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Doctoral Studies Family Therapy School of Social and Systemic Studies

Nova Southeastern University

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Doctoral Studies

Family Therapy

School of Social and Systemic Studies
3301 College Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

Phones: (954) 262-3000
(800) 262-7978
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Nova Southeastern University's School of Social and Systemic Studies offers a residential Ph.D. program in family therapy that has distinguished itself both nationally and inter-nationally. The faculty are committed to providing a systemically-informed learning context that is relevant, challenging, and supportive.

Students devote two full years to developing and honing their clinical skills in live-supervised practica. Four classes are offered on a variety of historically- and currently-relevant models of family therapy practice. Particular attention is paid to the brief interactional therapies such as MRI and solution-focused approaches, Ericksonian hypnotherapy, the work of the Milan Associates and a variety of reflecting-team formats, as well as the transgenerational perspective of Bowen.
Three systems theory classes, concentrating on the cybernetic ideas of Gregory Bateson and the issues of social constructionism, feminism, and postmodernism, serve to philosophically ground the clinical discussions.

In addition, students take four classes on the theory and practice of research, including the logic of qualitative and quantitative research design, the art of ethnographic interviewing and participant observation, and a variety of means for qualitatively analyzing and organizing data.

Students may take course sequences beyond their degrees, allowing them to develop expertise in areas such as family systems health care, dispute resolution, and family business consultation. Faculty work closely with students on research projects, papers, and clinical cases.

Most of the dissertations written in the program utilize ethnographic, discourse/conversation analysis, or related research approaches to investigate the structure and process of people's lives, therapeutic interactions, communities, and so on.
Recent dissertations have included:

- Ways of Divorce: A Task Analysis of Mediation Discourse
- Women in Family Business: A Systemic Approach to Inquiry
- Experiences of Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse
- Mind Body Conversations: Hypnosis, Meditation, and Poetry
- Families in Jail: Exploring Therapeutic Discourse of Family Therapy Sessions with Adolescents Incarcerated in Adult Jails
- The Impact of Immigration on Arab Families in South Florida
The Ph.D. in family therapy offers comprehensive course work in the following areas:

- Systemic family therapies
- Systems studies
- Clinical practica
- Supervision and teaching
- Research methods
- Professional and specialty electives
- Orientation courses
- Dissertation

Applications are accepted for fall admissions only. For further information or application materials contact:

Department of Family Therapy
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
(954)262-3000 * (800)262-7978
http://www.nova.edu/cwis/centers
 Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4907; telephone number (404) 679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.
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