PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy prepares candidates for careers as marriage and family therapists. The curriculum and clinical training at Fairfield University focuses on preparing the candidate to work in a wide variety of professional settings with diverse populations who are experiencing a broad range of problems. The program is dedicated to providing a learning context that fundamentally values diversity and nondiscrimination. The core curriculum, the clinical training component of the program, and the faculty and supervisors strive to address diversity, power, privilege, and social justice in all aspects of training and education. Toward that end, the faculty are committed to creating an environment that welcomes and provides mentorship to a diverse student body by a diverse group of faculty, instructors, and supervisors.

Fairfield’s program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). All faculty members are approved supervisors and clinical members of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and licensed in the State of Connecticut. Through their publications, presentations of papers, and service on numerous professional, state, and national committees, faculty members maintain national and international recognition in the field. The program offers specialized training in various models of family therapy with an emphasis on structural and strategic approaches, and has contractual relationships with more than 45 placement sites in 20 neighboring communities. At these sites, students may obtain their supervised clinical experience during their four semesters of practicum and internship.

Upon completion of the planned program of study, candidates may apply for pre-clinical fellow membership in AAMFT. Upon completion of additional required clinical experience and supervision, according to Connecticut statutes, graduates may apply for Connecticut licensure in marriage and family therapy and clinical membership in AAMFT.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA
The MA in Marriage and Family Therapy requires continuous enrollment and completion of 57 credits. In addition, candidates must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0, complete a minimum of 500 direct contact hours of clinical treatment (250 of which must be relational hours), plus 100 hours of supervision (50 of which must be individual supervision using direct observation of candidates’ clinical work), and pass a comprehensive examination at the end of the program.

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

CONDITION OF STUDY
FCA 1: FOUNDATIONS OF RELATIONAL/SYSTEMIC, THEORIES AND MODELS (6 CREDITS)
  • FT 550 Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy
  • FT 555 Foundations of Marital and Family Therapy

FCA 2: CLINICAL TREATMENT WITH INDIVIDUAL, COUPLES & FAMILIES (18 CREDITS)
  • FT 525 Divorce, Single-Parenting, and Remarriage
  • FT 552 Intervention in Structural and Strategic Family Therapy
  • FT 553 Family Therapy Pre-Practicum
  • FT 561 Advanced Interventions in Family Therapy
  • FT 567 Couples Therapy
  • FT 450 Narrative and Solution-focused Therapies

FCA 3: DIVERSE, MULTICULTURAL AND/OR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES (3 CREDITS)
  • FT 433 Social Justice and Diversity in Professional Practice

FCA 4: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (3 CREDITS)
  • FT 556 Research in Marriage and Family Therapy

FCA 5: PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, LAW, ETHICS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (3 CREDITS)
  • FT 565 Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Family Therapy

FCA 6: BIO-PSYCHO-SOCIAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (3 CREDITS)
  • FT 447 Lifespan Human Development

FCA 7: SYSTEMIC/RELATIONAL ASSESSMENT & MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (3 CREDITS)
  • FT 569 Assessment Techniques in Marriage and Family Therapy

FCA 8: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (3 CREDITS REQUIRED)
  • FT 465 Introduction to Substance Abuse and Addictions

FOUNDATIONAL CLINICAL PRACTICE (12 CREDITS; COURSES MUST BE TAKEN IN SEQUENCE AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTION)
  • FT 559 Practicum in Family Therapy I
  • FT 560 Practicum in Family Therapy II
  • FT 580 Internship in Family Therapy I
  • FT 581 Internship in Family Therapy II

Fairfield University
Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions
At the Koslow Center, advanced graduate candidates, under the supervision of professional faculty and supervisors, provide clinical services to individuals, couples and families from the community. With its sliding scale fees, the Center seeks to make clinical services available to all clients, seven days a week, regardless of their ability to pay. A variety of off-campus settings are also available to graduate candidates for their work with clients.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER**

Fairfield University’s Marriage and Family Therapy Program has established a partnership with Child & Family Guidance Center, a collaboration that expands clinical service options for local families, offers excellent clinical training and research opportunities for Fairfield graduate students, and provides workshops for area clinicians.

**GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Dr. Rona Preli  
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2475  
E-mail: rpreli@fairfield.edu

Dr. Preli serves as the faculty advisor for applicants to the Marriage and Family Therapy program and is the contact person for questions or 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.
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. At least 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 person in a mandatory on-campus group admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a 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, 84 on the internet-based test with a minimum score of 21 in reading and 23 in writing is required. An IELTS score of 7.5 is required. 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

In compliance with Connecticut state law effective July 1, 2010, applicants whose programs of study will require participation in school-based field experiences (e.g., observations, practica, student teaching, internships, etc.) must undergo State and National criminal history background checks before beginning their program of study. The regional educational service centers (RESCs) that are authorized to conduct fingerprinting services and provide the background check results to the Connecticut State Department of Education and local school districts are listed at www.fairfield.edu/documents/admission/ga_fingerprinting.pdf. University students who have a history of a federal or state conviction may be barred from participating in school-based field work and may be exited from their degree program, depending on the nature of the conviction. Confirmation of fingerprinting at a RESC must be received by the Dean’s office (Canisius 102) prior to course registration.

The background check is valid for 3 years if the student remains an active student. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain documentation of current fingerprinting on file with the dean’s office. Students whose background check has expired will not be permitted to register for courses. Note, too, that school districts and other clinical sites may have more stringent requirements and may mandate a new background check prior to students beginning a placement.

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.

For non-matriculated admission, use the following procedure:

1. Please call the GSEAP Dean’s office at 203-254-4250 to be directed to the advisor for the program that interests you.
2. Schedule an appointment.
3. Obtain a copy (official or unofficial) of your transcripts that shows the degrees you have earned. You will need to bring your transcripts with you to the University to be reviewed. International students must submit certified English translations and course-by-course evaluations, done by an approved evaluator (found on our website at www.fairfield.edu/eval), of all academic records.
4. Complete the online admission application at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment and pay the $60.00 application fee at www.fairfield.edu/applynow.

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 2016/2017
Tuition: $725 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.

For gainful employment disclosures, see www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy.