



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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 60 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.

COURSE 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
- FT 425 Private Practice and Small Business Management

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

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

- FT 099 Comprehensive Exam in Marriage & Family Therapy
- Capstone Presentation
- Thesis Seminar

ADDITIONAL LEARNING

(can be chosen from any graduate course offering to complete the 60-credit requirement if waivers are accepted; below is a sample of possible electives):

- CN 410 Grief and Loss Counseling
- CN 466 Spirituality and Wellness
- CN 500 Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy
- CN 515 Trauma and Crisis Intervention
- FT 470 Professional Practice with LGBTQ Youth and Families
- FT 568 Special Topics in Family Therapy
- Master's Thesis in Marriage and Family Therapy

ADVANCED TRAINING CERTIFICATE IN SCHOOL-BASED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

The course work and clinical experience required in the area of specialization prepares candidates to utilize their professional knowledge and training as marriage and family therapists to work within school systems in fulfillment of the certification requirements established by the Connecticut State Board of Education. This program is available to current marriage and family therapy students and graduates of COAMFTE-accredited programs who wish to pursue certification with the Connecticut State Board of Education. The proposed area of specialized study is designed to ensure that school marriage and family therapists have the education and training necessary to enable to them function effectively and efficiently within the context of the school system to enhance and support student learning. The School-based Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy fulfills the requirements established by the Department of Education and requires candidates to complete a 300-hour clinical placement within a school setting.

REQUIRED COURSES

- ED 442 Educational Psychology
- ED/PY 534 Theories of Learning
- FT 447 Lifespan Human Development
- FT 555 Foundations of Marriage and Family Therapy
- SE 405 Exceptional Learners in the Mainstream
- FT 570 School-based Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy
- SL 477 Culture and Second Language Acquisition
OR SE/SL 419 Special Learners in the Bilingual/ESL Classroom

KATHRYN P. KOSLOW CENTER FOR FAMILY THERAPY

The Marriage and Family Therapy program operates a clinical service on the campus of Fairfield University. The Kathryn P. Koslow Center for Family Therapy is a beautiful, new state-of-the-art facility, made possible through a generous gift.

The Center for Family Therapy is dedicated to providing therapeutic services to individuals, couples, and families; to excellence in the training of professional marriage and family therapists; and to creating a community of professionals where both graduates and current students can be engaged and remain connected. In keeping with Fairfield University's Jesuit ideals, the Center is committed to embracing differences, examining social systems critically, and becoming directly involved with those who are underprivileged and underserved.

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.

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.
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.

- 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.
- Participate in person in a mandatory on-campus group admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a review of their credentials.).
- 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

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.

For gainful employment disclosures, see

www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy.