

The Master of Science in Counseling degree program with a specialization in Marriage and Family Counseling provides the required knowledge and skills to become competent and ethical practitioners. The MSC/MFC specialization provides a needed service to the community through collaboration with agencies and institutions and their personnel and through the provision of continuing counselor education and programming. Students are involved in a variety of educational and clinical activities that prepare them to help their clients achieve their potential. The program encompasses foundations of counseling and guidance, including theories and their application with groups and individuals, assessment and evaluation, counseling and consultative relationships, career planning for students, and program development, implementation, and evaluation. The program addresses critical issues facing counselors and offers supervised clinical experiences. (54 credits)

Required Course of Study

CNSL 502 Graduate Portfolio I

Portfolio I is an admission readiness assessment which samples and evaluates the student's cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills in critical areas of the counselor education process. It is a six-workshop, 24-hour, noncredit assessment that helps determine student appropriateness for the program and gives the potential student the opportunity to evaluate his or her aptitude for the counseling program. Portfolio I must be passed before a student may be admitted to any graduate counseling program in the College of Social Sciences. (0 credits)

CNSL 504 Lifespan and Family Development

This course presents students with theoretical frameworks to foster an understanding of the various dimensions of human development. Emphasis is placed on biological, cognitive, and psychosocial development within the context of gender, family systems, social roles, and culture. Students evaluate clinical situations and assess potential therapeutic interventions in context. (3 credits)

CNSL 506 Personality Theories and Counseling Models

This course enables students to differentiate among the primary theoretical models of personality theory and counseling practice, including psychodynamic, affective, cognitive-behavioral, and systems theory. Emphasis is on the importance of students recognizing belief systems that accurately reflect their own personal style and recognizing strategies and approaches likely to be most successful with a particular client population. Students have opportunities to establish a strong theoretical foundation as the basis of clinical practice and to evaluate and assess clinical situations for implementation of therapeutic interventions that are gender and culturally appropriate. (3 credits)

CNSL 526 Introduction to Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

This course introduces students to models and tools for assessment and diagnosis for the purpose of developing competency in evaluation and treatment planning for professional counseling practice. Students learn about and practice intake assessment techniques, performing mental status examinations, using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV-TR®), outcome-based treatment planning, and behavioral analysis. Emphasis is placed on writing clear, accurate, and useful assessments and treatment plans. Multicultural and ethical issues in assessment are also explored. (3 credits)

The U.S. Department of Education requires the University to provide the following information about each of our programs that lead to gainful employment in a recognized profession.

4% of students who completed this program during the most recent federal award year did so within normal time.¹

Related occupations²

Marriage and Family Therapists #21-1013.00

Program costs³

Tuition and fees \$26,145 to \$36,405
Includes cost per credit, application fee, and fees for resources (books/eResources) for students completing the program in normal time.

Median graduate debt⁴

Federal	\$36,086
Private	\$0
Institutional	\$0

¹ The on-time completion rate identifies the percentage of students completing this program during the most recent federal award year who completed it within "normal time." The term "normal time" means the length of time it would take a student to complete this program if the student is continuously enrolled, takes one course at a time, and successfully completes each attempted course. Students enrolled in this degree program are typically nontraditional students. Students may exceed "normal time" for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, internships, practicums, clinical rotations, student teaching or administrator experiences required for licensure.

² Graduates of this program will be educationally qualified to enter the occupations listed. Visit onetonline.org for job descriptions.

³ The range provided represents the sum of tuition and typical fees required to complete the program within normal time, based on the University's 2011/2012 tuition levels. The actual costs that will be incurred by a particular student to complete this program will depend upon factors specific to that student. Tuition rates for this program may vary due to factors such as: (i) geographic location of the student; (ii) modality of coursework; (iii) military service; and (iv) future changes in tuition rates. The number of credits required for a particular student to complete the program will be dependent upon various factors, including: (i) transfer credits available; (ii) repeated coursework; and (iii) completion of additional specializations within this program. Please contact an Enrollment Advisor for additional information.

⁴ The figure represents the median amount of debt incurred by students who completed the program during the relevant federal award year. The actual amount of debt a particular student will incur to complete this program is dependent on various factors specific to the student. Please contact an Enrollment Advisor for additional information.

Master of Science in Counseling/Marriage and Family Counseling

CNSL 547 Individual Counseling

This course focuses on intensive skill building in individual counseling. The relationship between assessment, theory, application of strategy and intervention, setting goals with clients, closure, and referral are emphasized as essential to the counseling environment. Emphasis is also placed on treatment plans, ethics, and cultural diversity. (3 credits)

CNSL 561 Group Counseling

This course provides students with intensive knowledge, awareness, and skill-building in group counseling. Content emphasizes such areas as different types of groups, group dynamics, group norms and boundaries, leadership styles, leading and co-leading, and treatment plans. Confidentiality, selection procedures, ethics, and multicultural diversity are included as key components of effective group counseling practice. (3 credits)

MFCC 536 Child Therapy

This course exposes students to a variety of models in the treatment of children and adolescents, including the developmental variables that may have an effect on behavior and family intervention. Systemic approaches to treatment of chronic illness, incest, delinquent behavior, adolescent chemical dependency, child suicide, psychosomatic disorders, families in crisis, fire setting, school phobia, and other behavior and learning problems are explored. (3 credits)

MFCC 551 Legal and Ethical Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy

This course covers legal and ethical responsibilities of the marriage and family counselor, including codes of ethics and laws governing mental health professionals. Emphasis is placed on the principles governing client rights, duty to warn and protect, multiple relationships, and application in special situations and with special populations; students learn how to interpret and act appropriately in a wide variety of situations. (3 credits)

CNSL 563 Counseling Psychometrics

The focus of this course is on tests used in counseling and test reports, with an emphasis on learning how to integrate testing as an additional tool in counseling. Tests most commonly encountered in the counseling field are identified and reviewed, and the following components are discussed: psychometric properties of tests, test selection criteria, administration, interpretation, and reporting of test results. (3 credits)

CNSL 556 Portfolio II

Professional Counseling Assessment Portfolio II helps students integrate and evaluate their learning at midpoint in the Master of Counseling program. Like an assessment center, Portfolio II provides an integrative experience requiring the student to bring together all of what he or she has learned in previous courses in the program and to demonstrate how that learning has been applied both personally and professionally. (0 credits)

MFCC 556 Family Systems Theory

This course provides an overview of the development of family systems theory as a discipline and the therapeutic approaches that have emerged. Fundamental assumptions and concepts of general systems theory are introduced and contrasted with individual theories of psychology. The historic development of family systems thinking is explored. Evolving therapeutic models are introduced and contrasted with family systems concepts. In this course, students will explore the major systems theories' approaches to diagnosis, treatment, and change and explore ethnic differences in family patterns and attitudes toward therapy. Critiques of systems theory and research issues are discussed. (3 credits)

MFCC 561 Family Interventions

This course introduces fundamental concepts and practices that underlie family therapy in human systems. It teaches an integrative approach to assessment and diagnosis in family therapy with an emphasis on strategies for a wide range of populations and clinical problems. The course will introduce culture-specific interventions used for the treatment of culturally different families. (3 credits)

CNSL 573 Critical Analysis in Research

This course is an overview of the fundamentals of research and program evaluation for counseling, family therapy, and school counseling. Topics include research methods, statistical analysis, and needs assessment. Emphasis is placed on engaging students in critical analysis of research literature. (3 credits)

CNSL 557 Social and Multicultural Foundations

This course is designed to be a foundation for understanding diversity among clients in a pluralistic society. Emphasis will be on integrating awareness, knowledge, and skills related to counseling differences and similarities based on age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliations, gender identification, sexual orientation, physical/mental limitations, social class, etc. (3 credits)

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CMHC 561 Dependency and Addictions

This course addresses substance abuse-dependency concepts and counseling practices. Topics include an overview of dependency theories, major substances of abuse, assessment, diagnosis, treatment modalities, special topics, and working with diverse populations. (3 credits)

CMHC 546 Psychopharmacology

This course examines the history, biochemistry, main effects and side effects of prescription psychotropic medication. The goal of the course is to learn to work with clients who are taking psychotropic medication and monitor them for side effects and contraindications. Ethics and methods of working with medical personnel are included. (3 credits)

CMHC 551 Human Sexuality and Sex Therapy

The goal of this course is to learn about the many facets of human sexuality and the treatment of sexual dysfunctions in a safe and respectful environment. Topics include the physiology, psychology, and sociology of sexuality, including the effects of sexual attitudes and functioning on individuals and families. Clinical applications, including the treatment of sexual difficulty and dysfunction will also be explored. Students will develop familiarity with the language and terms of sexology and demonstrate an ability to apply this knowledge to clinical situations. (3 credits)

MFCC 566 Advanced Marriage and Family Therapy

This course requires students to apply marriage and family theory and skills acquired throughout the program and allows them to gain a deeper understanding of working with diverse families. Students will go through the process, from intake to termination, of working with a family in a role-play setting incorporating practical applications of assessment, treatment planning, therapeutic interventions, progress notes, and termination summaries. Family interventions will be emphasized, including interventions for families in acute and chronic crisis, and for various ethnic family systems. (3 credits)

MFCC 597A Internship

The internship is a 300-hour (minimum) clinical experience divided into two 15-week parts (A and B), and comprises Portfolio III of the counseling portfolio series. Student interns are placed in an approved mental health site and receive supervision from an approved site supervisor. In addition, interns meet weekly with their faculty supervisor and internship group to review their clinical work and receive instruction and share information on related professional issues, including the role and function of supervision, clinical intakes, terminations, case notes, case presentations, and services offered by their internship sites. Interns will also evaluate their growth through the internship and develop a professional resume. (3 credits) Prerequisites: CNSL 556

MFCC 597B Internship

The internship is a 300-hour (minimum) clinical experience divided into two fifteen-week parts (A and B), and comprises Portfolio III of the counseling portfolio series. Student interns are placed in an approved mental health site and receive supervision from an approved site supervisor. In addition, interns meet weekly with their faculty supervisor and internship group to review their clinical work and to receive instruction and share information on related professional issues, including the role and function of supervision, clinical intakes, terminations, case notes, case presentations, and services offered by their internship sites. Interns will also evaluate their growth through the internship and develop a professional resume. (3 credits) Prerequisites: MFCC 597A