



**DOCTORATE IN MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY**







**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S**

## **Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy**

offers students a challenging and rewarding curriculum designed to produce strong clinicians whose original research is on the cutting edge of the mental health field. Beyond rigorous academics, students engage in community-based clinical training with a diverse clientele, ensuring that the advances they make are grounded in real-world experience.



# Today's Practical Experience Meeting Tomorrow's Needs

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There has never been a more critical shortage of skilled mental healthcare providers than there is right now. It's estimated that by 2025, demand for mental health professionals will exceed availability by nearly 32% in the US<sup>[1]</sup>. Hope International University's Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy Degree (DMFT) equips students with the practical skills they need to meet this demand.

The 120-unit Doctoral degree builds on the excellent reputation of HIU's **COAMFTE-accredited Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy** program to produce strong clinicians who will advance the field of marriage and family therapy and bring crucial support and build thriving relationships.

Combining tried and true systemic approaches to care with cutting edge research, the DMFT places you at the forefront of advances in the field of mental health.






As part of our holistic approach, DMFT students complete an internship in their chosen specialty in addition to their dissertation, creating clinicians who are ready for the next challenge in their careers, be it private practice, non-profit work, or academia. No matter your area of focus, the DMFT program will offer you a challenging and rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the world of mental health.

Our faculty members represent a broad snapshot of the field of MFT, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge, clinical skills, and focus areas. Our emphasis on small cohort size, community-based clinical training, diverse populations, and rigorous research creates highly-capable Marriage and Family Therapists who are able to meet the challenges of tomorrow head-on.

[1] <https://www.goodtherapy.org/for-professionals/personal-development/become-a-therapist/is-there-shortage-of-mental-health-professionals-in-america>

*“The DMFT Program offers a variety of ways for students to specialize within internships to learn new skills to take them into the next level of their career, including grant writing, supervision, managing a private practice or clinic, or teaching in a university”.*

**-Dr. Susan Hastings, DMFT Program Director**



# Accreditations for The College of Psychology

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HIU's M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy meets the educational requirements set by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), including the requirements of the Business and Professions Code, Sections 4980.37, .38, 40, and 41. Through the M.A. program, students fulfill the academic requirements set by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) for those seeking to become Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. Graduates may for apply to take their licensing examinations upon completion of the required 3,000 supervised clinical hours.



The MA MFT program is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), the national accrediting body for MFT programs.

COAMFTE accreditation is the gold standard in the Marriage and Family Therapy field. Many state licensing boards require a degree from a COAMFTE-accredited program, ensuring that licensees meet national standards.





**120  
UNITS**

\*Not Including  
possible prerequisites  
60 of those units gets  
you a MA in MFT

**4 YEARS**

For those with a Bachelor's degree, the 4-year  
Doctorate begins with a Masters in MFT. The  
completion schedule is just 2 years for those who  
already have a qualifying Master's degree.

**15 STUDENTS  
Per Cohort**

**150 ENROLLED**  
Current MFT program enrollment



INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION COMMISSION  
FOR SYSTEMIC THERAPY EDUCATION

The International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education (IACSTE) ensures that MFT programs are grounded in a systemic mindset that treats diverse populations in a holistic manner. IACSTE accreditation is a recognition that MFT programs have achieved specific goals related to quality of curriculum, peer review, and self-evaluation. IACSTE-accredited programs demonstrate preparedness in systemic-focused therapy through foundational theory, research methodology, ethics, and clinical skill.



These professional accreditations supplement HIU's regional accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

WASC-accredited institutions demonstrate rigorous academics and a commitment to educational effectiveness, reflected in ever-growing levels of student success.



***The Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy (DMFT)*** is a program within the College of Psychology and Counseling. The program is a 120-unit program designed to educate future leaders in the field of marriage and family therapy. The curriculum integrates theory and practice that are rooted in Christian principles. Sound research skills, theoretical teaching, practical application, and clinical training are central to the curriculum. The faculty guides students through academic studies, clinical courses, self-assessment measures, and professional development, providing a rich educational experience.

## Program Objectives

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

-  **Knowledge**  
Demonstrate essential knowledge (1) of systemic theory and the principles of marriage and family therapy, (2) related to clinical case conceptualization, diagnosis, intervention, and the use of community mental health resources and, (3) to write and articulate their personal theoretical model for therapy.
-  **Professionalism**  
Demonstrate skills that reflect high standards of professionalism and commitment to ethical and professional behavior consistent with the standards of marriage and family therapy and Christian principles.
-  **Clinical**  
Demonstrate clinical skill and the ability to apply effective therapeutic techniques to meet the diverse needs of individuals, couples, and families.
-  **Research**  
Conduct and evaluate research to ensure high standards of therapeutic application and contribute to the field of marriage and family therapy.





*"The DMFT program is designed to provide a challenging but rewarding experience that allows student to develop advanced clinical training and research skills in the area of marriage and family therapy".*

**-Dr. Laura Steele, Dean of College of Psychology & Counseling**





### ***Doctoral Candidacy***

To advance to doctoral candidacy, students must fulfill the requirements of the Master's in Marriage & Family Therapy (MFT).



### ***Requirements for the Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy***

To earn the Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy, students must complete the following degree components designed to develop clinical knowledge, skill, and professionalism.

#### ***Units***


Core Courses & Electives	120 Units
Professional Development Hours	100 Hours
Clinical Training Hours	500 Hours (300 direct client hours of which 100 are relational)
Capstone Project	Comprehensive Case Presentation
Doctoral Project	Dissertation





# *Career Opportunities*

With a Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy, you can follow career paths that branch out beyond what a Master's degree alone might afford you. Not only will you engage in clinical work but you will also find opportunities in higher education and administration that will take your career to a whole new level. As a part of HIU's DMFT program, you will earn your M.A. in Marriage & Family Therapy along the way, allowing you to begin earning income in clinical work while you complete the requirements for your doctorate degree.

- *College Professor / Academia*
  - *Department Director*
  - *Agency Administrator*
  - *Universities & Research Centers*
  - *Private Practice*
  - *Department of Mental Health*
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## LAURA STEELE Psy.D.

*Dean, College of Psychology & Counseling  
Professor of Psychology & Counseling*

### **Education:**

Psy.D., Marriage & Family Therapy,  
*Alliant International University*

M.A., Marriage & Family Therapy,  
*Hope International University*

B.A., Recreation & Leisure Studies,  
*California State University, Long Beach*

### **Credentials / Certifications:**

Licensed Psychologist (PSY 22031)

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (MFC 32600)

AAMFT Approved Supervisor

CAMFT Certified Supervisor

EMDRIA Approved Consultant, Provider & Trainer

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist



## SUSAN HASTINGS Psy.D.

*Chair/Program Director, College of Psychology & Counseling  
Professor of Psychology & Counseling*

### **Education:**

Psy.D., Applied Clinical Psychology,  
*The Chicago School of Professional Psychology*

M.S., Clinical Psychology,  
*Vanguard University of Southern California*

B.A., Psychology,  
*Vanguard University of Southern California*

### **Credentials / Certifications:**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (MFC 46765)

Psi Chi Member (*The National Honor Society in Psychology*)

AAMFT Approved Supervisor

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist

EMDRIA Approved EMDR Consultant



## ROBIN FELIX Psy.D.

*Chair, Master of Science in Counseling Program  
Associate Professor of Psychology & Counseling*

### **Education:**

Psy.D., Marital & Family Therapy,  
*Alliant International University*

M.A., Marriage & Family Therapy,  
*Hope International University*

M.A., Social Science,  
*University of California, Irvine*

B.A., Cultural Anthropology,  
*University of California, Irvine*

### **Credentials / Certifications:**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (MFC 47860)

AAMFT Approved Supervisor

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist

EMDRIA Approved Consultant





## GEORGE GARCIA Ph.D.

*Clinical Training Director*

*Associate Professor of Psychology & Counseling*

**Education:**

PhD., in Marriage & Family Therapy  
*North Central University*

M.A., Marriage & Family Therapy,  
*Hope International University*

B.A., Journalism,  
*Biola University*

**Credentials / Certifications:**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT 107258)

Certified Prepare/Enrich Therapist

EMDR Trained

Gottman Trained - Level 1



## JACQUELINE MACK-HARRIS Psy.D.

*Clinical Training Coordinator*

*Associate Professor of Psychology & Counseling*

**Education:**

Psy.D., Clinical Psychology,  
*The Chicago School of Professional Psychology*

M.A., Marriage & Family Therapy,  
*Hope International University*

B.A., Human Services Management,  
*University of Phoenix*

A.A., Culinary Arts,  
*Orange Coast College*

**Credentials / Certifications:**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT 102490)

Licensed Vocational Nurse (VN 175247)

Prepare/Enrich Premarital & Marital Inventory Training

EMDR Trained

Certified Case Manager - CCMC Board Certification

New Ways for Families

Gottman Trained - Level 1



## BRIAN LUHMANN Psy.D.

*Associate Professor of Psychology & Counseling*

**Education:**

Psy.D., Marital & Family Therapy,  
*The Chicago School of Professional Psychology*

M.A., Clinical Psychology, MFT  
*The Chicago School of Professional Psychology*

B.S., Psychology, Minor in Economics  
*Radford University*

**Credentials / Certifications:**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT 107647)

International Critical Incident Stress Foundation: Group Crisis

AAMFT Supervisor Candidate

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist

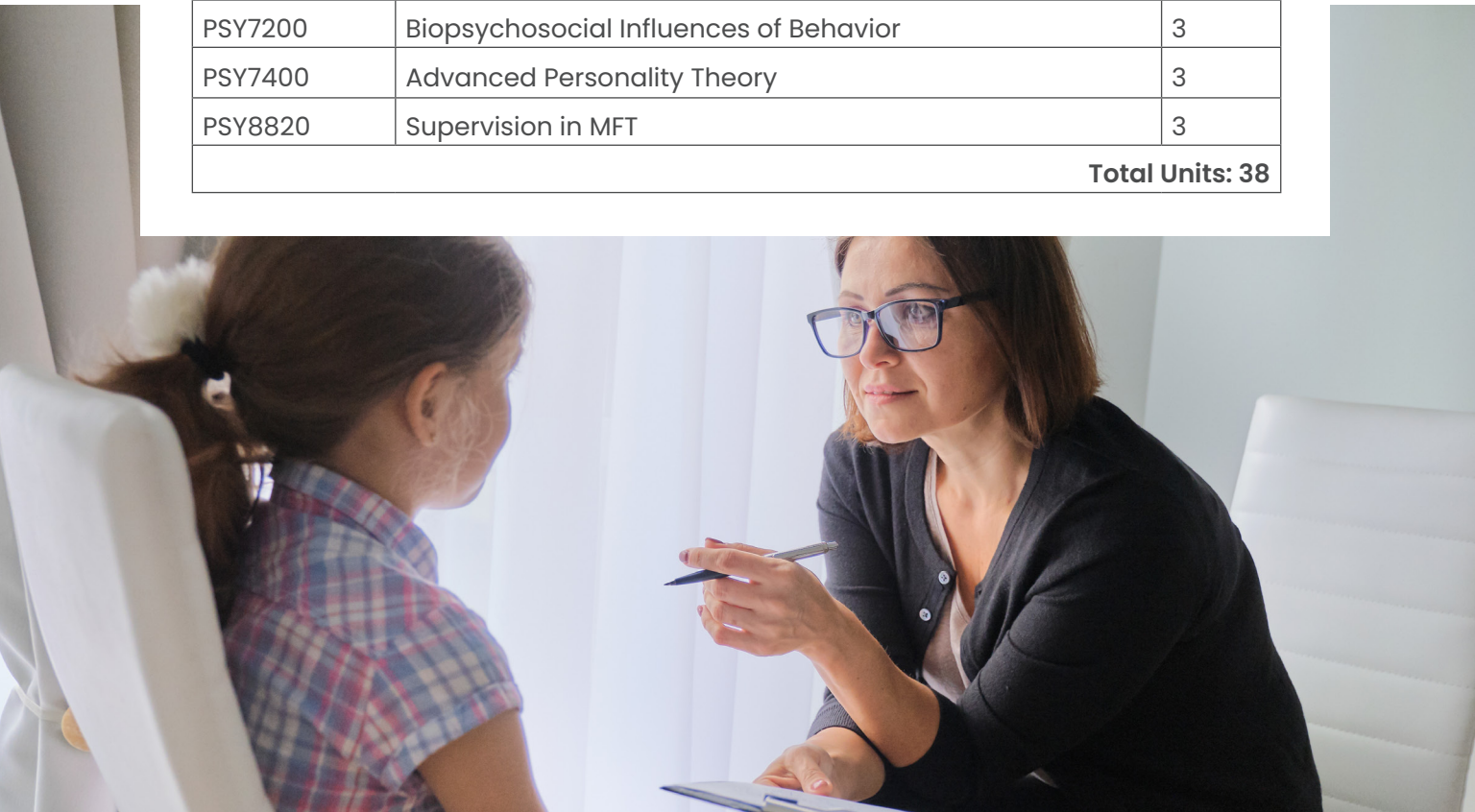
# DMFT Course Catalog

The Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy Program consists of the following courses:

*Courses listed in Orange are the Master's Level Courses*

Prerequisites		Units
PSY4310	Community Mental Health <i>(if required)</i>	3
PSY5010	Counseling Theories <i>(if required)</i>	3
		<b>Total Units: 6</b>

Area 1: Theoretical Foundations		Units
PSY6100	Lifespan Development	3
PSY6130	Theories of Marriage & Family Therapy	3
PSY5200	Substance Abuse & The Family	3
PSY6110	Interpersonal Communication & Therapeutic Qualities	3
PSY6125	Multicultural Perspectives in Counseling	3
PSY6180	Psychopathology	3
PSY6120	Christian Principles of MFT	3
PSY6350	Treatment of Couples	3
PSY6190	Marriage & Family Therapy Assessment	3
PSY6400	Psychopharmacology	2
PSY7200	Biopsychosocial Influences of Behavior	3
PSY7400	Advanced Personality Theory	3
PSY8820	Supervision in MFT	3
		<b>Total Units: 38</b>







<b>Area 2: Clinical Practice</b>		<b>Units</b>
PSY6800	Supervised Practicum	3 (9)
PSY5230	Disaster, Trauma, & Abuse Response	2
PSY5240	Family Violence: Detection, Prevention & Intervention	2
PSY6350	Treatment of Couples	3
PSY6150	Treatment of Children	3
PSY6300	Treatment of Older Adults	3
PSY6995	Professional Development II	1
PSY6920	Comprehensive Case Presentation	1
PSY7350	Advanced Treatment of Families & Couples	3
PSY7001	Advanced MFT Theory: Intergenerational	3
PSY7002	Advanced MFT Theory: Experiential Models	3
PSY7003	Advanced MFT Theory: Contemporary Models	3
PSY8800	Advanced Practicum	3
PSY8810	Internship	6
		<b>Total Units: 45</b>

*“The DMFT program is an invaluable tool that will have a lifelong impact on future clinicians and the world around them as students will have the opportunity to engage in high quality educational scholarship and real world, community-based clinical training”.*

**-Dr. George Garcia, DMFT Director of Clinical Training**



<b>Area 3: Professional Development</b>		<b>Units</b>
PSY5990	Professional Development I	1
PSY6995	Professional Development II	1
PSY5120	Professional Ethics & Law	3
PSY5225	Child Abuse Seminar	0
PSY6999	Advance Professional Development	1
PSY7000	Doctoral Seminar	3
PSY8200	Faith Integration & Psychology	3
Elective Courses ( <i>Choose 6 units from the following</i> )		
PSY6140	Group Therapy	3
PSY6990	Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)*	3
PSY6900	Seminar in Advanced MFT Topics	1-3
PSY7190	Advance Methods of Clinical Assessment	3
		<b>Total Units: 18</b>



\*EMDR is an evidence-based practice utilized in the treatment of trauma. The elective offered at HIU fulfills the first step towards EMDR certification as required by the EMDR International Association.

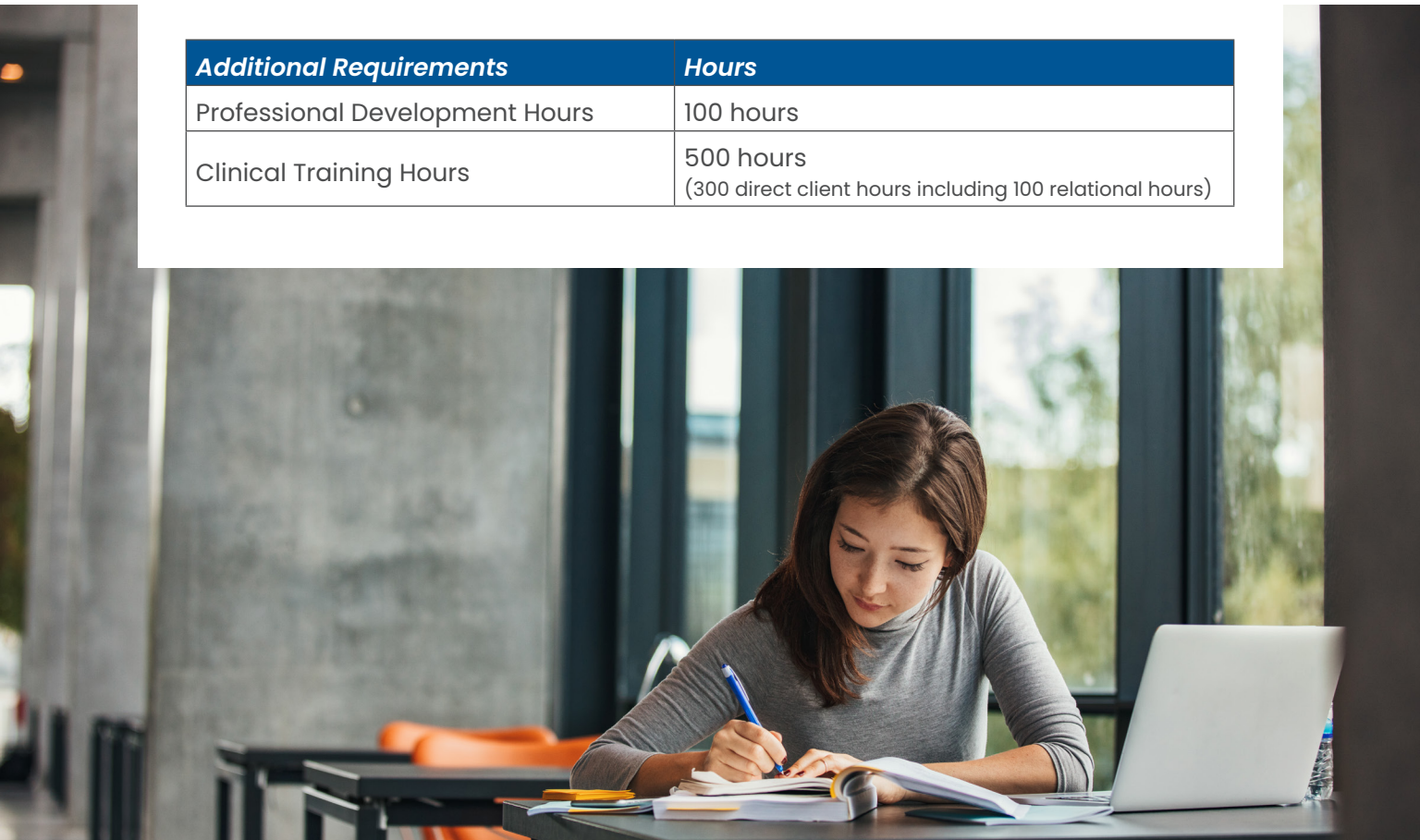


*“From a systemic perspective, the DMFT program will provide students an opportunity to explore and promote relational health at the individual, family, and community levels”.*

**-Dr. Robin Felix, DMFT Faculty**

<b>Area 4: Research &amp; Dissertation</b>		<b>Units</b>
PSY5130	Research Methodology	3
PSY7130	Advanced Research Methods I: Theory Construction	3
PSY7140	Statistical Methods I	3
PSY8130	Advanced Research Methods II: Dissertation Development Writing	3
PSY8140	Statistical Methods II	3
PSY8920	Dissertation	6
		<b>Total Units: 21</b>
		<b>Total Units for DMFT 120 (126)</b>

<b>Additional Requirements</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Professional Development Hours	100 hours
Clinical Training Hours	500 hours (300 direct client hours including 100 relational hours)



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## ***What is the DMFT?***

The Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy (DMFT) reflects a practitioner-scholar model, providing both rigorous clinical educational and an emphasis on scholarship, broadly defined. Students are trained to treat relational mental health issues with individuals, couples, and families from a family systems perspective.

## ***What is the need for Marriage and Family Therapy?***

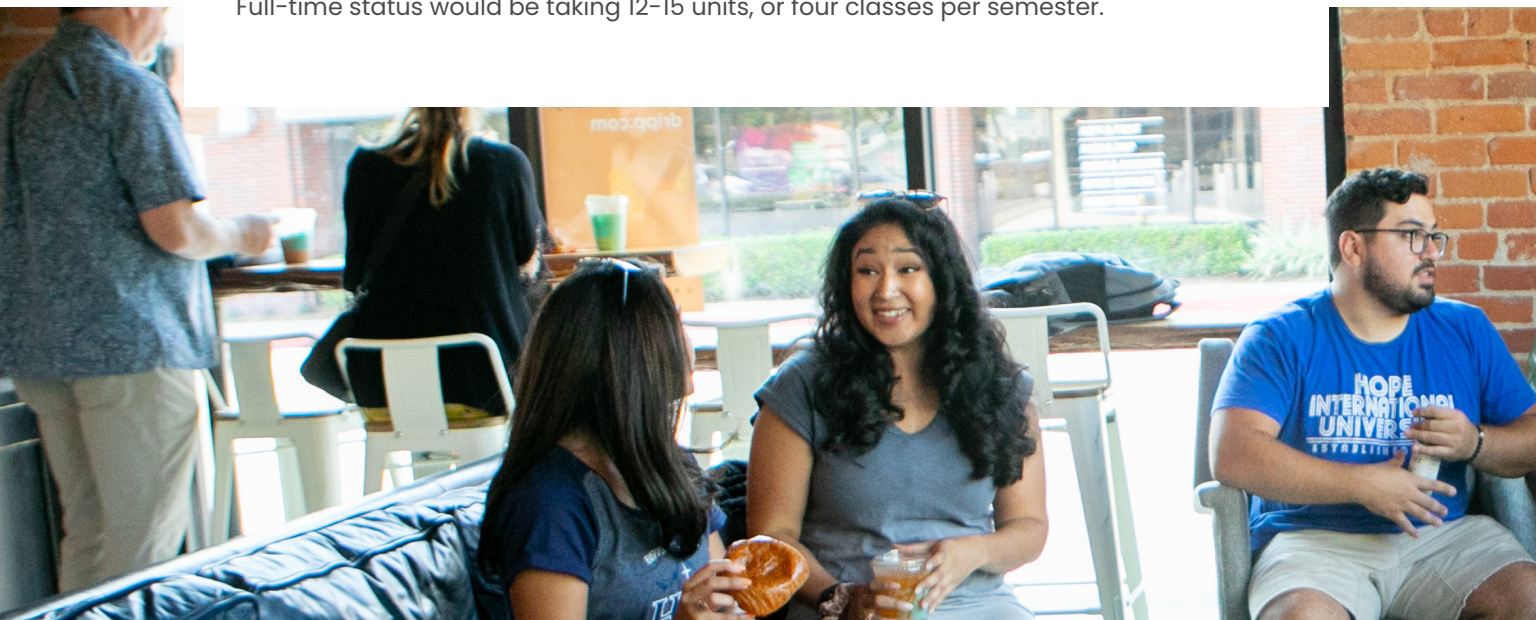
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of marriage and Family therapists is projected to grow 16 percent from 2020–2030.

## ***How long will it take to complete the program?***

If you are on the full 120-unit track, it will take roughly four years to complete, assuming you are staying on track and taking a full course load each semester. If you are only taking the final 60-units, this can be completed in two years including a Summer term.

## ***How many classes will I take per semester?***

Full-time status would be taking 12–15 units, or four classes per semester.





***Am I required to complete practicum hours if I am already Licensed as an MFT?***

Yes, the doctoral program requires additional practicum hours and professional development hours (500 hours of clinical training and 100 hours of professional development, including hours completed for the Master's degree).

***What is the difference between the internship & the direct client hours?***

Internship hours allow the students to get exposure in various fields such as academia, grant writing, supervision, etc. Direct client hours are face to face therapy with clients. The goal of this is to encourage our doctoral candidates to get exposure and experience in various fields such as academia, non-profit, grant writing, diverse populations etc.

***If I already have a Masters degree, do I need to complete the entire 120 unit program?***

If you earned your M.A. in MFT or MSC degree from HIU, you will be able to start the final 60 units. If you have a MFT degree from another institution, your credits will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

***What if my Masters degree is in another field?***

If you have your master's degree in another field, you will likely have to complete the full 120-units. Your transcripts may be reviewed in a case-by-case scenario for potential transferable units.



# Apply Now

When you're ready to take the next step in your career, your Academic Coach is here to help. Part Admissions Counselor, part Guidance Counselor, and part Academic Advisor, the Academic Coaches at HIU are focused on helping you achieve your academic goals. Your Academic Coach will be right there with you every step of the way, from application to graduation.

To get started, go to [hiu.edu/apply](https://hiu.edu/apply) or scan the QR Code on the next page.





## *Application Checklist*



### **Apply Online**

Go to [hiu.edu/apply](https://hiu.edu/apply) or scan the QR Code Below



### **Send Official Transcripts**

Send Official Transcripts from all previously attended college or universities



### **Submit Three References**

Have three references from academic and/or professional colleagues



### **Statement of Purpose**

Write 500 words, double-spaced, answering the prompts provided by your Academic Coach



### **Financial Options Guide**

This document summarizes the financing options for your academic investment



### **Interview**

An Interview is conducted by the Program Director for Final approval into the program



**SCAN ME**

# Acronyms

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LMFT	Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
AMFT	Associate Marriage & Family Therapist
BBS	Board of Behavioral Sciences
COAMFTE	Commission on Accreditation for Marriage & Family Therapy Education
LPCC	Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
PsyD	Doctorate of Psychology
SCCE	Society of Corporate Compliance & Ethics
EMDR	Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing
EMDRIA	Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing International Association
CAMFT	California Associate of Marriage & Family Therapy
AAMFT	American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy





*"Our students will have an opportunity to gain real world experience as Marriage and Family Therapists while also adding valuable knowledge to the field of psychotherapy through engaging in rigorous research on issues relevant to diverse, marginalized, and undeserved communities".*

**-Dr. Jacqueline Mack-Harris, DMFT Clinical Training Coordinator**



## **ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFO:**

Call: (888) 352-HOPE

Email: [hiuadmissions@hiu.edu](mailto:hiuadmissions@hiu.edu)

Learn More at:

[hiu.edu/DMFT](https://hiu.edu/DMFT)

**Schedule an Appointment**  
with an Academic Coach:



**RSVP to A Virtual**  
**Information Session:**



**RSVP For DMFT**  
**Info night**





## CONTACT US

Admissions Office:  
(888) 352-HOPE  
hiuadmissions@hiu.edu

Learn More At:  
[hiu.edu/DMFT](https://hiu.edu/DMFT)

***Become Something More!***

Since 1928, Hope International University has been empowering students through Christian higher education to serve the Church and impact the world for Christ. Affiliated with the non-denominational Restoration Movement, HIU is regionally accredited by WASC and offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees as well as certificate and credential programs to thousands of students world-wide.