

DOCTORATE

Marriage & Family Therapy



It's all About Relationships



Amplify your Career with a *Doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy*

Doctoral students will embark on a rigorous and rewarding academic journey designed to develop skilled and systemically trained clinicians who are well-versed in current and relevant research in the field of marriage and family therapy. With a strong emphasis on both rigorous academics and hands-on clinical training, students gain invaluable experience working with diverse client populations, ensuring they are prepared to make a meaningful impact in real-world settings.





Today's Practical Experience Meeting Tomorrow's Needs

The need for skilled mental health professionals is at an all-time high. Hope International University's Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy (DMFT) equips therapists with the advanced clinical and practical skills needed to meet this growing need.

The DMFT program offers two pathways to a doctoral degree. Students can either complete the full 120-unit program or, if they have already earned an MFT license-eligible degree, they may only need to complete the final 60 units to achieve their doctorate.

Built upon the **COAMFTE-accredited Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy**, the DMFT program expands on a strong foundation with an emphasis on systemic approaches to working with individuals, couples, families, and children, preparing graduates for impactful careers in the field.





"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

"The clinical training of the DMFT program guides emerging therapists to refine their clinical skills through a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience to ensure they graduate with cultural humility, ethical leadership, and professional excellence."

- Dr. Joy Kang, Director of DMFT Clinical Training



Accreditations for The College of Psychology & Counseling



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

60 of those UNITS gets
you a MA in MFT

*Not Including possible
prerequisites

60 UNITS POST-MASTERS

Candidates who already hold a license-eligible degree in MFT may only need to complete the last 60 units.

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.



Students develop strong research skills, engage in advanced theoretical learning, and gain hands-on clinical training. With dedicated faculty mentorship, the program fosters academic excellence, professional growth, and self-assessment, equipping graduates to make a meaningful impact in the field of marriage and family therapy. Grounded in Christian principles, the program seamlessly integrates theory, research, and clinical practice.

Program Objectives

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



Knowledge

Essential knowledge grounded in systemic theory. Develop and articulate personal theoretical model for therapy.



Professionalism

Commitment to professional standards and ethics, and Christian Principles.



Clinical

Evidence based interventions to meet diverse needs of individuals, couples, and families.



Research

Conduct original research making a significant contribution 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 |

Dissertation Support and Guidance

Our dissertation process is designed to provide structured support from faculty throughout the final 60 units of the program. From topic selection to completion, faculty work closely with students, offering mentorship and guidance every step of the way. Within structured courses, students collaborate with faculty and peers to refine their dissertation focus, ensuring a meaningful and impactful research experience.

- Retreat and Program Development for Missionaries Living in Host Countries, by *Teressa Wilcox, DMFT*
- Intergenerational Trauma in the Latinx Community, by *Jasmine Cazares, DMFT*
- A Correlation Between Parental Meta-Emotion Philosophy and Attachment Style, by *Matthew Heim, DMFT*
- Therapist Experience of Healing Relational Trauma While Using EAP, by *Estella Lerlo, DMFT*
- The Development of an Alternative to Suspension Program: BE WELL, by *Danielle Sherman, DMFT*



"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**

TRANSFORMATIVE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our structured internship experiences are designed to enhance your current career, shape your next steps, and open doors to new opportunities. Students are encouraged to work as a teaching or research assistant alongside a full-time faculty mentor for one of their two internships. Each internship is intentionally designed to provide hands-on experience in key areas of the MFT field, fostering professional growth and expanding career possibilities.



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

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

AAMFT Approved Supervisor

CAMFT Certified Supervisor

EMDRIA Approved Consultant, Provider & Trainer

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist

Trust-Based Relational Intervention Practitioner



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

Delta Kappa, *The International Marriage and Family
Therapy Honor Society*

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

AAMFT Approved Supervisor

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist

EMDRIA Approved Consultant



JACQUELINE MACK-HARRIS Psy.D.

Internship 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

Credentials / Certifications:

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Licensed Vocational Nurse

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

International Critical Incident Stress Foundation:
Group Crisis

AAMFT Supervisor Candidate

EMDRIA Certified EMDR Therapist



JI HYE (JOY) KANG Psy.D.

Director, Clinical Training

Associate Professor of Psychology and Counseling

Education:

PsyD., Marriage & Family Therapy,
Alliant International University

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

B.A., Sociology,
University of California, Irvine

Credentials / Certifications:

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Psychological Associate

AAMFT Approved Supervisor

EMDR Trained

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 |
| | | Total Units: 6 |

| Area I: 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 |
| | | Total Units: 38 |



| Area 2: Clinical Practice | | Units |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 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 |
| | | Total Units: 45 |



"The DMFT program works with our students to use their personal and professional experiences to develop into the systemic leaders of our communities and the field of Marriage and Family Therapy."

-Dr. Brian Luhmann, DMFT Faculty



| Area 3: Professional Development | | Units |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 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 |
| | | Total Units: 18 |



*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

| Area 4: Research & Dissertation | | Units |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 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 |
| | | Total Units: 21 |
| Total Units for DMFT 120 (126) | | |

| Additional Requirements | Hours |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Professional Development Hours | 100 hours |
| Clinical Training Hours | 500 hours (300 direct client hours including 100 relational hours) |



Frequently Asked Questions

60 UNITS POST-MASTERS

If you are only taking the final 60-units, this can be completed in two years including a Summer term.

If you earned your M.A. in MFT or MSC degree from HIU, you will be able to start the final 60 units.

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.



ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFO

Call: (888) 352-HOPE

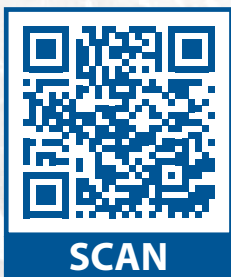
Email: hiuadmissions@hiu.edu

LEARN MORE!

hiu.edu/DMFT



Apply Now!





CONTACT US

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

Learn More At:
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.