

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Leadership

Christine Jacobs, M.D.

Department Chairperson

Craig W. Smith, Ph.D.,

Director

Overview

The Medical Family Therapy Program in the Department of Family and Community Medicine is unique in training students to work with individuals, couples, and families through the life cycle, and to collaborate in other social contexts in which people live, learn, and work. In addition to working within traditional mental health settings, the program prepares professionals to work collaboratively with medical professionals in enhancing the psychological, social, emotional and physical well-being of those they serve. Doctoral and Master's degree students are trained within primary and specialty care medical settings within an integrative care model. Also, they receive training at the Center for Counseling and Family Therapy. The Center provides mental health services to the university and St. Louis communities on a sliding-scale fee basis.

The field of medical family therapy developed out of the intersection between marriage and family therapy and family medicine to help bridge the gap in care between both fields. Medical family therapists often seek a license to practice in marriage and family therapy offered by state licensing boards and is one of the five major mental health professions recognized by the U.S. federal government.

Medical family therapists are educated and trained as mental health professionals to assess, diagnose and treat individuals, families and couples including:

- Mental disorders
- Substance abuse
- Coping with chronic illness
- Family and couple conflict
- Interpersonal and domestic violence
- Trauma and adverse events
- Grief and loss

Programs

- Family Therapy, M.A. (<http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/medicine/medical-family-therapy/master-arts-family-therapy>)
- Medical Family Therapy, Ph.D. (<http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/medicine/medical-family-therapy/doctor-philosophy-medical-family-therapy>)

Faculty

Craig W. Smith, Ph.D.

Katie Heiden-Rootes, Ph.D.

Dixie Meyer, Ph.D.

Nancy C. Morrison, Ph.D. (Emeritus)

Max Zubatsky, Ph.D.