



Marriage and Family Therapy (MS)  
Publicly Accessible COAMFTE Transparency Policies for (2019-2020)



1. Program Mission	The MFT Department’s mission is to provide high quality education so our students graduate with competence in systemically informed MFT skills and character through ethically responsible relational care to diverse communities of families and clinical populations.
2. Program Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduates will demonstrate competent application of family systems theoretical models and clinical interventions to therapeutic work with diverse populations of individuals, couples, groups, and families.</li> <li>• Graduates will demonstrate competent application of personal and professional values into an ethical practice of psychotherapy.</li> <li>• Graduates will demonstrate awareness and clinical interventions attending to sociocultural factors and professional trends that influence the practice of psychotherapy.</li> </ul>
3. Student/Graduate Achievement Information	Student achievement data is listed <a href="#">here</a> .
4. Student Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will competently apply family systems theoretical models and clinical interventions to therapeutic work with diverse communicates of individuals, couples, groups, and families. <i>CONTENT</i></li> <li>• Students will competently demonstrate application of personal and professional values into an ethical practice of family therapy. <i>CHARACTER</i></li> <li>• Students will competently demonstrate contextual awareness of clinical interventions and research attending to sociocultural factors and professional trends that influence the practice of psychotherapy. <i>CONTEXT</i></li> </ul>
5. Accreditation/ Approval Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Marriage and Family Therapy program at Seattle Pacific University has been fully accredited by the Commission of Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) since 1996.</li> <li>• Seattle Pacific University is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).</li> </ul>
6. Academic Calendar	The academic calendar can be found <a href="#">here</a> .

<p>7. Tuition, fees and refund policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFT tuition can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• SPU Graduate fees can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• SPU Graduate refund policy can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>8. Diversity Information of Students, Faculty, and Supervisors</p>	<p>Student, faculty, and supervisor diversity data is listed <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>9. List of Program Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student Recruitment:</b> The MFT Program also follows the AAMFT Code of Ethics (effective January 1, 2015) that includes Principle 1.1 which states: “Marriage and family therapists provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.” The marriage and family therapy program does not discriminate in its application process on the basis of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation. The MFT program does attempt to select student cohorts with diversity in mind.</li> <li>• <b>Anti-Discrimination Policy:</b> It is the policy of Seattle Pacific University not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in admission and access to, or treatment or employment in its program or activities, as required by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (to the extent applicable to the University), Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, as amended, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and the Age Discrimination Act, as amended, and their implementing regulations. As a religious educational institution operating under the auspices of the Free Methodist Church of North America, Seattle Pacific University is permitted and reserves the right to prefer employees or prospective employees on the basis of religion.</li> <li>• <b>Admission:</b> SPU MFT Policy and application details are listed <a href="#">here</a>. General SPU graduate admission requirements are listed <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Retention:</b> All students are admitted on a Probation status in order to allow faculty to be certain students are fully prepared to be placed in an internship site. Regular admission is required in order for placement in an internship site to occur. To qualify for regular admission, students must complete a minimum of 6 credits and a maximum 12 credits in the MFT program, with grades of B or better in all courses, and must be recommended for continuance by MFT faculty. During the first term of the program the MFT faculty and adjunct instructors evaluate students for academic and clinical readiness, as well as for professional and personal development. After the evaluation, the student will either: 1) be taken off probation and placed on full admission status, 2) continue on probation with conditions to be met by the end of the next term (i.e., retake a course, enter therapy, and reduce credits),</li> </ul>

or 3) be required to withdraw from the program. While we understand that these evaluations are conducted early in the program and cannot be a perfect assessment, it is imperative to consider the personal, professional, academic and clinical readiness of students before they begin to meet with clients.

- **Graduation:** It is each student's responsibility to apply for graduation. The following procedures have been established for students in MFT programs:
  1. Two quarters before anticipated graduation, each student must apply to graduate through Student Academic Services (SAS) online in Banner as well as meet with their assigned Academic Advisor who will sign the MFT Final Graduation Checklist.
  2. Students must demonstrate competence of their Final Portfolio Presentation in Clinical Practicum VII and obtain approval signatures from their internship site and practicum supervisors.
  3. The MFT Program Coordinator and/or Academic Advisor notifies student of any remaining requirements. After approval from the department chair, the MFT Program Coordinator notifies SAS all requirements are completed by turning in the Application for Master's Degree and informing SAS that the degree can be posted.
  4. It will take 2-4 months from the time that the degree has been posted for the graduate to receive the physical diploma. If the graduate needs confirmation that the degree has been posted for employment purposes, contact Student Academic Services (206) 281-2031. The MFT Program Coordinator can provide an official letter confirming completion of the program, if needed, prior to receipt of a diploma.
- **Complaints and Grievances:** SPU policy can be found [here](#).
- **Remediation and Dismissal:** SPU Graduate Policy states that any graduate student whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below 3.0 shall be placed on academic probation. (see SPU Graduate Catalog under "General Requirements for a Master's Degree"). Students on probation may take up to nine additional credits in the graduate program in which they have been admitted. Failure to bring the cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher by the completion of the additional nine credits will result in dismissal from the program and from the University. Students as clinicians are expected to conduct themselves as professionals. As a minimum, they adhere to current ethical codes of the AAMFT and to the Uniform Disciplinary Act (RCW 18.130) of the State of Washington. Within both codes are expectations clinicians use sound personal and professional judgment. Part of this judgment is the capacity to recognize personal issues that may interfere with therapeutic process and to prevent those issues from actually interfering. Both codes also require clinicians to be sufficiently knowledgeable and skillful to render therapeutic services.
- **Grading/Assessment:** SPU uses a four point scale for grades, where an "A" equals four points and an "E" equals zero points. The

	<p>MFT faculty use the same basic understanding about a grade designation as undergraduate faculty: a “C” denotes performance that is average across college students in general, a “B” indicates a strong and commendable performance, and an “A” signifies an outstanding or excellent performance. Being a graduate student does not guarantee an “A” or “B” grade. It is important to note that any grade less than a C (2.0) will not be applied toward a graduate degree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Portability of Degree:</b> SPU offers a Master of Science degree accredited by COAMFTE with a minimum of 70 quarter credits. Credentialing for Marriage and Family Therapy licensure is regulated at the state level (provincial level in Canada). A listing of state licensing requirements is available <a href="#">here</a>. Your degree from SPU will facilitate licensure in Washington state and most other states. However, you must review specific state requirements for each state where you are interested in becoming licensed. We have structured our program so that students who plan on practicing in California (or other states which require a minimum of 72 quarter credits) are easily able to take additional elective courses to meet those requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Technology Requirements:</b> All MFT students have access to Canvas, which is a resource available online and is used quite frequently throughout the year by students, professors, and administrative staff. It is accessible through the SPU website. There is a General Departmental MFT site and individual course sites. The course sites are utilized by professors to communicate, issue grades and hand out resources in a particular course that is being taken. All regular announcements and all forms that are needed throughout the year (Internship Manual, Student Handbook, hour’s logs, practicum forms, petition forms, syllabi, etc.) are found on the General MFT Department site.</li> <li>• <b>Authenticity of Student Work:</b> SPU Academic Integrity Statement is found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Technical training for students, faculty, and supervisors:</b> Can be accessed by the SPU’s <a href="#">Computer and Information Systems</a> and <a href="#">Educational Technology &amp; Media</a> departments. Specific training on departmental tracking and approving student practicum hours can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Successful Transfer of Credit</p>	<p>A student may petition (fill out a graduate petition form and provide necessary transcripts) to transfer up to nine graduate credits (quarter basis) from another regionally accredited institution. A transfer of credit may be appropriate when it can be determined coursework is equivalent to required and elective coursework. Transfers are normally granted for coursework completed outside the MFT program at a regionally accredited institution that is taught within a systemic framework; however, must be approved by the chair of the MFT department.</p>