interests (e.g., projects focused on diversity/social justice themes)	X	X

### **Review and Approval of Diversity Plan**

The MFT Program's Diversity Plan has undergone review and approval by faculty, advisory board, Dean of the Graduate School of Health and Human Services, and Academic Policy and Procedure Committee. Formal implementation will begin for the 2017-2018 academic year.

## **Program Review, Evaluation, and Revision**

The MFT program has several program evaluation steps that include gathering information from students, recent graduates, alumni, faculty, supervisors, university staff, and other communities of interest. Program evaluation has the goal of evaluating our progress on program goals (via student learning outcome indicators), informing program changes and decisions, and maintaining standards for COAMFTE (Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education) accreditation. Students' professional and community responsibilities include completing necessary program requirements, end of course Student Rating of Teaching and Learning evaluations, end of program exit survey, post-graduation annual alumni surveys and employer program evaluation surveys, and upon invitation, contributing to the Program Advisory Committee. Important committees and the program evaluation plan is included here. This information is evaluated by the program director and associate director, faculty and advisory board committees, dean of the Graduate School of Health and Human Services, other university staff including the Chief Academic Officer (formerly the Vice President) of the School of Graduate and Professional Programs, and COAMFTE in an effort to improve programming and meet the goals that are important to for our students, alumni, faculty, program, and future clients and communities involved in our work.

### **Program Committee Structure**

The following is a listing of standing committees of the Marriage and Family Therapy Master of Arts program.

Advisory Committee

Faculty Committee

Student Governance Committee: MFT Student Community Association (SCA)

### **Frequency of Committee meetings**

Advisory: Meets once annually and as needed.

Faculty: Once per semester and as needed.

Student: Once per semester and as needed.

## **SMU Advisory Committee on Marriage and Family Therapy Programs Advisory Committee Charter**

Goal: The goal of the Advisory Committee on Marriage and Family Therapy Programs Advisory Committee is to provide feedback to foster program improvement.

The role of the Advisory Committee Members for the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Degree Program is to:

1. Provide information on the educational needs of practicing Marriage and Family Therapists;
2. Provide information on employment trends in the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;
3. Offer feedback on the curriculum content of the MFT program;
4. Participate in the review of the MFT program; and
5. Review and interpret the data on program effectiveness.

The Advisory committee shall pursue excellence in education of marriage and family therapists through the derivation, institution and evaluation of new and pre-existing program policies and objectives. The committee is guided by the sponsoring institution's mission statements and the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AAMFTRB), American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy (MNBMFT) Standards and Guidelines, and input from the various spheres of practice in which the Program operates. Given the program design, this committee will review the program and make recommendations as to policy changes and program improvement.

### **Scope and Responsibility**

Ensure compliance with the standards set forth by COAMFTE, AAMFTRB, AAMFT, and MNBMFT to:

- Review the program's goals (as indicated by student learning outcomes).
- Review of course content required to meet program goals.
- Planning for adequate learning resources (library, audio-visual materials, and clinical areas for clinical practicum) necessary to achieve program goals.
- Review the program content is arranged in a logical, sequential manner, consistent with sound educational principles, facilitating student learning.
- Establishing policies for the periodic review of the program's curriculum.
- Cooperate with the boards and committees in establishing student performance criteria.
- In cases where decisions made by this committee impact University policy or procedure, the decisions are recommendations to be reviewed by the Program Director and recommended to appropriate University Committee(s) and/or the Dean of the Graduate School of Health and Human Services.

The structure of the Advisory Committee for the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Degree Program will represent the following communities of interest:

- MFT Leaders
- Faculty Members

- Current students
- Alumni
- Program Directors
- Program Coordinator

**Specific Members of the Committee include:**

- MFT leaders from community agencies, boards, and institutions
- Program faculty members
- Program Director-Chair
- Associate Director
- Public Member
- Four Student Representatives
- Alumni Representative

The agenda for the Advisory Committee meetings will be developed by the Program Director. Input to the agenda will be solicited by the members of the Advisory Committee.



## **SMU Faculty Committee on Marriage and Family Therapy Programs Faculty Committee Charter**

Goal: The goal of the Faculty Committee on Marriage and Family Therapy Programs Faculty Committee is to provide feedback to foster program improvement.

The role of the Faculty Committee Members for the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Degree Program is to:

1. Provide information on the educational needs of both practicing Marriage and Family Therapists and students in the MFT program;
2. Provide information on employment trends in the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;
3. Offer feedback on the curriculum content of the MFT program;
4. Participate in the review of the MFT program; and
5. Review and interpret the data on program effectiveness.

The Faculty committee shall pursue excellence in education of marriage and family therapists through the derivation, institution and evaluation of new and pre-existing program policies and objectives. The committee is guided by the sponsoring institution's mission statements and the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AAMFTRB), American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy (MNBMFT) Standards and Guidelines, and input from the various spheres of practice in which the Program operates. Given the program design, this committee will review the program and make recommendations as to policy changes and program improvement.

### **Scope and Responsibility**

Ensure compliance with the standards set forth by COAMFTE, AAMFTRB, AAMFT, and MNBMFT to:

- Review the program's goals (as indicated by Student Learning Outcomes).
- Review of course content required to meet program goals.
- Planning for adequate learning resources (library, audio-visual materials, and clinical areas for clinical practicum) necessary to achieve program goals.
- Review the program content is arranged in a logical, sequential manner, consistent with sound educational principles, facilitating student learning.
- Establishing policies for the periodic review of the program's curriculum.
- Cooperate with the boards and committees in establishing student performance criteria.
- In cases where decisions made by this committee impact University policy or procedure, the decisions are recommendations to be reviewed by the Program Director and recommended to appropriate University Committee(s) and/or the Dean of the Graduate School of Health and Human Services.

The structure of the Faculty Committee for the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Degree Program will the following members:

- Faculty Members (some of whom are Alumni)
- Program Directors

- Program Coordinator

**Specific Members of the Committee include:**

- Program faculty members (who are also MFT leaders from community agencies, boards, and institutions)
- Program Director-Chair
- Associate Director

The agenda for the Faculty Committee meetings will be developed by the Program Director. Input to the agenda will be solicited by the members of the Faculty Committee.

**SMU Student Committee on Marriage and Family Therapy Programs:  
MFT Student Community Association “SCA”  
Student Committee Charter**

Goal: The goal of the Student Committee on Marriage and Family Therapy Programs Committee is to provide feedback to foster program improvement and to foster ongoing professional development opportunities for students.

The role of the Student Committee Members for the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Degree Program is to:

1. Provide information on the educational needs of MFT students;
2. Offer feedback on the curriculum content and educational experience of the MFT programs;
3. Participate in the review of the MFT program;
4. Supply nominated members to participate in the Faculty and Advisory Committees;
5. In collaboration with program staff, create and host professional development opportunities for fellow students.

The Student committee shall pursue excellence in education of marriage and family therapists through the derivation, institution and evaluation of new and pre-existing program policies and objectives. The committee is guided by the sponsoring institution’s mission statements and the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AAMFTRB), American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy (MNBMFT) Standards and Guidelines, and input from the various spheres of practice in which the Program operates. Given the program design, this committee will review the program and make recommendations as to policy changes and program improvement.

**Scope and Responsibility**

- To meet at least once each semester;
- To bring student concerns to the Director and Associate/Clinical Director, as needed;
- To identify needs of the MFT students;
- To work collaboratively with program staff to create and host professional development opportunities; and
- To nominate at least one member to attend Faculty and Advisory Committee meetings.

The structure of the Student Committee for the Marriage and Family Therapy Program will represent the following communities of interest:

- MFT Students

**Specific Members of the Committee include:**

- Self-selected and nominated MFT Students,
- The Program Director,
- The Associate/Clinical Director.

The agenda for the Student Committee meetings will be developed by the student leaders. Input to the agenda will be provided by program staff as needed.

### Program Goals Evaluation Plan - Overview

More information on program goals, student learning outcomes (indicators), measures, targets, results (both raw data and aggregate), and implications can be shared on request of the program Director. This information is presented annually to the Advisory, Faculty, and Student Committees. Most recent program assessment data can be found in the appendices.

<p>➤ Program Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Learning Outcomes</li> </ul>	Measures of Outcomes	Timeline
<p>Upon completion of the program, students are expected to be able to do the following:</p> <p>➤ Program Goal 1: Reflect an understanding of and respect for cultural diversity through professional relationships and communication with diverse clients, peers, and organizations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 1.1: articulating effects of their own social identities and power (social location) and experiences in professional relationships and practice.</li> <li>○ SLO 1.2: analyzing sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and historical factors that can shape clients' lives.</li> <li>○ SLO 1.3: integrating cultural diversity-centered assessment and intervention into clinical practice.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Program Goal 2: Integrate knowledge of MFT theory and models to clinical practice by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 2.1: demonstrating knowledge of a variety of systemic/relational theories and models of C/MFT practice.</li> <li>○ SLO 2.2: applying systemic/relational theory and models to clinical case conceptualizations.</li> <li>○ SLO 2.3: integrating systemic/relational theories and models with other conceptual frameworks (e.g. biological, psychological, sociological).</li> </ul> <p>➤ Program Goal 3: Develop a systemic perspective for the treatment of mental health issues of individuals, couples, and families by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 3.1: demonstrating knowledge of a variety of systemic/relational assessment methods.</li> </ul>	Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED)	At conclusion of all practicum sections;
	Exit Survey	aggregated annually in Summer After Integration Paper completed;
	Alumni Survey	aggregated annually in Summer Annually in Summer
	Integration Paper Rating	All Integration Papers/Oral Exams; aggregated annually in Winter
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)	Annually in Summer

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 3.2: demonstrating knowledge of the DSM-V diagnostic framework.</li> <li>○ SLO 3.3: integrating systemic/relational assessment and DSM-V diagnostic systems into clinical practice.</li> <li>○ SLO 3.4: designing treatment plans derived from integrative systemic/relational and DSM-V diagnostic assessment.</li>   <li>➤ Program Goal 4: Create effective interventions to promote well-being in clients through preventative, developmental, systemic and/or remedial services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 4.1: constructing interventions that derive from conceptualization and treatment planning.</li> <li>○ SLO 4.2: applying a wide variety of developmental, systemic, preventative, and/or remedial services interventions.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>➤ Program Goal 5: Conduct clinical practice within an ethically-informed framework based on the AAMFT Code of Ethics, legal requirements, sound judgment, and professional compassion by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 5.1: evaluating clinical situations for ethical, legal, and professional issues affecting therapy.</li> <li>○ SLO 5.2: intervening with clinical situations to maintain ethical, legal and professional standards of behavior.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>➤ Program Goal 6: Demonstrate familiarity with MFT research literature and the relationship between MFT literature and practice by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 6.1: analyzing MFT research literature for its strength and limitations and sociocultural implications.</li> <li>○ SLO 6.2: applying relevant research findings to clinical practice.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>➤ Program Goal 7: Develop and articulate their professional development plans and skills by:</li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SLO 7.1: articulating steps for future professional development.</li> <li>○ SLO 7.2: demonstrating written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills with clients and professionals.</li> </ul>		
<b>Additionally, the MFT program will annually attain accreditation achievement levels:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SLO 8.1: Student cohorts' graduation rates will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements for               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum rate of graduation (2.3)</li> <li>• Advertised rate of graduation (3 years)</li> <li>• Maximum rate of graduation (5 years)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ SLO 8.2: Student cohorts' job placement rate will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements.</li> <li>➤ SLO 8.3: Student cohorts' licensure exam pass rate will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements.</li> </ul>	Alumni Survey	Annually in Summer
	Exit Survey	Annually in Summer
	MN Board of MFT database	Ongoing
	Ongoing alumni self-report	Ongoing
	Graduation rates from Office of Institutional Research	Annually

## Licensure Process

Following successful completion of all coursework, practicum requirements, and final exams, students may seek licensure in the State of Minnesota under the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy. Licensure as a marriage and family therapist in Minnesota requires a minimum amount of time (24 months), experience (4000 total hours, at least 1000 of which are client contact psychotherapy hours with no fewer than 500 relational hours), supervision (at least 200 under a Minnesota Board of MFT Approved Supervisor), and the successful completion of post-graduate examinations (both National Exam and state oral exam). More specific information on licensure in Minnesota can be found here: [www.bmft.state.mn.us](http://www.bmft.state.mn.us)

### Specific Notes on Minnesota State Licensure for graduates after August 1, 2016:

Upon completion of the degree, graduates may start counting hours towards licensure in Minnesota if they:

- a) are under the supervision of a Minnesota Board of MFT Approved Supervisor, **and**
  - b) apply to take the AMFTRB National Exam within six months of degree completion.
- This application remains on file for two years.

\*If a graduate chooses not to apply for the National Exam until a later date, the Minnesota Board of MFT will only count supervised experience for six months prior to the application.

### **Portability of Degree to Other States**

Licensure differs between states (and countries), though as a COAMFTE-accredited program graduates find their degree to have increased portability as compared to degrees from non-accredited programs. Other states may require additional, different, and/or changing licensure requirements. Please contact the regulatory board in your destination-state to determine if you need to modify your degree plan prior to graduation. For individualized advising, students can contact the program director to determine curriculum changes based on unique professional and personal plans.

## Additional Resources

### Regulatory Boards

#### **Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy**

2829 University Avenue SE, Suite 400, Minneapolis MN 55414

Phone: 612-617-2220

Fax: 612-617-2221

Hearing/Speech Relay: 1-800-627-3529

Email: [mft.board@state.mn.us](mailto:mft.board@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.bmft.state.mn.us](http://www.bmft.state.mn.us)

#### **Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards**

1843 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Lois Paff Bergen, PhD, AMFTRB Executive Director

Website: <https://www.amftrb.org/>

### Professional Associations

#### **Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT)**

Phone: 651-278-8463

Email: [admin@mamft.net](mailto:admin@mamft.net)

Website: <https://www.mamft.net/>

#### **American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)**

112 South Alfred Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3061

Phone: (703) 838-9808

Fax: (703) 838-9805

Website: <http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/>



## Appendix A

<b>M.A. in Marriage &amp; Family Therapy Faculty and Supervisor Demographics</b>		
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	21	62%
Male	13	38%
<b>Race/ethnicity unknown</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nonresident Alien	0	0%
Race/ethnicity unknown	1	3%
Hispanic/Latino	2	6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	3%
Asian	0	0%
Black or African American	2	6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White	28	82%
Two or more races	0	0%

Collected by the Office of Institutional Research: Faculty included are faculty and supervisors teaching a marriage and family therapy course in the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. Data is self-report at time of hire.

## Appendix B

<b>M.A. in Marriage &amp; Family Therapy Student Demographics</b>		
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	167	87%
Male	26	13%
<b>Race/ethnicity unknown</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nonresident Alien	1	1%
Race/ethnicity unknown	52	27%
Hispanic/Latino	5	3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1%
Asian	10	5%
Black or African American	10	5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White	112	58%
Two or more races	2	1%

Collected by the office of Institutional Research: Student figures are based on student registration as of the 6th week of classes in the Fall 2016 Academic Year. Data is self-report at the time of application.

**Appendix C**  
**Saint Mary's University of Minnesota**  
**Graduate School of Health and Human Services**  
**Marriage and Family Therapy Program**  
**Program Assessment Data for Communities of Interest**  
**2016 Annual Review Data updated March 2017 for Revised Program Goals**

*Program Mission: Recognizing the relational and systemic qualities of all life, the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Saint Mary's University exists to aid students in deepening their own understanding of relational health and their own skills in facilitating relational health in all kinds of human systems.*

Program Goal (PG) or Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Assessment Measure	Target	Most Recent Data	Interpretation of Findings	Suggested Improvements by CIOs
<p>The MFT program goals reflect both the professional skills and practice required of program graduates and embody the result of effective core learning outlined for programs in the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs and the requirements of the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family. Student Learning Outcomes are indicators of program goals.</p> <p>Upon completion of the program, students are expected to be able to do the following:</p>					
<p>Program Goal 1: Reflect an understanding of and respect for cultural diversity through professional relationships and communication with diverse clients, peers, and organizations by:</p>					
<p>➤ SLO 1.1: articulating effects of their own social identities and power (social location) and experiences in professional relationships and practice.</p> <p>➤ SLO 1.2: analyzing sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and historical factors that can shape clients' lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED)</li> <li>❖ Exit Survey</li> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Integration Paper Rating</li> <li>❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)</li> </ul>				

➤ SLO 1.3: integrating cultural diversity-centered assessment and intervention into clinical practice.					
	Alumni Survey 4a (prepared to create and sustain professional relationships and communications with diverse clients, peers, and organizations)	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
	Exit Survey 4a (prepared to create and sustain professional relationships and communications with diverse clients, peers, and organizations)	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 98.81%		
	BSED I.2, I.4, II.1., II.2., III.1., III.2, III.3., III.4, III.5, III.6, III.7, IV.1, IV.2, IV.4., IV.5	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 96.42%		
	Integration Paper Rubric completed by reviewer (Items 1-4).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 86.11%	Still a low scoring item, though improving	
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1a (reflects an understanding and respect for cultural diversity through professional relationships and communication with diverse clients, peers, and organizations).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 6 (in what type of	Variety of responses selected			

	setting does the graduate work).				
	Students receive a grade of B or higher in MFT615 (Multicultural Studies of Family)	85%	Met: 100%		
Program Goal 2: Integrate knowledge of MFT theory and models to clinical practice by:					
<p>➤ SLO 2.1: demonstrating knowledge of a variety of systemic/relational theories and models of MFT practice.</p> <p>➤ SLO 2.2: applying systemic/relational theory and models to clinical case conceptualizations.</p> <p>➤ SLO 2.3: integrating systemic/relational theories and models with other conceptual frameworks (e.g. biological, psychological, sociological).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED)</li> <li>❖ Exit Survey</li> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Integration Paper Rating</li> <li>❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)</li> </ul>				
	Alumni Survey 4b (prepared to integrate basic knowledge of marriage and family theory to clinical practice).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 94.1%		
	Exit Survey 4b (prepared to integrate basic knowledge of	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		

	marriage and family theory to clinical practice).				
	BSED I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4, II.1, II.2, II.3, IV.3, V.1, V.2, VI.1, VI.2, VI.3	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 93.26%		
	Integration Paper Rubric completed by reviewer (Items 5 and 6).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 100%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1b (prepared to integrate basic knowledge of marriage and family theory to clinical practice).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
	Alumni Survey 4c (prepared to integrate knowledge of marriage and family therapy models to clinical practice).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 91.2%		
	Exit Survey 4c (prepared to integrate knowledge of marriage and family therapy models to clinical practice).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
	BSED I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4, II.1, II.2, II.3, IV.3, V.1, V.2,	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 94.62%		
	Integration Paper Rubric completed by reviewer (Items 7 and 8).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 100%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1c (prepared to integrate knowledge of marriage and family therapy models to clinical practice).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
<b>Program Goal 3: Develop a systemic perspective for the treatment of mental health issues of individuals, couples, and families by:</b>					
➤ SLO 3.1: demonstrating knowledge of a variety of	❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED) ❖ Exit Survey				

<p>systemic/relational assessment methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SLO 3.2: demonstrating knowledge of the DSM-V diagnostic framework.</li> <li>➤ SLO 3.3: integrating systemic/relational assessment and DSM-V diagnostic systems into clinical practice.</li> <li>➤ SLO 3.4: designing treatment plans derived from integrative systemic/relational and DSM-V diagnostic assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Integration Paper Rating</li> <li>❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)</li> </ul>				
	<p>Alumni Survey 4d (prepared to develop a systemic perspective to diagnose and treat health issues of individuals, couples, and families).</p>	<p>85% “agree” or “strongly agree”</p>	<p>Met: 94.1%</p>		
	<p>Exit Survey 4d (prepared to develop a systemic perspective to diagnose and treat health issues of individuals, couples, and families).</p>	<p>85% “agree” or “strongly agree”</p>	<p>Met: 100%</p>		
	<p>BSED I.2, I.3, I.4, II.1, II.2., II.3, III.1., III.2, III.3., III.4, III.5, III.6, III.7, IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, VI.1, VI.2, VI.3</p>	<p>90% “meets expectations” or above</p>	<p>Met: 94.28%</p>		

	Integration Paper Rubric completed by reviewer (Item 9).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 100%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1d (prepared to develop a systemic perspective to diagnose and treat health issues of individuals, couples, and families).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
Program Goal 4: Create effective interventions to promote well-being in clients through preventative, developmental, systemic and/or remedial services by:					
<p>➤ SLO 4.1: constructing interventions that derive from conceptualization and treatment planning.</p> <p>➤ SLO 4.2: applying a wide variety of developmental, systemic, preventative, and/or remedial services interventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED)</li> <li>❖ Exit Survey</li> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Integration Paper Rating</li> <li>❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)</li> </ul>				
	Alumni Survey 4h (prepared to create effective interventions that promote well-being in clients through preventative, developmental, systemic, and/or remedial services).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 94.1%		
	Exit Survey 4h (prepared to create effective interventions that promote well-being in clients through preventative,	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		



	developmental, systemic, and/or remedial services).				
	BSED I.1., I.2, I.3, II.2, II.3, III.3, III.4, III.7, V.1, V.2	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 94.49%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1h (prepared to create effective interventions that promote well-being in clients through preventative, developmental, systemic, and/or remedial services).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
Program Goal 5: Conduct clinical practice within an ethically-informed framework based on the AAMFT Code of Ethics, legal requirements, sound judgment, and professional compassion by:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SLO 5.1: evaluating clinical situations for ethical, legal, and professional issues affecting therapy.</li> <li>➤ SLO 5.2: intervening with clinical situations to maintain ethical, legal and professional standards of behavior.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED)</li> <li>❖ Exit Survey</li> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Integration Paper Rating</li> <li>❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)</li> </ul>				
	Alumni Survey 4e (prepared to evaluate professional practice issues to act in an ethical manner based on the MFT codes of ethics, legal requirements, sound judgment, and professional compassion).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 97.1%		

	Exit Survey 4e (prepared to evaluate professional practice issues to act in an ethical manner based on the MFT codes of ethics, legal requirements, sound judgment, and professional compassion).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
	BSED IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 96.57%		
	Integration Paper Rubric (January 2014 data) Rubric completed by reviewer (Item 4).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 87.31%	Another low scoring item, though meets and exceeds benchmark.	
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1e (prepared to evaluate professional practice issues to act in an ethical manner based on the MFT codes of ethics, legal requirements, sound judgment, and professional compassion).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
<b>Program Goal 6: Demonstrate familiarity with MFT research literature and the relationship between MFT literature and practice by:</b>					
➤ SLO 6.1: analyzing MFT research literature for its strength and limitations and sociocultural implications. ➤ SLO 6.2: applying relevant research findings to clinical practice.	❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED) ❖ Exit Survey ❖ Alumni Survey ❖ Integration Paper Rating ❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)				

	Alumni Survey 4f (prepared to analyze research for use in couple and family therapy).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 91.2%	A notable improvement in 24 months	
	Exit Survey 4f (prepared to analyze research for use in couple and family therapy).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%	Again, a notable improvement in 24 months	
	Integration Paper Rubric completed by reviewer (Items 5-8).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 100%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1f (prepared to analyze research for use in couple and family therapy).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
<b>Program Goal 7: Develop and articulate their professional development plans and skills by:</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SLO 7.1: articulating steps for future professional development.</li> <li>➤ SLO 7.2: demonstrating written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills with clients and professionals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Basic Skills Evaluation Device (BSED)</li> <li>❖ Exit Survey</li> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Integration Paper Rating</li> <li>❖ Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey (EPES)</li> </ul>				
	Alumni Survey 4g (prepared to demonstrate written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills with clients and professionals).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 97.1%		
	Exit Survey 4g (prepared to demonstrate written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills with clients and professionals).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		

	BSED III.1, III.5, III.6, IV.1, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 96.78%		
	Integration Paper Rubric completed by reviewer (Items 8-9).	85% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 100%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1g (prepared to demonstrate written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills with clients and professionals).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met:100%		
	Alumni Survey 4j (prepared to articulate plans for future professional development).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 88.2%		
	Exit Survey 4j (prepared to articulate plans for future professional development).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
	BSED I.4, IV.4, IV.5, V.2	90% “meets expectations” or above	Met: 97.03%		
	Supervisor/Employer Program Evaluation Survey item 1i (prepared to articulate plans for future professional development).	85% “agree” or “strongly agree”	Met: 100%		
<b>Program Goal 8: The Student Achievement Criteria reflecting student/graduate achievement data will meet COAMFTE requirements by:</b>					
<p>➤ SLO 8.1: Student cohorts' graduation rates will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum rate of graduation (2.3)</li> <li>• Advertised rate of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Alumni Survey</li> <li>❖ Exit Survey</li> <li>❖ MN Board of MFT database</li> <li>❖ Ongoing alumni self-report</li> <li>❖ Graduation rates from Office of Institutional Research</li> </ul>				

<p>graduation (3 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum rate of graduation (5 years)</li> </ul> <p>➤ SLO 8.2: Student cohorts' job placement rate will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements.</p> <p>➤ SLO 8.3: Student cohorts' licensure exam pass rate will comply with COAMFTE reporting requirements.</p>					
	<p>Alumni survey question 13 (employment status); Exit Survey; Student self-report at integration and exit activities; Alumni self-report post- graduation; Program data collection</p>	<p>80% working as an MFT</p>	<p>Met in 10 of 10 cohorts when comparing across all data (ranging from 87.5 to 100%)</p>	<p>Met</p>	
	<p>Alumni survey question 10 (national exam status) &amp; 12 (state exam status); Self-report and program data collection via Board websites and databases</p>	<p>80% of those who take the exams pass</p>	<p>AMFTRB exam pass rate data ranges from 65.4% to 85.7%; State licensure pass rates are not available. Fully licensed graduates range from 0% to 69%. Alumni survey reported 100% pass rate on state oral exam.</p>	<p>AMFTRB and MN Board do not report licensure pass rates by cohort. We do not verify out of state licenses, nor know which graduates are still seeking licensure. Students in the 2005 cohort could still be seeking full licensure. We are unable to know the true pass</p>	

				rate based on current procedures.	
	Minnesota Board of MFT annual report	80% of those who take the exams pass	We were approaching meeting, but rates dropped in 2016. 2015 pass rates 81.82%, 2016 pass rates (through June) are 69.77%	Is 85% too high when COAMFTE's benchmark is 65%?	
	Alumni survey question 10 (state mft exam); Self-report and program data collection via Board websites and databases	80% pursue and receive license	AMFTRB exam pass rate data ranges from 65.4% to 85.7%; State licensure pass rates are not available. Fully licensed graduates range from 0% to 69%.	AMFTRB and MN Board do not report licensure pass rates by cohort. We do not verify out of state licenses, nor know which graduates are still seeking licensure. Students in the 2005 cohort could still be seeking full licensure. We are unable to know the true pass rate based on current procedures.	
	Alumni survey question 20 and 26 (professional presentations and publications listed)	Ongoing contributions to field listed by alumni	Met		
	Alumni survey question 21 (advocacy activities and leadership listed)	Ongoing contributions to field listed by alumni	Met		
	Alumni survey question 22 (teaching activity listed)	Ongoing contributions to field listed by alumni	Met		
<b>COAMFTE Student Achievement Criteria Data for Saint Mary's University of Minnesota</b>					

**Minimum Program Length\*: 3 / Advertised Program Length\*: 5 / Maximum Time to Complete Program\*: 5**

<b>Year Students Entered Program**</b>	<b># of Students in Program</b>	<b>Graduation Rate (Minimum Time)</b>	<b>Graduation Rate (Advertised Time)</b>	<b>Graduation Rate (Maximum Time)</b>	<b>Job Placement Rate</b>	<b>National Exam Pass Rate*</b>
2005-2006	61	68.85%	78.69%	78.69%	98.08%	97.50%
2006-2007	90	54.44%	71.11%	71.11%	100.00%	100.00%
2007-2008	78	51.28%	67.95%	67.95%	100.00%	100.00%
2008-2009	98	46.94%	71.43%	71.43%	98.67%	98.11%
2009-2010	130	70.59%	95.10%	95.10%	99.02%	100.00%
2010-2011	152	56.58%	80.26%	80.26%	96.72%	98.28%
2011-2012	126	57.14%	75.40%	75.40%	98.95%	97.44%
2012-2013	115	62.61%	65.22%	65.22%	93.59%	100.00%
2013-2014	107	31.78%	31.78%	31.78%	88.89%	100.00%
2014-2015	62	3.23%	3.23%	3.23%	87.50%	0.00%
2015-2016	57	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%