



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



FAMILY STUDIES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Arts degree in Family Studies is a program within the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy and is an advanced educational track in early childhood, human development, interpersonal relations, and family studies. Graduates of the program may enter a variety of human services vocations and/or pursue further advanced degrees in human and family development including early childhood, adolescence, marriage and geriatrics.

The Family Studies program focuses on basic human developmental and behavioral characteristics of the individual within the context of the family system. The curriculum includes instruction in the conditions that influence human growth and development; strategies that promote growth and development across the life span; and the study of family systems.

The curriculum is designed to prepare the candidate to pursue doctoral studies in related areas to become educators and researchers. The program also provides an advanced educational track for the candidate who wishes to seek employment in the non-clinical areas of social service delivery, research, family policy and family law, parenting and family life education, health and well-being, prevention and program evaluation. The curriculum covers theory, research and practice with individuals and families across the life span. The curriculum strives to address diversity, power, privilege and social justice with the goal of creating an environment that welcomes and provides mentorship to a diverse student body by a diverse group of faculty and instructors.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA

The MA in Family Studies requires completion of a minimum of 33 credits. Candidates must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 and pass a comprehensive examination and/or master's thesis at the end of the program.

COURSE OF STUDY

Completion of the Master of Arts degree in Family Studies requires a minimum of 33 credits from among the courses listed below including successful completion of FT 99-02 Comprehensive Examination in Family Studies, PY 433 Behavioral Statistics, PY 571 Research in Psychology, and PY 475 Program Evaluation.

- FT 447 Lifespan Human Development
- FT 550 Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy
- FT 555 Foundations of Marital and Family Therapy
- FT 552 Intervention in Structural and Strategic Family Therapy
- FT 525 Divorce, Single-parenting and Remarriage
- FT 561 Advanced Interventions in Family Therapy
- FT 433 Social Justice and Diversity in Professional Practice
- FT 465 Introduction to Substance Abuse and Addictions
- FT 470 Professional Practice with LGBTQ Youth and Families
- FT 556 Research in Marriage and Family Therapy

- FT 565 Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Family Therapy
- FT 567 Couples Therapy
- FT 568 Special Topics in Family Therapy
- PY 433 Behavioral Statistics (required)
- PY 571 Research in Psychology (required)
- PY 475 Program Evaluation (required)
- SE 441 Parents and Families of Children with Disabilities
- FT 99-02 Comprehensive Examination in Family Studies (required)

GRADUATE PROGRAM CONTACTS

Dr. Nicole O'Brien
Associate Professor
nobrien@fairfield.edu

Dr. Rona Preli, Chair & Director
Associate Professor
rpreli@fairfield.edu

Dr. O'Brien is the contact person for information about the program.

For a complete faculty listing, see
www.fairfield.edu/gseapfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a master's degree must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) and give promise of meeting the standards set by the school.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Deadlines: October 1st and January 15th

Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.
(Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/geapp.)
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.

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Fairfield University

Graduate School of Education
and Allied Professions

3. A professional résumé. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé that includes employment and educational history.
4. A personal statement. Students should describe why they want to undertake graduate studies in the program for which they are applying.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. We generally expect applicants to have a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0. Any applicant whose undergraduate GPA is lower than 2.67 must request and receive a GPA waiver from the department. Waivers are granted on a case by case basis and may require supplemental undergraduate coursework to increase the undergraduate GPA and/or earning a B or better in two or more approved graduate-level courses. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A list of approved evaluators is available at www.fairfield.edu/eval. Students may be required to take one or more English writing courses if their writing skills do not meet graduate level standards. Upon the granting of a GPA waiver, an approval form signed by the Department and the Dean's office will be placed in the student's file. Candidates who are granted a GPA waiver and are admitted must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be permitted to continue in the program. Candidates applying for admission to a certification program should note that Connecticut State certification program standards for formal admission to an approved initial educator certification program require candidates to possess a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of B- (2.67 on a 4.0 GPA scale), unless an approved GPA waiver form documents that a waiver was granted.
6. Two recommendations. Suggested recommendations include your undergraduate or graduate professors, your major advisor, your work supervisor, or a professional in the field that you wish to study who knows you. Note that recommendations from friends or co-workers are not accepted.
7. Participate in an admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a paper review of their credentials.)
8. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 80 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 is strongly recommended. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield's ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING

Fingerprinting and background checks are required for certification programs. Please contact the Dean's office at 203-254-4250 for updated information.

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

NON-MATRICULATED STUDENT STATUS

Under our Non-Matriculated Status option, qualified students may take two or three courses (depending on the program of study) before gaining admission to a degree or certification program. This option provides a wonderful opportunity for qualified students to explore degree options and to confirm personal goals and readiness for graduate study. Qualifications to be considered include a bachelor's degree (required) and other qualifications related to your preparedness for graduate-level studies in the field of interest to you. Successful completion of coursework does not guarantee formal admission.

Individuals enrolled as non-matriculated students are not eligible for any tuition and/or financial support.

NON-MATRICULATED ADMISSION

Qualified applicants who have not completed the formal admission process may apply for permission to enroll as a non-matriculated student and earn up to 6 credits in a certification program and up to 9 credits in a non-certification program. (The number of non-matriculated credits are limited if the student has transfer credits to be considered.)

Application Instructions for non-matriculated admission:

- Apply online - Graduate Admission Application: www.fairfield.edu/applynow
- Submit \$60 application fee
- Answer "Yes" to the Non-Matriculated student question
- Choose Term to begin course work
- Upload unofficial undergraduate transcript with degree posted to application file *
- Contact the GSEAP Dean's office at 203-254-4250 to be directed to the appropriate advisor for an interview.

*In order to become a fully matriculated student see Formal Admission Process.

MAXIMUM CREDITS ALLOWED BEFORE FORMAL ADMISSION

The total number of credits earned before formal admission to a program (i.e., the total number of transfer credits plus any credits earned as a non-matriculated student) may not exceed 6 (six) credits for applicants to certification programs or 9 (nine) credits for applicants to non-certification programs.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2018-19

Tuition: \$775 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. However, the costs associated with earning a master's degree may be challenging. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 203-254-4125

Fax: 203-254-4008

E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.

Phone: 203-254-4184

Fax: 203-254-4073

E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/gseap

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog

www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.