

# MEDICAL FAMILY THERAPY, PH.D.

The doctorate in medical family therapy prepares students to work within an integrated health care setting in collaboration with medical and mental health professionals. Coursework focuses on theory, practice and research in the field of couple and family therapy, with an emphasis on intervention in primary care medical settings and as adjunct health providers in specialty care.

## Curriculum Overview

The doctoral program involves a minimum of 51 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree, plus comprehensive examinations and original research culminating in the dissertation (12-plus credit hours). The Ph.D. has a clinical component in which students will be trained in both mental health and medical settings as part of an integrated care team of health professionals. Students are required to complete a nine-to-twelve-month internship.

## Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Graduate students perform research projects by working with a faculty mentor whose research interests match their own. Doctoral students are expected to publish and present a minimum of two research projects.

The center's faculty are engaged in multidisciplinary research of biological structure and function ranging from ultrastructural to gross anatomical levels, with a major interest in clinically relevant anatomy and neurobiology. Other research interests include cell biology and pathobiology. Facilities are available for autoradiography, electrophysiology, gel electrophoresis, immunoblotting, immunostaining (immunocytochemistry, immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence), high-performance liquid chromatography, in situ hybridization, microsurgery, stereotaxic neurosurgery, microinjections and animal behavioral assays. The center is also equipped to perform optical imaging, including bright field, phase contrast and fluorescence microscopy.

## Careers

Possible careers in medical family therapy include:

- Academic positions
- Research positions
- Clinical positions in medical and mental health centers
- Private practice and consulting

## Admission Requirements

A master's degree with a marriage and family therapy program accredited by COAMFTE or a related mental health area with coursework equivalent to a COAMFTE accredited program.

## Application Requirements

- Online application and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores
- Résumé
- Interview

- Professional goal statement
- Scholarship sample (e.g., thesis, manuscript, journal article)

## Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency>)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

## Application Deadline

Students should apply by Jan. 15. After applications are received, students may be invited to campus for group and individual interviews with program faculty. Interviews for the 2018-19 school year will be held Feb. 15 and Feb. 16, 2018.

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantship, applicants should complete their applications by February 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at <http://finaid.slu.edu>.

## Accreditation

Both the M.A. and Ph.D. in Medical Family Therapy at Saint Louis University are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), 112 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703.838.9808.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an expanded knowledge of theoretical and clinical practice in MFT, medical family therapy and integrative care.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate advanced competency in clinical practice. Sub-objectives:
  - a. Admission, Assessment and Diagnosis
  - b. Treatment Planning and Case Management
  - c. Therapeutic Interventions
  - d. Legal Issues, Ethics and Standards
  - e. Use of Supervision and Practicum
  - f. Social Justice Issues and Self-Awareness
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate competency in a student-selected area of clinical specialization or expertise.
4. Graduates will be able to extend the knowledge base of MFT through original research and intellectual inquiry.

- Graduates will be able to contribute to the field through the development of effective teaching skills.
- Graduates will be able to attain basic competency in providing clinical supervision.
- Graduates will be able to attain an increased cultural competence in working with diverse populations.
- Graduates will be able to demonstrate personal and professional skills that promote social justice through involvement and leadership in their communities.
- Graduates will be able to effectively communicate their values and demonstrate how they guide their personal and professional lives.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
MFT 6500	The Neurobiology of Interpersonal Behavior	3
MFT 6650	Advanced Couple and Family Therapy	3
MFT 6690	Supervision in Family Therapy	3
MFT 6720	Integrative Care Practicum (taken over multiple semesters)	9
MFT 6730	Research Practicum	1
MFT 6740	Theories and Models of Medical Family Therapy	3
MFT 6750	Practicum: Supervision of Marriage and Family Therapists	3
MFT 6760	Families, Health, and Illness	3
MFT 6770	Behavioral Medicine and Integrative Care	3
MFT 6820	The Self in Theory & Therapy	3
MFT 6870	Clinical Supervision (Advanced)	1
MFT 6970	Research Topics in Medical Family Therapy	3
Research Courses		6
Clinical Elective or additional Research Course		3
<b>Dissertation Research</b>		
MFT 6990	Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters)	12
Total Credits		59

## Non-Course Requirements

### Qualifying Examination and Defense

After completing the core curriculum, Basic Research Techniques in Anatomy and Principles of Biostatistics, the student must prepare for and successfully pass the doctoral qualifying examination.

### Doctoral Qualifying Examination

The qualifying exam is a written examination that is designed to test the student's fundamental knowledge of human structure and function, critical analysis and thinking, and design of an independent research proposal. An ad hoc exam committee will be constituted by the director of the anatomy graduate program and include five members of the graduate faculty, four of which shall be anatomists. The program director or associate director shall chair the committee. The written test shall occur over a five-day period (excluding weekends). The committee will request the faculty to submit questions on: material covered in any of the coursework completed by the student to date, research papers or reviews that will be provided to the student, and/or philosophical matters related to the history of anatomy and medicine or national or world events that impact medical education and biomedical research. The committee will

review the submitted questions and questions will be selected or created by the committee to ensure the questions are fair and appropriate, that they test the student's knowledge base for areas of anatomy (gross anatomy, neuroanatomy, histology and embryology), and that they help evaluate the problem-solving skills of the student. Failing the qualifying exam will result in the student being recommended to being dropped from the Ph.D. program. In this case, the director of the anatomy graduate program can elect to offer the failed student the option of completing a terminal master's degree.

Once the student has passed the doctoral qualifying examination, the student must register for Dissertation Research. A minimum of 12 credits are required for degree completion and typically occurs over two to three academic years. Initially, the student must identify a research project under the guidance of a faculty member. A Ph.D. dissertation committee will then be formed as the student prepares their research proposal.

A three-member Ph.D. dissertation committee, chaired by the student's primary adviser, will be appointed by the director of the anatomy graduate program. The committee must include at least two members of the anatomy graduate faculty. A third member of the committee can be appointed by the graduate program director if they are graduate faculty in other departments or at another university. It is the decision of the anatomy graduate program director to accept the adviser's recommendation and to identify the final member of the committee. Once the proposal has been approved by the Ph.D. dissertation committee it is then submitted to the Office of Graduate Education.

### Doctoral Oral Qualifying Examination

The oral qualifying exam will be scheduled after the student has submitted a detailed dissertation research proposal, conducted preliminary experiments to substantiate the proposal and the dissertation advisory committee formed. The committee will consist of five members of the graduate faculty and will be approved by program director. The oral exam will be public and designed to test the student's fundamental knowledge of their proposed studies, background for the studies, and critical analysis and thinking.

Prior to the doctoral student's request for consideration for advancement to candidacy, submission of their research proposal, formation of their research committee, initiation of the major components of their proposed doctoral research project, and registration for any research credits, the student must have completed most of their required core or elective coursework and successfully passed their preliminary/written qualifying exam.

### Advancement to Candidacy

Completion of the dissertation research project entails the following: writing of the thesis, application for advancement to candidacy and the dissertation defense. It shall be the responsibility of the student to initiate their candidacy by filling out a candidacy form through the Office of Graduate Education. The completed form must be returned by the deadline stated in the graduate education calendar of deadlines. Once the completed candidacy form has been processed by the Office of Graduate Education, the thesis committee chair will receive ballots for the oral defense of the thesis. The ballots are distributed to the other committee members by the thesis committee chair when they vote on the oral defense. Once the ballots are completed, signed and sealed, it is the committee chairperson's responsibility to deliver the ballots to the Office of Graduate Education immediately following the defense.

## **Dissertation Defense**

The defense of the dissertation provides an opportunity for the student to formally present their findings to their committee, the faculty and students in CASE, and to any family member or anyone from the general public wishing to attend. Two weeks before the dissertation defense, an electronic and print announcement of the date, time, location and title of the defense will be publicized to all members of CASE. A final draft of the student's dissertation must be placed in the anatomy conference room for faculty and students to review at least seven working days prior to the defense. The dissertation defense is two parts. First, the student will make an oral, PowerPoint presentation of no longer than 45 minutes duration where they present their research. Following the presentation, questions from the collective audience will be encouraged. Once all questions have been satisfactorily answered by the student, the audience is excused and the closed, or executive, part of the defense takes place with only the student and their committee present. The dissertation committee can ask detailed questions and expect the student to demonstrate thorough knowledge of their project and related research. Questions on general topics in anatomy, unrelated to their research, may also be asked. Following all questioning, the student is excused from the room and the committee members, without discussion, complete the defense ballot.

## **Continuation Standards**

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.