

Department of Marriage and Family Therapy

Program Objectives

Mission Statement: The mission of the Marriage and Family Therapy program is to train you to do therapy from a systemic and multiculturally informed perspective with a wide range of mental health, couple, and family problems.

Successful completion of this degree involves the following processes:

1. Maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA in academic courses
2. Completing 500 hours of face-to-face clinical practice and 100 hours of clinical supervision within the Couple and Family Therapy Center and a community agency placement.
3. Learning occurs within a social context where all participants are important contributors. Thus, learning is a combination of reading and hearing about ideas from those who come before you, critically thinking about ideas in interaction with your colleagues and faculty, and applying the ideas within the context of others.
4. The establishment of a safe, inclusive learning community requires the involvement and commitment of all participants—faculty members, supervisors, and therapists-in-training—to individual and group learning, and providing the best possible services to clients. In such a learning community, faculty members, supervisors, and therapists-in-training are professionals who are respectful to each other, and responsible and personally accountable for their part in the learning process.
5. We recognize that if participants do not fully participate that ultimately clients may suffer because their therapist's lack the background knowledge, ability to critically think about and appropriately respond to their situation, or skills required to help them change.
6. Faculty members and supervisors are responsible for offering a curriculum that prepares you as a competent, ethically informed marriage and family therapist, and that demonstrates integrity in meeting international, national, and local regulations, professional standards, and other requirements.
7. Your contribution to the learning community and to your own learning in becoming a marriage and family therapist is to fully participate in the learning process by studying material outside of class, attending and participating fully in the learning community, and taking full responsibility for your learning.

Upon completion of this degree, the learner will

1. Have the skills to enter community mental health and work with marginalized communities.
2. Demonstrate ethical practice by knowing, adhering, and performing according to AAMFT Code of Ethics and Washington State laws.
3. Develop a personal therapeutic epistemology informed by systemic and multicultural ideas.
4. Identify themselves as a professional member of the Marriage and Family Therapy community and contribute to both their profession and the local community in which they reside.