

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/>

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required

A minimum of 54 semester credit 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 a 9-month experiential doctoral internship (MFT 6813 Advanced Practical Experience in MFT) that represents application of advanced training and contribution to the field of marriage and family therapy. The MFT program offers areas of experience consistent with COAMFTE accreditation and the program's mission, goals, and requirements, including MFT systemic supervision, teaching, advanced clinical theory and practice, grant writing, research, leadership, and policy.

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

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 during the Marriage & Family Therapy doctoral degree program. These courses align with the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education foundational curriculum and practice component.

- Foundations of Relational/Systemic Practice, Theories, & Models (6 semester credit hours)
- Clinical Treatment with Couples and Families (3 semester credit hours)
- MFT professional identity, law, ethics, and social responsibility (3 semester credit hours)
- Biopsychosocial health & development across the lifespan (3 semester credits hours)
- Systemic/relational assessment & mental health diagnosis and treatment (3 semester credit hours)
- Diverse, Multicultural and/or Underserved Communities (3 semester credit hours)
- Master's level Statistics (3 semester credit hours)
- Master's level Research Methods (3 semester credit hours)
- Clinical Internship (minimum of 12 semester credit hours across 12 months & 300 (100 relational) direct client contact hours)

| Code | Title | SCHs |
|---|--|------|
| Systemic Clinical Theory & Applications to Contemporary Challenges | | |
| MFT 6243 | Advanced Applications of Family Therapy to Contemporary Challenges | 3 |
| MFT 6563 | Advanced Family Therapy Theory | 3 |
| MFT 6903 | Special Topics (Rotating topic - must be approved by advisor) | 3 |
| Foundations of Teaching, Supervision, & Leadership | | |
| MFT 6253 | Systemic Supervision in Marriage and Family Therapy | 3 |
| HDFS 6343 | Effective College Teaching Methods | 3 |
| HDFS 6433 | Grants Writing in Family Sciences | 3 |
| Advanced Research | | |
| HDFS 6193 | Advanced Statistics for Family Sciences | 3 |
| HDFS 6203 | Frameworks and Ethics for Qualitative Research in Family Sciences | 3 |
| HDFS 6693 | Advanced Quantitative Research Methods In Family Sciences | 3 |

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| 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 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| HDFS 6403 | Theory Building in Family Sciences | |
| HDFS 6443 | Research and Issues in Family Sciences | |
| 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 | |
| PSY 6253 | Autism Spectrum Disorders | |
| PSY 6383 | Multicultural Psychology | |
| PSY 6423 | Psychopathology and Exceptionalities in Childhood and Adolescence | |
| PSY 6673 | Therapeutic and Crisis Interventions for Children and Adolescents | |
| READ 6533 | Foundations of Literacy | |
| READ 6563 | Nature of Literacy in the Adolescent Years | |
| SOCI 6523 | Social Psychology Theory | |
| Advanced Experience | | |
| MFT 6813 | Advanced Practical Experience in Marriage and Family Therapy (two semesters) | 6 |
| Dissertation | | |
| HDFS 6983 | Dissertation | 3 |
| HDFS 6993 | Dissertation | 3 |
| Total SCHs | | 54 |