

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Our graduate programs will prepare you for a wide range of professional opportunities in the human services field. Our objective is to educate students in the foundational content and methods of the discipline, provide a supervised on-campus practicum experience to develop fundamental counseling skills, and then provide an internship experience that is intended to facilitate the student's transfer of theory into practice. Among the faculty in the department are well renowned scholar-practitioners who have a wide range of interests and experience, and who are committed to creating an excellent training opportunity for students. Our training programs are academically rigorous, and our students are expected to enroll in a minimum of two courses per semester to insure that their development is continuous and progressive.

We offer the Master of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. The Marriage and Family Therapy degree program fulfills the educational requirements necessary for the student to qualify as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Nevada and as a clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. We also offer an Advanced Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Enclosed are all of the materials necessary for you to make a complete application. Please find the following:

- 1) Admissions Information and Departmental Overview
- 2) Application Procedures Checklist (orange)
- 3) Letter of Intent to Apply (blue)
- 4) Departmental Application (yellow)
- 5) Program Course Listing
- 6) Program Course Sequence
- 7) Three Reference Letter Forms

We appreciate your interest in our graduate program. I would encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Urban/Counseling/> for additional information about the Department and for all admissions requirements and forms. If you have questions after reading the materials on our website, please feel free to call at me 702-895-4798 or email me at colleen.peterson@unlv.edu.

Sincerely,
Colleen M. Peterson, Ph.D., MFT
Graduate Coordinator

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Greenspun College of Urban Affairs
Department of Marriage and Family Therapy**

Admissions Information and Departmental Overview

A. Programs

Marriage and Family Therapy Master's Degree

The Marriage and Family Therapy Master's Degree Program, a 63 (professional paper) or 66 (thesis) semester hour course of study, provides the essential coursework preparing candidates for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in Nevada. MFTs work with individuals, couples, families and groups on mental health, behavioral, personal and/or relational concerns. MFTs are employed in a wide range of settings, including public and private, profit and non-profit agencies, hospitals and social service agencies, and they may practice privately when licensed. Most states have similar licensure requirements. However, students are strongly encouraged to become familiar with other states' licensing statutes prior to moving. Students nearing the completion of their degrees may apply to sit for the licensing examination to the State of Nevada Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners. When this examination has been successfully passed, applicants become Registered Marriage and Family Therapy Interns in the state of Nevada, eligible to practice under the direct supervision of a licensed AAMFT Approved Supervisor or AAMFT Supervisor Candidate. Further information on this process may be obtained by calling the state MFT licensing office. Students should understand that the state's post-master's internship and the department's pre-master's internships are in no way related. The department does not offer or otherwise sanction state internships.

Advanced Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy

The Department of Marriage and Family Therapy admits applicants to an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy program. Applicants who have earned a Master's Degree in a related mental health field, but who have not completed the requirements for licensure as delineated by the State of Nevada Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners, may complete a course of study designed to comply with the state's requirements. Students are responsible to consult with the State of Nevada Board of MFT Examiners regarding the courses they will need for licensure. Certificate students are recognized by The Graduate College as Department of Marriage and Family Therapy students. Typically, certificate students will complete a course of study very similar to that of the second year for master's degree graduate students in Marriage and Family Therapy. Once admitted, certificate students are viewed by the department as full participants in the department.

B. Application Deadline

The deadline for all applications is January 10, and formal admission is offered only once a year for Fall enrollment. Incomplete applications will generally not be considered, and unless written notification is received instructing the department to retain an application file for consideration in a later year, a new department application will be required each year. Students may enroll in up to 5 selected classes (see the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy prerequisites) as space permits prior to formal admissions, and if admitted, these courses are eligible to count toward the degree requirements.

C. The Admissions Process

Admission is a competitive process, as there are more applicants than available spaces each year. It is imperative, therefore, that applicants make every effort to ensure that their application files are complete; **it is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that all of the necessary items to complete a file are submitted before the deadline.** To this end, applicants must include in their application a current e-mail address as all correspondence will be done electronically. The admission process is somewhat complex in that the **Graduate College and the Department of Counseling have separate requirements that applicants must meet.** Because of this, applicants need to understand the importance of submitting the proper material to the proper places. **All applicants must submit directly to the Department of Counseling a Letter of Intent to Apply (enclosed in the application packet) at their earliest opportunity.**

All applicants for the department's programs must meet the UNLV standards for admission to the Graduate College (see the UNLV Graduate Catalog for specific criteria). In addition, applicants must achieve an overall undergraduate GPA of 2.75, with a minimum of 3.00 in the last two years of undergraduate work (certificate applicants who have a Master's degree will be evaluated based on their undergraduate and graduate GPA's.) All applicants must also achieve minimum scores of 450 on both the verbal and quantitative components of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). GRE scores must be taken within 5 years of application. Only applicants possessing a doctoral degree are exempt from the GRE requirement.

The faculty Admissions Committee reviews all applicants with complete application packets thoroughly. Accreditation requirements stipulate that at minimum the evaluation criteria include the following:

1. Each applicant's aptitude for graduate level study;
2. Each applicant's vocational goals and objectives, and their relevance to the program;
3. A determination of each applicant's potential success in forming effective interpersonal relationships in individual and small group contexts;
4. Each applicant's openness to self-examination and personal and professional self-development; and
5. Each applicant's familiarity with using, or willingness to use, technology.

Out of the entire pool of applicants, a selected group of those who are evaluated as having the strongest qualifications, will be invited in writing to interview on campus.

Interviews will typically be scheduled in February. Students who cannot come to the interview will not be able to progress further in the application process. Applicants can choose to deactivate their files and ask to be considered the following year, but there is no certainty that a subsequent invitation will be issued. Applicants wishing to deactivate their files must notify the department in writing.

D. Enrollment

Newly admitted degree-seeking students, including certificate students, will be classified by the Graduate College as either regularly admitted, provisionally admitted, or admitted on a contingency basis. Students who are provisionally admitted are those who have not met the minimum requirements of the Department of Counseling (i.e., GPA or GRE scores below the department minimum) and those admitted on a contingency basis have not met specific Graduate College requirements (i.e., no transcripts on file). Provisionally admitted students must complete nine hours of coursework selected by the department within their first year with a minimum grade of B for the provisional status to be removed. Failure to earn these minimum grades may result in separation from the program (See Graduate College Catalog).

All newly admitted students are expected to attend a New Student Orientation where they will be assigned a faculty advisor. During this meeting, with the help of their advisors, students will sign up for summer and fall course and will receive a copy of the Student Handbook (unless it is in revision, in which case it will be distributed upon availability). The Handbook contains all of the information, requirements, policies, and procedures relevant to the department and its' programs. Students are responsible for the content of the Handbook. The advisor must be consulted each semester before students can register for classes.

New students are expected to enroll in classes during the first Fall term following their admission. Failure to do so may result in the offer of admission being rescinded by the Graduate College. Under extraordinary circumstances, the department may grant an extension of enrollment until the Spring semester, but students must petition the department in writing prior to the Fall session to be considered for such an extension.

E. Course Offerings, Enrollment Status, and Typical Program Length

Graduate classes are offered almost exclusively during the late afternoon or evening, usually beginning at 4:00 p.m. to accommodate students' work schedules. Students are encouraged to enroll full-time (i.e., at least nine credits each semester). At this rate a student can expect to complete the degree in three years, including Summer sessions. Marriage and Family Therapy program is 63-66 credits. Most MFT certificate students should be able to complete their programs in one year.

F. Retention

All students admitted to department programs are reviewed to determine adequate progress and retention in their program of study. The department faculty holds a review meeting each semester for the purpose of such an analysis. This meeting usually takes place around midterm (as it is specified in the academic calendar). Each student's performance to date is reviewed, and the faculty as a group may suggest remedial steps for any student who is identified as needing assistance.

G. Professional Conduct and Behavior

Upon enrolling in the Department, students are de facto members of the profession and therefore are required to conduct themselves appropriately in class and elsewhere, whenever they are representing themselves as members of the profession. Specifically, students in practica and internship experiences are for all intents and purposes functioning as professional counselors, despite their status as students. Because of this, student conduct in these settings is of utmost significance. It is during these experiences that students and faculty alike will have the best opportunity to discern any areas of concern regarding a given student's appropriateness and preparedness for the professional role.

In the event that a student's conduct is anything less than absolutely professional, the faculty has the obligation to the student, to the profession, and to the public to take whatever steps are necessary to rectify the situation. **Violations of professional ethics codes, insubordination to supervisors, mistreatment of colleagues, support staff or clients, demonstrations of gross clinical misjudgment, or other actions inconsistent with professional standards of behavior are evidence of unprofessional conduct. These will not be tolerated.**

H. Final Graduation Requirements

In addition to the course requirements outlined in the enclosed Program Course Listing, the department requires a final defense of either a written comprehensive examination or a research thesis.

Program Courses

Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
COU 701	Introduction to Counseling	3
COU 705	Child Counseling	3
COU 725	Multicultural Counseling	3
COU 731	Crucial Issues and Treatment Programs in Substance Abuse Counseling	3
COU 759	Family Dynamics	3
COU 762	Appraisal and Diagnosis	3
COU 771	Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling	3
COU 779	Counseling Research Seminar	3
COU 719	Sexual Issues in Counseling	3
COU 748	Counseling Professional Paper	3
COU 749	Thesis	6
COU 756	Human Development, Medical Aspects, and Psychopharmacology of Disability	3
COU 763	Family Systems Theory	3
COU 764	Principles and Practices of Marriage and Family Therapy I	3
COU 765	Principles and Practices of Marriage and Family Therapy II	3
COU 773	Advanced Family Practicum (taken three times)	9
COU 777	Marriage Counseling	3
COU 776	Internship in Marriage and Family Counseling (two semesters)	6
COU 781	Best Practices in MFT	3

Total Minimum Hours Required = 63

*Students will take either COU 748 or 749 depending on their chosen option, either professional paper (COU 748) or thesis (COU 749).

Students must earn a B or higher in all program courses to remain in good standing in the program (see graduate catalog).

Advanced Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
COU 759	Family Dynamics	3
COU 763	Family Systems Theory	3
COU 764	Principles and Practices of Marriage and Family Therapy I	3
COU 765	Principles and Practices of Marriage and Family Therapy II	3
COU 771	Ethical and Legal Issues in Therapy	3
COU 747	Advanced Family Practicum	3
COU 773	Advanced Family Practicum	3
COU 777	Marriage Therapy	3

Total Minimum Hours Required = 24

In addition, students are advised that the Nevada licensing Board requires a minimum of one course in each of the following areas: Diagnosis & Assessment (e.g., COU 762) and Substance Abuse (e.g., COU 731, Crucial Issues and Treatment Programs in Substance Abuse).

Proposed Course Sequencing
Marriage and Family Therapy Master's Degree

Year 1

Fall	Spring	Summer
COU 764 – Principles and Practices of MFT I (3)	COU 765 – Principles and Practices of MFT II (3)	COU 705 – Child Counseling (3) ¹
COU 759 – Family Dynamics (3)	COU 777 – Marriage Counseling (3)	COU 773 – Advanced Counseling Practicum (3)
COU 763 – Family Systems Theory (3)	COU 701 – Intro to Counseling (3)	COU 771 – Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling (3) ¹
COU 762 – Appraisal and Diagnosis (3)		

Year 2

Fall	Spring	Summer
COU 773 – Advanced Practicum (3)	COU 731 – Substance Abuse (3)	COU 776 – Internship (3)
COU 719 – Sexual Issues in Counseling (3)	COU 773 – Advanced Family Practicum (3)	COU 756 – Human Development (3) ¹
COU 779 – Counseling Research Seminar (3)	COU 781 – Best Practices in MFT (3)	COU 725 – Multiculturalism (3) ¹
	COU 748 – Professional Paper (3)	
	OR	
	COU 749 – Thesis (6) ²	

Year 3

Fall
COU 776 – Internship in Marriage and Family Counseling (3)

NOTE: Students are expected to follow this sequence. If not, graduation may be delayed.

¹ These courses will be offered every other summer.

² Students electing to complete a thesis must register for a total of 6 credit hours over the course of their program. The 6 credits can be spread out across several semesters. Students must be registered for at least one credit of thesis during the semester of their defense.

Advanced Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy

Year 1

Fall	Spring	Summer
COU 759 – Family Dynamics (3)	COU 773 – Advanced Family Practicum (3)	COU 771 – Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling (3) ³
COU 763 – Family Systems Theory (3)	COU 765 – Principles and Practices of MFT II (3)	COU 773 – Advanced Family Practicum (3)
COU 764 – Principles and Practices of MFT I (3)	COU 777 – Marriage Counseling (3)	

NOTE: Students are expected to follow this sequence. If not, completion may be delayed.

¹ This course will be offered every other summer.