

2016

Doctorate in Family Therapy Curriculum

Nova Southeastern University

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Doctoral in Family Therapy 2016

Curriculum

This Doctoral in Family Therapy is a 78-credit-hour degree program that integrates systemically oriented theory and clinical practice, language and thinking systems, and qualitative and quantitative research. The D.M.F.T. program curriculum educational outcomes are described in the catalog.

Leveling courses must be completed prior to beginning doctoral level courses. These credit hours do not count toward the 78 credit hour degree requirement.

[Required Courses](#)

DMFT 5001 - Doctoral Seminar I

1 credit hour

General orientation to doctoral studies: Students learn advanced ethics, diversity, and social justice while focusing on research, writing, and library skills necessary for authoring papers in doctoral courses and for publications.

DMFT 5002 - Doctoral Seminar II

1 credit hour

Continuation of DMFT 5001: Students are introduced to professional development opportunities in diverse settings, specific details regarding professionalism, program and portfolio requirements, internships, and Applied Clinical Project.

Prerequisite: DMFT 5001.

DMFT 5006 - Introduction to Systems Theory

This course provides an overview of theories that use metaphors of system, pattern, interaction, and communication to describe human behavior and relationships as well as the study of the emergence of theories from cybernetics to language studies.

DMFT 5010 - Systemic Family Therapy I

The study of those systemic therapies informed by cybernetics and oriented to the social organization of communication are included in this course. Emphasizes are placed on the work of the Mental Research Institute and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy.

Prerequisites: Core courses and co-requisite DMFT 5006.

DMFT 5020 - Systemic Family Therapy II

This course centers on Narrative Therapy theory and practice. Students will extensively explore assumptions, including distinctions between structuralist and post structuralist thought, which underline

this model and contrast with other therapeutic models. Practice methods will focus on various maps and scaffolds which describe and organize Narrative practices. Students will explore the application of these assumptions and practices to a range of therapeutic problems as well as diversity and community issues.

DMFT 5030 - Systemic Family Therapy III

This course acquaints students with the basic concepts of the natural systems approach to family therapy. Emphasizes are placed on family-of-origin issues, multigenerational systems processes, and biological/evolutionary contributions to the understanding of human systems.

DMFT 5040 - Systemic Family Therapy IV

Study of the complexities and subtleties of language and the art of therapeutic implication are focused on in this course with discussions on the relationships between hypnosis and brief therapy; draws on the work of Milton Erickson as a primary resource.

DMFT 5130 - Crisis Management

This course provides students advanced skills in crisis management for the expansion of their supervision and training of other professionals.

DMFT 5312 - Advanced Substance Abuse Training

This course provides students advanced skills in crisis management for the expansion of their supervision and training of other professionals.

DMFT 5340 - Grant Writing and Funding Opportunities

This course provides students with knowledge of how to assess, identify, and write grants to acquire funding opportunities in agency and treatment facilities.

DMFT 5410 - Quantitative Research I

This course covers fundamental concepts and practices in quantitative research method by introducing measurement and statistics, questionnaire development, and experimental and quasi-experimental research designs for the study of human sciences. Exemplary studies from family therapy literature are included.

DMFT 6200 - Internal Practica I - IV

These supervised clinical courses consist of the application of systemic therapy ideas and practices at the Department of Family Therapy in house at the Family Therapy Clinic.

DMFT 6210 - Clinical Practicums I - II

Clinical practicums I and II provide students with hands-on supervision in a team setting to promote their clinical skills and work with others.

DMFT 6300 - External Practicum I - II

Advanced clinical training and supervision is provided to enhance the practice of systemic therapy from strength based, solution oriented models of therapy that can be incorporated in a wide variety of community settings. Faculty approval is required.

Prerequisite: DMFT 6200.

DMFT 6320 - Supervision Practicum

Extensive live supervision and case consultation experience with clinicians in learning systemic therapies is conducted in the DFT in house Family Therapy Clinic. Students receive supervision of their supervision of others by AAMFT faculty supervisors. Faculty approve required.

Prerequisite: DMFT 6310.

DMFT 6325 - Fundamentals of Supervision in Marriage and Family Therapy

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of supervision in marriage and family therapy in clinical settings. It also meets the coursework requirements for becoming an AAMFT Approved Supervisor.

DMFT 6400 - Evidence-Based Research Methods

To promote the advancement of understanding research conducted in the MFT field, this course provides an opportunity to better understand and make informed decisions in practice and supervision based on evidence-based methods.

DMFT 6410 - Qualitative Action Research

Promotion of research skills and the understanding of qualitative action research provide a method for conducting research and especially conducting an Applied Clinical Project.

DMFT 6558 - Couples Therapy: Theory and Application

In this course, students will examine their own experiences, biases and values about couples and working with couples as well as the historical development of couples' therapy. Students will learn current clinical approaches to couples therapy and evidenced-based models for working with couples. Students will examine current couple and marital research as well as assessment instruments used for working with couples. Students will examine specific professional, ethical, and legal issues associated with couples work. Issues of diversity and a commitment to multicultural exploration are demonstrated and interwoven throughout all discussions as students explore specific areas of work with couples such as extra-marital affairs, intimate partner violence, divorce, step-parenting, and health and illness.

DMFT 6600 - Preliminary Review

The Preliminary Review is an organized review of and personal reflection upon the collective body of work a student has produced during their progress through their first year. A written self-review of professional growth, personal growth, and responses to challenges, along with other significant contributions is submitted for faculty review.

DMFT 6950 - Applied Clinical Project

The Applied Clinical Project is a capstone experience of a student's demonstration of ability to be able to articulate and demonstrate to other mental health professionals their unique area of systems based practice expertise. The ACP should be a project the student carries out under faculty supervision from concept, to proposal, to implementation, and finally through eventual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

DMFT 7302 - Personality Theories and Psychopathology

A review of major theories of personality and psychopathology are the focus of this course, emphasizing psychiatric diagnostic classification systems. The study of implications for treatment and comparisons with interactional approaches are included.

Prerequisite: DMFT 5006.

[Degree Plan](#)

Following is a sample of a degree plan for full-time students who begin their studies in the Fall trimester. Degree plans will be modified based on a student's enrollment date and pace of study.

Fall	Winter	Summer
DMFT 5001 Doctoral Seminar I	DMFT 5001 Doctoral Seminar I	DMFT 5001 Doctoral Seminar I
DMFT 5006 Introduction to Systems Theories	DMFT 5020 Systemic Family Therapy II	DMFT 6325 Fundamentals of Supervision in Marriage and Family Therapy
DMFT 5010 Systemic Family Therapy I	DMFT 5130 Crisis Management	DMFT 6558 Couples Therapy: Theory and Application
DMFT 6200 Internal Practicum I	DMFT 6200 Internal Practicum I	DMFT 7302 Theories of Personality & Psychopathology
	DMFT 6400 Evidenced- Based	OR Elective
DMFT 5002 Doctoral Seminar II	DMFT 5002 Doctoral Seminar II	DMFT 6600 Preliminary Review DMFT 5002 Doctoral Seminar II
DMFT 5030 Systemic Family Therapy III	DMFT 5040 Systemic Family Therapy IV or Elective	DMFT 6300 External Clinical Practicum
DMFT 5410 Quantitative Research I	DMFT 5340 Grant Writing for Funding Opportunities	DMFT 6320 Supervision Practicum
DMFT 6210 Clinical Practicum (BTI)		DMFT 6410 Qualitative Action Research
		DMFT Clinical Portfolio

Elective

DMFT 6320 Supervision
Practicum

DMFT 5312
Advanced Substance
Abuse Training

External Practicum I
DMFT 6950
Applied Clinical Project I

DMFT 6950
Applied Clinical Project II

Or

Celebration & Graduation
(June)

Elective

Notes: Courses are prerequisite to the program and not included in the 96 credit requirement. Portfolios are completed by the end of the third year.

[Elective Courses](#)

A variety of elective courses that enhance student learning are offered over the course of the program.