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 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 Family Studies 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.

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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.