Course Descriptions

Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy

8118. MFT Comprehensive Exam Preparation—1 hour
This one hour course is the summation of all coursework for the Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy and involves taking a three day, comprehensive, written test based on all coursework to this point. Additionally, oral comprehensive exams are scheduled as a defense of the comprehensive written exam one month after the written exams are given.

8302. Principles of Educational Research (EDU 8302)—3 hours
The theoretical framework for original quantitative and qualitative research is developed in this course. Each component of the research procedures are developed for each individual's field of study. These will be constructed and defended in both oral and written forms.

8304. Quantitative Design, Statistics and Analysis (EDU 8304)—3 hours
The purpose of this course is to acquire the skills for developing an appropriate quantitative research design. Students will learn the correct procedures for selecting participants for research, and preparing for data collection using the following basic methods of research: historical, descriptive, developmental, case and field, correlational, causal-comparative/Ex post Facto, true experimental, quasi experimental and action research.

8305. Qualitative Design and Analysis (EDU 8305)—3 hours
This course is designed to explore qualitative research methods of analysis and interpretation of data for purposes of building grounded research theory. This is a practical and hands-on course that will provide step-by-step guide to qualitative data collection, coding, formation of grounded theory, triangulation methods, criteria for evaluating data, data validity and reliability, and final presentation of research results. The course will present students with the opportunity to use real data and practice with qualitative software such as MAXQDA. Qualitative monographs and studies will be read throughout the course for analysis and discussion by students.

8307. Statistical Methods of Inquiry (EDU 8307)—3 hours
An advanced review of inferential statistics is the basis for this course. In-depth study of descriptive, parametric, and non-parametric measures are applied to specific research problems.

8320. Advanced Marriage and Family Therapy—3 hours
This introductory course is a continuation of family therapy theory and model development: an overview of systemic therapies including the classic Bowen family systems theory, structural and strategic therapies, MRI, Milan, reflecting team, brief therapy models and will be structured to enhance student's understanding of theory and application of all family therapy models.

8321. Theory Building in Family Sciences—3 hours
This course will introduce students to the development and use of theory as it applies to the family sciences. As researchers and theorists, students are encouraged to adopt a personally satisfying stance that is consistent with the content and assumption of the major theoretical orientation they have adopted. Three lecture hours a week.
8322. Theories of the Family—3 hours
This survey course examines "what is theory in social science research" with a focus on the interdisciplinary study of families. This course will focus on understanding the assumptions underlying theories and how what is known by research is shaped. The purpose of this course is to sensitize the student to different issues when using theory. This is a meta-theory course about theories. This course will also focus on developing the student's skills to accurately read and summarize theoretical readings and identify theoretical frameworks for proposals and theses.

8323. Substance Abuse in the Family—3 hours
This course is a survey of the basic concepts in addiction science and their inter-relationships with psychopathology. This survey course will examine the forces of addiction and its implication for families when a family member is addicted to a substance that causes threats to the individual's health.

8324. Current Research and Issues of Professional Development in Marriage Development in Marriage and Family Therapy—3 hours
This course serves as a critical review of the current and classical research and literature in Marriage and Family Therapy. Focus is also on the processes by which professional change agents influence the introduction, adoption, and diffusion of technological change. The interlocking relationships of technology, culture, and society and the role of the change agent in affecting those relationships are covered.

8325. Neuroscience/ Psychopharmacology for Family Therapists—3 hours
This course will review and survey the basic concepts in neuroscience and psychopharmacology in the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal behaviors as seen in families. Focus will be on the systemic implications that psychopathology has on family systems and will offer students strategies and techniques to follow as marriage and family therapists to assist families in helping their members.

8326. Sexuality and Family Therapy—3 hours
This course will describe sexual functioning and intimacy through multicultural, historical, and relational clinical theory frameworks. Specific sexual issues presented in therapy, treatment planning, and intervention will be discussed. Strategies for assisting clients dealing with a variety of sexual concerns will be addressed.

8331. American Families in Crisis—3 hours
This course will focus on how family structure, interpersonal family dynamics and family functioning are impacted by various crises that can occur over the course of a family's lifecycle. It will cover a variety of issues including death / loss, chemical dependency, domestic violence, divorce and abuse / neglect. Systemic theoretical models and core principles of family therapy will be discussed. Students will also examine various conflict management interventions.

8333. Supervision in Family Therapy—3 hours
Candidates, through seminar format, will read, discuss, and analyze in depth the works of one or two current or This course explores the history, context, philosophy, relationships, and methods of supervision using major therapy models as a foundation for supervision with a collegial approach. It examines several key professional factors in the supervisory relationship including context, discrepancies in power between supervisor and supervisee, dual relationships, and pragmatic techniques.
**8334. MFT Final Master Study (off-campus)—3 hours**

An experiential course whereby a student chooses an established agency that specializes in a particular family therapy model and visits that site for an intensive week of instruction under the instruction of a master therapist, approved by the program director. This course is designed to facilitate a cultural as well as professional experience for the student so that the student gains knowledge firsthand from a master therapist recognized by the field of marriage and family therapy. Approval by the program director is needed to schedule the off-campus training.

**8414. MFT Practicum I—4 hours**

This course provides a context of supervision for the doctoral student to demonstrate skills in a family therapy model through live sessions, videotaped supervision, role play and theoretical conceptualization of family issues. The student will complete 100 hours of counseling with a relational context, involving couples and families.

**8415. MFT Practicum II—4 hours**

This course is a continuation of MFT 8414 and provides a context of supervision for the doctoral student to further demonstrate skills in a family therapy model through live sessions, videotaped supervision, role play and theoretical conceptualization of family issues. The student will complete 100 hours of counseling with a relational context, involving couples and families.

**8416. MFT Practicum III—4 hours**

This course is a continuation of MFT 8415 and provides a context of supervision for the doctoral student to further demonstrate skills in a family therapy model through live sessions, video recorded supervision, role play and theoretical conceptualization of family issues. The student will complete 100 hours of counseling with a relational context, involving couples and families.

**8417. MFT Practicum IV—4 hours**

This course is a continuation of MFT 8416 and provides a context of supervision for the doctoral student to further demonstrate skills in a family therapy model through live sessions, videotaped supervision, role play and theoretical conceptualization of family issues. The student will complete 100 hours of counseling with a relational context, involving couples and families.

**8328. MFT Dissertation Design and Proposal—3 hours**

Format requirements for dissertation and use of APA will be addressed throughout this course. Traditionally, dissertations in education are comprised of 5 chapters: Chapter 1: Introduction/Proposal, Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature, Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures, Chapter 4: Results, and Chapter 5: Discussions and Conclusions. This course is designed to begin the dissertation design and to aid students in the completion of the first three chapters of the dissertation. Students under the guidance of an assigned major professor will select a research topic, review the literature, and design a proposal for research in the education setting. Students will be guided by a major professor and assigned a dissertation committee to select the appropriate research method (quantitative, qualitative, or both) for study. Student will be guided through the process of obtaining approval from school district or education setting as well as approval from the university’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) before data collection begins.
8329. MFT Dissertation Data Collection and Analysis—3 hours
Format requirements for dissertation and use of APA will be addressed throughout this course. Traditionally, dissertations in education are comprised of 5 chapters: Chapter 1: Introduction/Proposal, Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature, Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures, Chapter 4: Results, and Chapter 5: Discussions and Conclusions. This course will guide students through the data collection and analysis phase of dissertation research Chapters 3 and 4. Here, the student is independently gathering research as approved during the Dissertation Design and Proposal course (EDU 8328). The students are guided in utilizing the appropriate data analysis techniques (whether qualitative or quantitative or both). The student upon collection of data and appropriate analysts will write chapter 4 of dissertation.

8330. MFT Dissertation Defense—3 hours
Format requirements for dissertation and use of APA will be addressed throughout this course. Traditionally, dissertations in education are comprised of 5 chapters: Chapter 1: Introduction/Proposal, Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature, Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures, Chapter 4: Results, and Chapter 5: Discussions and Conclusions. Student will be guided in writing the final chapter of Dissertation: in this course (Chapter 5). The student will be guided in presenting final conclusions from data collection and analysis phase (EDU 8329) and in preparing for final dissertation defense. This is the final course and where final defense and approval of dissertation takes place. The course guides the student in final stages of presentation and submission of final dissertation copies for library archival.