

**FAMILY THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM****M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy Program – Summary of Course Descriptions****PSI 492 Medical Family Therapy Intensive**

This week long intensive is designed to introduce students to the foundations of Medical Family Therapy through didactic presentations, small group learning and skills development. Students will be involved in 12 hours of small group learning that will focus on family of origin experiences with illness and healthcare as well as case and systems consultation. Students will also have 15 hours of didactic presentations by faculty of the Intensive, including faculty of the Departments of Psychiatry and Family Medicine. Presentations will focus on medical family therapy, models of collaboration, and specific illnesses and their effect on families. Students will also engage in Skills Workshops (3 hrs.) that will employ simulated family role plays to focus on executive and professional skills development.

**PSI 539 Family Therapy Theory and Technique**

The Family Therapy Theory and Technique will provide an overview of the major theories and clinical approaches in Marriage and Family Therapy. The course complements the Foundations of Clinical Practice in Family Therapy (PSI 541) and the Human Development Across the Life Cycle (PSI 545) course.

**PSI 541 Foundations of Clinical Practice in Family Therapy**

The foundation of clinical practice is thoughtful clinical interview and artful use of the therapeutic system to promote change in individuals, families, and other systems. This course will prepare you with basic skills and concepts in clinical interviewing and the practice of family therapy.

**PSI 542 Clinical Assessment in Family Therapy**

This course focuses on training students in the knowledge, skills, and attitudes around assessment in individual, couple, and family therapy. Readings, role plays, group activities, and assignments highlight the universality of assessment across types of presenting issues as well as the content specific to a variety of clinical presentations and areas of concern. We also focus on proper documentation from a systemic perspective, as well as skills demonstration and practice.

**PSI 543 Psychopathology and Systems**

This course will review the basic issues in understanding major psychopathology from a variety of theoretical perspectives. A secondary focus will be on applying the concepts from the fields of abnormal psychology and psychopathology to the clinical situation, with particular stress on diagnostic interviewing in family therapy. Students will learn traditional diagnostics and psychopathology within a systems framework.

**PSI 545 Human Development Across the Life Cycle**

This course is designed to be an introduction to key concepts in human development paradigms; family life cycle theory and clinical applications; lifespan development issues within one's own family of origin experience; and relevant transgenerational theories, including Bowen, Boszormenyi-Nagy, and Framo.

**PSI 548 Family Therapy Ethics and Professional Practice**

In Ethics students will learn the AAMFT Ethical Code expectations dealing with such issues as confidentiality, dual relationships, individual and family welfare, etc. Relevant legal guidelines and professional practice standards are also reviewed. Students will also address personal issues related to the impact of values, beliefs, and culture on the practice of family therapy.

**PSI 560 Narrative and Integrative Approaches to Family Therapy**

The course focuses on the use of language, storytelling, metaphor and the construction of meaning in the family and in the life of individuals. Students will review literature and study perspectives on how language, lived experiences and storytelling shape people's lives. The course concludes with a comparative review of major theories and approaches to family therapy.

**PSI 562 Family Therapy Practice**

This course prepares Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) trainees to demonstrate competency in family therapy interventions across a number of common presenting problems reported by those seeking treatment.

## FAMILY THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM

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#### **PSI 564 Family Law, Policy and Social Systems**

This course focuses on family law, legal contexts/procedures, and the social/family context within which they have evolved and currently exist in the present day. Students will study policies related to parental and children's rights in the context of 'the family' and the social systems that intersect with the law. The course attends to the scope of practice, strengths, frustrations and barriers to helping families as experienced by these various professional groups—all of which affects clinical practice. This class is helpful for any professional who regularly interacts with families in their professional career and is likely to encounter life changing events for the family, including but not limited to: marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a loved one.

#### **PSI 566 Couples Therapy**

This course will present an introduction to couples therapy. The major emphasis of the course will be the integration of self, theory, and practice. The course will review relevant theories for conceptualizing relationships, relationship satisfaction, conflict in relationships and the principal approaches to couple therapy. Assessment, diagnostic formulations, techniques, and treatment planning will be addressed. Additionally, case discussions will invite self-of-the-therapist reflection and awareness of the influence of multiple understandings of culture in the lives of the couple.

#### **PSI 570 Gender, Human Sexuality and Culture**

In Gender, Human Sexuality and Culture students will develop a historical perspective on the issues related to gender, race and culture in family therapy. Students will learn the role that gender, race, ethnicity, sexual preference and cultural beliefs play in family life and clinical practice.

#### **PSI 572 Family Therapy Research**

In Family Therapy Research students will be introduced to quantitative and qualitative methods in family therapy research and will learn to critically examine and utilize research findings in clinical practice.

#### **PSI 574 Child-focused Family Therapy**

In this course students will learn about child development including an overview of both normal and abnormal development. Students will also learn how to work with children clinically in the context of family therapy.

#### **PSI 584 Masters Project**

Students must complete a masters project as part of the requirements towards graduation, and are required to submit a paper upon completion of the project. The paper should be based on an approved masters project proposal and it should reflect a high level of scholarly work. The project may include, but is not limited to the following: A case study consisting of an appropriate literature review, an extensive case report and a case presentation; A review essay on a relevant area of research (i.e. a comparison of partner violence in families with and without children in the home); or an essay on aspects of collaboration with faculty research (i.e. designing instruments, analyzing data sets, developing research protocols, program development).

#### **PSI 587 & 588 Clinical Practicum**

Clinical Practicum will provide students with the opportunity to practice independently in one of several psychiatric and health care settings in the community. Each Student will meet weekly with an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or Supervisor in Training (SIT) to review videotape and further develop - conceptual and clinical skills. (GOAL: 500 supervised clinical contact hours).

Clinical sites:

- Strong Family Therapy Services - Department of Psychiatry
- Family Medicine Center
- Hillside Children's Center
- Monroe Community Hospital
- St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center
- Woman's Health Practice