The Master’s program in Marriage and Family Therapy at Central Connecticut State University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

This standing expires on May 1, 2021

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Ralph Cohen
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Department of Counseling & Family Therapy
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or

Contact the Graduate Admissions Office at (860) 832-2350 (press ‘1’) for information regarding application procedures and an application packet.

www.ccsu.edu/grad

MFT Program Web Site:
www.ccsu.edu/MFT

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master’s Program in Marriage and Family Therapy at Central Connecticut State University, conveniently located off major highways in the center of the state, offers flexible full-time study opportunities for persons interested in pursuing a career in marriage and family therapy. The program is nationally accredited by AAMFT’s Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).

The MFT program’s intensive 51 credit hour core curriculum is designed to provide students with a solid theoretical background as a foundation for intensive clinical training in systemic approaches to human problems. The curriculum leads to a Master of Science (M.S.) in Marriage and Family Therapy, and is designed to meet the academic requirements for Connecticut Licensure for Marital and Family Therapists and AAMFT Clinical Membership. There are 12 credits that are taken as prerequisites, totaling 63 credit hours to complete the program.

Evening and Weekend Cohort Tracks - The program has two full-time options: A flexible evening track with many scheduling options and a weekend cohort track with a fixed schedule that permits students who otherwise could not attend the evening program to complete the program on weekends. Admission to each track is separate and students take courses only within their designated tracks.

Clinical placements are available throughout Connecticut and surrounding states. Intensive weekly faculty supervision emphasizes the development of effective therapeutic skills to meet the challenges of the new climate in health care service delivery. Emphasis is also placed on the development of the “person of the therapist.” A key theme of the program is respect for diversity of people and lifestyles in families.

The Graduate faculty consists of AAMFT Approved Supervisors and Licensed MFTs who are highly experienced both as teachers and as clinicians in the MFT field. All courses are taught by faculty members who are dedicated to the training of Marriage and Family Therapists. Faculty interests, which are incorporated into the curriculum, include: Use of Action Methods in family therapy, Internal Family Systems Therapy, and the Metaframeworks perspective for understanding and intervening in human systems.

William M. Boylin, Ph.D., LMFT* 
Joan Calvert, Ph.D., LMFT* 
Noel Casiano, MS, PsyD, LMFT 
Michelle Ciaik, MS, LMFT* 
Ralph S. Cohen, Ph.D., LMFT** 
Lynn Cromwell, M.S., LMFT 
Erica Cuni, M.S., LMFT* 
Ingrid Helander, LMFT* 
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Kathleen Laundy, PsyD, LMFT* 
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Charlotte Ramsure, MS, LMFT* 
Ann Sisko, MFT, LMFT 
Natale Teodoro, MA, LMFT* 
Gail Tomasz, MS, Ph.D., LMFT 
Jeanne Van Schaack, LMFT

* AAMFT Approved Supervisor

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Prerequisites (12 credit hours) *
MFT 505 - Counseling and Development across the Lifespan (3) or 
PSY 512 - Seminar in Developmental Psychology (3) 
CNSL 500 - Dynamics of Group Behavior (3) 
CNSL 501 - Theories & Techniques in Counseling (6)

Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization
(51 credit hours) - Thesis optional
MFT 541 - Intro to Theories of Family Systems (3)** 
MFT 542 - Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in MFT (3) 
MFT 543 - The Family Life Cycle (3) 
MFT 544 - Families in Context: Gender & Cultural Dimensions (3) 
MFT 551 - Structural/Strategic/Behavioral Family Therapies (3) 
MFT 552 - Experiential/Intergenerational/Psychoanalytic Family Therapies (3) 
MFT 554 - Couples Therapy (3) 
MFT 555 - Dysfunctional Family Processes (3) 
MFT 556 - Systems Perspectives on Mental Disorders (3) 
MFT 557 - Action Methods in MFT (3) 
MFT 583 - Marriage & Family Therapy Practicum I (3) 
MFT 584 - Marriage & Family Therapy Practicum II (3) 
MFT 585 - Marriage & Family Therapy Internship (9) 
MFT 598 - Research Methods in MFT (3) 
Elective (3) *** 
Capstone Project: Case Presentation (3rd semester of internship)

Notes:
* Prerequisites are taken after acceptance into the program; students who have completed equivalent graduate courses with a grade of B or better may have these courses waived.

** MFT 541 is a prerequisite for all other MFT courses and must be taken with the Prerequisite courses.

CLINICAL TRAINING

The Practicum is a two-semester, 12 hour-per-week supervised clinical placement at a community agency during the Second Year. Students learn basic clinical skills and begin working with clients. Students process their experiences in a small group format with a faculty supervisor.

The Internship is a 12-month, 25-hour-per-week intensive clinical placement following the practicum experience in the Third Year. The Internship allows students to conduct marital and family therapy under supervision of an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. Interns conduct 500 hours of therapy with individuals, couples, and families; 250 hours must be with couples and families. Interns receive a minimum of 100 hours of individual and group supervision with a minimum of 50 hours of supervision using actual clinical material (i.e., live supervision, audio and video tapes) for intensive review.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Admissions to the Master’s program in Marriage and Family Therapy are made on a competitive basis two times per year (Fall and Spring). All applications must be completed and received by May 1 for Fall admission of the following academic year and by November 1 for admission the following Spring semester. Approximately twenty (20) students are accepted per academic semester (Fall and Spring).

The decision to admit a student into the MFT program is based on the candidate’s cumulative grade point average (GPA), three recommendations by persons able to judge the candidate’s aptitude for success in the profession, and a personal statement as to the candidate’s personal background and motivation for entering the MFT field (see program website for details)*.

The admission standard for this program requires a minimum of 2.70 combined undergraduate and previous graduate GPA (of at least a 3.00 for graduate work) based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00. Students with grade point averages between 2.40 and 2.69 may appeal their denials for admission. Conditional admission may be considered on a space-available basis.

All students who are accepted into the department are initially granted pre-candidacy status and are assigned an academic advisor. The advisor will orient the student regarding prerequisites, course scheduling, potential course transfers and substitutions, and the planned program of study. Pre-candidacy status allows the student to begin taking classes and gives both the program and the student the opportunity to determine if the program is a good “fit” prior to making a full 3-year commitment. Students must meet the conditions of pre-candidacy in order to advance to Degree Candidate status. To qualify for degree candidacy, students must obtain a grade of B or better in each of CNSL 500, CNSL 501, MFT 505 (or PSY 512) and MFT 541. Note that all but MFT 541 are considered to be “program prerequisites”, which allows the program to waive these courses for students transferring in from other counseling or MFT programs who already have completed the equivalent courses.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process includes filling out the university graduate application, submitting all undergraduate and graduate transcripts to date and an application fee. Please go to www.ccsu.edu/grad for access to the on-line application form and detailed instructions.

In addition, the program requires an essay and three letters of recommendation, to be submitted directly to the program. The instructions and forms for the letters of recommendation can be found at www.ccsu.edu/mft and are to be sent to: They can be submitted on-line via the graduate admissions form or sent directly to: MFT Program, CCSU, Department of Counselor Education and Family Therapy, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050-4010. They can also be e-mailed to Marian Rosario at marian.rosario@ccsu.edu.