FAMILY THERAPY, M.A.

The Master of Arts in family therapy at Saint Louis University is based on a systemic/relational view of individuals, couples and families. It fulfills the course and practicum requirements toward licensure in Missouri as a licensed marital and family therapist. A concentration in medical family therapy is also available.

Curriculum Overview

The program requires a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond a bachelor’s degree. Prerequisites include 18 credit hours in the behavioral sciences. Program requirements include didactic courses, two semesters of practicum, three semesters of internship in a community setting and a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical contact. The concentration in medical family therapy prepares students to function as part of an integrated care team in addressing the biopsychosocial needs of individuals and families.

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.

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 minimum of 18 credit hours of undergraduate coursework in the social sciences.

Application Requirements

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

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
  - 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 Feb. 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

- Graduates will be able to compare and contrast the major theoretical orientations related to the field of marriage and family therapy.
- Graduates will attain competency in entry-level marriage and family therapy skills. Sub-objectives:
  - Admission, Assessment and Diagnosis
  - Treatment Planning and Case Management
  - Therapeutic Interventions
  - Legal Issues, Ethics and Standards
  - Use of Supervision and Practicum
  - Social Justice Issues and Self-Awareness
- Graduates will be able to understand and use research in clinical practice.
- Graduates will be able to contribute to competent clinical services and the profession through professional and scholarly modes of communication.
- Graduates will 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MFT 5210</td>
<td>Introduction to Family Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Medical Family Therapy Concentration

The M.A. concentration in medical family therapy prepares students to address the emotional and physical needs of individuals and families as part of an integrated care team. A portion of the internship is completed in a primary or specialty care setting working collaboratively with physicians and allied health professionals in delivering behavioral and mental health services to patients and their families.

Required courses in addition to required core courses are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MFT 6740</td>
<td>Theories and Models of Medical Family Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFT 6770</td>
<td>Behavioral Medicine and Integrative Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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Project Option

The project option is appropriate if students want to teach human anatomy structure and function, or if students are undecided about a career in the health professions and want to improve their academic background before applying to professional schools. It provides training in anatomy with a capstone project. A total of 30 credits is necessary to complete the degree.

Qualifying Examination and Defense

Upon completion of the core curriculum, the student must identify an independent study project under the guidance of a Center for Anatomical Science and Education (CASE) faculty adviser for the required master’s project (ANAT-5960, two to four credits) course.

The master’s project course is intended to foster students’ intellectual development by working independently with a faculty adviser and an M.S. (project) committee. It is hoped that a student will develop the capacity to plan and execute a project and will acquire competence and critical writing skills.

The M.S. (project) committee will be formed as the student prepares the project proposal. A three-member M.S. (project) committee, chaired by the student’s primary adviser, will be recommended to the director of the anatomy graduate program for approval. The committee must include at least two members of the CASE anatomy graduate faculty.

The initial responsibility of the M.S. (project) committee is to determine the feasibility of the project and its proposal, and to permit the student to proceed only after such determination has been made. The committee and director of the anatomy graduate program shall sign off on the student’s proposal and a copy should be kept in the student’s file in the CASE office. The signing of this document signifies that the student has permission to proceed with the study as outlined in the proposal.

The M.S. (project) committee will meet regularly with the student and adviser and is responsible for reviewing the ongoing project and manuscript drafts, and to provide feedback in a timely manner.

A manuscript of the project, in the form of a treatise, must be completed and approved by the faculty adviser and M.S. (project) committee. The treatise is a critical analysis of the project and is expected to demonstrate mastery of the material using critical thinking skills. The manuscript should follow the formatting guidelines issued by the Office of Graduate Education.

As the project and manuscript near their completion, a tentative date to complete the oral examination will be scheduled, no less than two weeks in advance, by the faculty adviser and approved by the M.S. (project) committee. The last day to complete the final oral examination will be identified by the graduate education calendar of deadlines and will be strictly enforced.

Before the oral examination is officially scheduled to take place, the student’s master’s project course project must be completed and approved by the student’s faculty advisor and M.S. (project) committee.

Two weeks before the thesis 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 thesis must be made available in the anatomy conference room for faculty and students to review at least seven working days prior to the defense.

The oral examination will consist of a formal presentation of the student project to the M.S. (project) committee, the faculty and students in CASE, and to any family member or anyone from the general public wishing to attend. After the presentation, the committee will meet with the student privately to ask any questions relating to the project and manuscript, and of the student’s knowledge of anatomy. After the private meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room as the committee votes on the oral examination performance by filling out the ballot issued by the Office of Graduate Education. Once the ballot is completed, signed and sealed it is the committee chairperson’s responsibility to deliver the ballot to the Office of Graduate Education immediately following the oral examination.

Continuation Standards

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