

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/human-development-family-studies-counseling/graduate-programs/marriage-family-therapy/phd-marriage-family-therapy/>

The Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy prepares students to contribute to family therapy scholarship and theory as advanced clinicians, researchers, supervisors, and educators. A focus of the program is training students from diverse backgrounds in a multiculturally informed and multi-systemic perspective.

The Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) (<https://coamfte.org/>).

Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<http://www.60x30tx.com/>) as, "Those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skills areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities."

1. Critically consume research literature.
2. Academic/scholarly writing skills.
3. Quantitative and qualitative research skills.
4. Grant writing skills.
5. Higher education teaching skills.
6. Clinical supervision skills

Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

This academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required

A minimum of 90 semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree (60 hours beyond the master's degree), including 6 semester credit hours for dissertation. 30 of the 90 credit hours must be research courses.

Special Requirements

No grade below B is accepted towards any graduate degree in the Department of Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling (HDFSC). If more than one grade below B is earned while enrolled in any HDFSC graduate program, the student will be dismissed from the program and will be ineligible to re-enroll in any program within the department for a period of 8 years.

The Ph.D. in Marriage & Family Therapy requires students to complete an advanced mentored experience across two semesters focused on two of the following areas: research, grant writing, supervision, college teaching, clinical specialization, and advanced clinical theory.

Passing a criminal background check may be required by TWU and/or certain facilities associated with the required clinical work or for certifications/licensures. If students are unable to be cleared on any of these requirements, they may not be eligible to continue in the program or become certified/licensed.

Degree Plan

Students must submit a degree plan which follows the degree requirements listed below. The degree plan should be developed in collaboration with the student's advisor and committee, and it should be filed after the student has completed 18 hours of course work.

Research Tools

The Department of HDFSC requires students to complete 12 hours of research tools. The department has a list of courses that meet the research tool requirement, and these courses are part of the degree requirements listed below. They are also included in the 30 hours of research focused course work required by the Graduate School.

Qualifying Exam

The Department of HDFSC administers a qualifying exam for each student prior to admission to candidacy. The student must complete the required research tools before being eligible to take the exam. Students must take the qualifying exam in their last or second-to-last semester of course work. In no case may a student be excused from the qualifying exam, and students may not register for dissertation hours (HDFS 6983 and HDFS 6993) until they have successfully passed the exam and have been admitted to candidacy. The qualifying exam may only be repeated once. Students who fail two attempts at the qualifying exam will be dismissed from the program.

Dissertation and Final Examination

All students are required to complete a dissertation. Upon completion, the student will participate in an oral defense of the dissertation and the research upon which it is based. The student's advisory committee will determine the outcome of the exam. The final examination may only be repeated one time.

Required Coursework

Code	Title	SCHs
Prerequisites		
The following prerequisite courses, or reasonable equivalents, will be completed in the student's Master's degree program. If not, they must be taken at the beginning of the doctoral degree program. In addition, students must have completed an internship experience in their Master's degree program (minimum of 12 months and 500 (200 relational) direct client contact hours).		
HDFS 5003	Lifespan Human Development	
HDFS 5023	Family Sexuality	
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	
COUN 5353	Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Planning for Counselors	
MFT 5553	Systemic Couple and Sex Therapy	
MFT 5563	Foundations of Family Therapy Theory	
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	

MFT 5813	Women and Minority Issues in Sex and Family Therapy		PSY 6253	Autism Spectrum Disorders	
MFT 5853	Family Systems		PSY 6383	Multicultural Psychology	
MFT 5863	Issues and Ethics in Professional Development		PSY 6423	Psychopathology and Exceptionalities in Childhood and Adolescence	
MFT 5873	Collaborative Healthcare in Marriage and Family Therapy		PSY 6673	Therapeutic and Crisis Interventions for Children and Adolescents	
MFT 5883	Family of Origin		READ 6533	Foundation of Reading: Physiological And Psychological Dimensions	
Systemic Clinical Theory & Applications to Contemporary Challenges			READ 6563	Nature of Literacy in the Adolescent Years	
MFT 6243	Advanced Applications of Family Therapy to Contemporary Challenges	3	SOCI 6523	Social Psychology Theory	
MFT 6563	Advanced Family Therapy Theory	3	Advanced Experience		
MFT 6903	Special Topics (Rotating topic - must be approved by advisor)	3	MFT 6813	Advanced Practical Experience in Marriage and Family Therapy (two semesters)	6
Foundations of Teaching, Supervision, & Leadership			Dissertation		
MFT 6253	Supervision in Family Therapy	3	HDFS 6983	Dissertation	3
HDFS 6343	Effective College Teaching Methods	3	HDFS 6993	Dissertation	3
HDFS 6433	Grants Writing in Family Sciences	3	Total SCHs		60
Advanced Research					
HDFS 6003	Advanced Study of the Lifespan	3			
HDFS 6193	Advanced Statistics for Family Sciences	3			
HDFS 6203	Frameworks and Ethics for Qualitative Research in Family Sciences	3			
HDFS 6403	Theory Building in Family Sciences	3			
HDFS 6443	Research and Issues in Family Sciences	3			
HDFS 6693	Advanced Quantitative Research Methods In Family Sciences	3			
HDFS 6793	Advanced Qualitative Research Methods In Family Sciences	3			
HDFS 6893	Multivariate Statistics	3			
HDFS 6873	Dyadic and Longitudinal Analyses with Structural Equation Modeling	3			
Specialty Area/Career Goals					
All electives must be approved by the student's doctoral degree plan committee prior to enrolling in the courses.					
Select 3-4 SCH from the following					3
MFT 6351	Supervision Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy				
HDFS 6303	Academic Life and Scholarship				
HDFS 6863	Family Financial Counseling				
HS 5103	Principles and Methods of Teaching for Health Professionals				
HS 6353	Social Epidemiology				
HS 6403	Environmental Health				
HS 6423	Global Health				
HS 6433	History of Medicine, Public Health, and Health Promotion				
HS 6443	Theoretical Foundations of Health Promotion				
HS 6453	Strategies in Health Promotion Planning and Delivery				
HS 6563	Advocacy and Leadership in Health Promotion				
PSY 6143	Neurodevelopmental and Genetic Disorders In Children				