

**Pre-Professional Graduate  
Certificate Program  
in  
Marriage and Family Therapy**

**Program Handbook  
2022 – 2023**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**

Mary Frances Early College of Education  
College of Family and Consumer Sciences  
School of Social Work

*Revised August, 2022*

# MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

## PRE-PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

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The Pre-Professional Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy (CMFT) is designed to provide an interdisciplinary program for graduate students interested in the applied field of marriage and family therapy. The program is for graduate students concurrently enrolled in a program at UGA, and where they can see clients in a clinical setting during their degree program. Completion of the requirements for the certificate program will provide a strong basis preparing the student to undertake further supervised clinical training in marriage and family therapy.

The certificate program is **not intended** to provide all the training necessary to function as an independent professional nor to meet all the requirements for:

- (a) state licensure as a marriage and family therapist or
- (b) clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

The certificate program does not meet the course or practicum requirements for MFT licensure in Georgia. For a practicum to count towards licensure, the student must see couples and/or family clients under the supervision of an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or AAMFT Approved Supervisor in Training for 500 client contact hours over 12 consecutive months. In addition, courses approved for the Couple and Family Studies and Couple and Family Therapy content areas for the Certificate do not necessarily meet the definitions set forth in the Composite Board Rules for MFT licensure (135-5.05).

Even though we have applied our best efforts, it is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of the requirements for state licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy. The requirements are available on the Georgia Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-marriage-and-family-therapist> and in the [FAQ section](#).

The Certificate program involves three units of the University of Georgia: The College of Education, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the School of Social Work. Graduate courses that may be used to fulfill requirements for the certificate program are offered in several units of the University of Georgia including the Department of Human Development and Family Science, the Department of Counseling and Human Development Services, the School of Social Work, the Department of Psychology, and the Department of Educational Psychology.

To be admitted, the student must be admitted to a department at the University of Georgia at the graduate level. The student must complete a practicum at a site with appropriate supervision approved by the student's department. The student submits an application for admission to the MFT certificate program after meeting with his/her department advisor to plan the program of study to fulfill the requirements of the certificate program. Courses in the certificate program may also apply to the degree program in the student's academic department, depending on departmental approval. Directions for applying to the program are included in this handbook.

For master's degree students, the certificate will be awarded upon completion of the certificate requirements and completion of the master's degree program in which the student is enrolled. For students already holding a master's degree, the certificate will be awarded at the end of the semester in which the certificate requirements are satisfied.

For further information concerning the certificate program, contact:

**Jennifer L. Gonyea, PhD LMFT LPC**

CMFT Program Coordinator

Department of Human Development and Family Science

College of Family and Consumer Sciences

Phone: (706) 542-4830

E-mail: [jlgonyea@uga.edu](mailto:jlgonyea@uga.edu)

**Brian A. Glaser, Ph.D.**

Unit Coordinator

College of Education

Phone: (706) 542-1812

E-mail: [bglaser@uga.edu](mailto:bglaser@uga.edu)

**Michael Robinson, Ph.D.**

Unit Coordinator

School of Social Work

Phone: (678) 985-6793

E-mail: [marobi01@uga.edu](mailto:marobi01@uga.edu)

**CMFT Program Graduate Assistant**

E-mail: [CMFT@uga.edu](mailto:CMFT@uga.edu)

## CURRICULUM

The certificate program requires a student to complete 21 hours of credit. These must include 15 credits of core courses and 6 credits of practicum. The core curriculum hours will be distributed as follows:

- 3 hours in MFT Ethics;
- 6 hours in Couple and Family Studies; and
- 6 hours in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Any of these courses may also be in partial completion of requirements in the graduate degree program of the student's department/school. Practicum hours will be completed through registration in the practicum programs of the student's department/school. UGA practicum is required.

At least 6 hours of the core course hours must be taken outside of the student's department/school. This requirement is designed to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the field of marriage and family therapy and this certificate program.

Students are encouraged to take more than the minimum 6 hours of course work outside of their own department.

\*\*Please note: the professional studies course HDFS/ECHD/SOWK 7350 counts towards 3 of the 6 hours even if the course is taught in the student's own department. No more than 3 of the 15 hours may be taken in split graduate/undergraduate courses. A grade of "B" or better must be earned for a course to count toward completion of the certificate.

The course curriculum is as follows. Any graduate prerequisites are indicated in parentheses. These courses are subject to change. Check with certificate faculty to determine which courses are currently available.

**CORE COURSES (15 hours)** These courses are not necessarily offered every year. Check *Athena* to see course listing for a specific semester.

### Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy (6 hours)

Students will register for practicum in their own programs of graduate study. Most agencies require at least two consecutive semesters of time commitment for practicum. The certificate program requires at least a two-semester commitment. Students are encouraged to enroll in more than the minimum hours of practicum. An appropriate practicum must provide the student the opportunity to work with couples and family clients under faculty supervision. **Students whose practica allow opportunity for practice from a family systems perspective may earn the MFT certificate.** Students are urged to seek practicum sites that meet this requirement through her/his own department/school. **The hours accrued during practicum will not count towards MFT licensure unless supervised by an AAMFT approved supervisor and meet the definitions for practicum as set for in the Composite Board Rule 135-5.05 (12 months, minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience, etc.** Generally, certificate students who would like MFT licensure will need to complete supervised hours post-graduation.

Note: Please check State of Georgia requirements for MFT Licensure if you are interested in seeking licensure as an MFT via the certificate program (Chapter 135-5-.06). This information is available at: <https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-marriage-and-family-therapist>

Certificate Requirements	When offered
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<b>MFT Ethics</b>	<b>3 Credits</b>
ECHD/HDFS/SOWK 7350: Issues and Ethics in Marriage and Family Therapy	HDFS: Fall COE: Spring* not offered in Spring 2023 SSW: Summer semester – Gwinnett campus
<b>Couple and Family Studies</b>	<b>6 Credits from the list below</b>
<b>ECHD 8050:</b> Counseling Children and Adolescents	
<b>ECHD 8170:</b> Theories of Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Summer
<b>ECHD 8380:</b> Optimal Experience, Adaptation and Aging	Fall Even years
<b>HDFS 6100:</b> Theories and Issues in Human Development	Fall
<b>HDFS 6640:</b> Issues in Family Relationships	Spring semester
<b>SOWK 7114:</b> Foundation Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	Fall
<b>SOWK 7150:</b> Gerontological Social Work	Not offered on a regular basis
<b>SOWK 7170:</b> Professional Practice in Foster Care and Adoption	Spring
<b>SOWK 7270:</b> Child Abuse and Neglect	Fall
<b>Marriage and Family Therapy</b>	<b>6 Credits from the list below</b>
<b>ECHD 8040E:</b> Introduction to Play Therapy	Pre-req: ECHD 7040
<b>ECHD 8130:</b> Expressive Arts and Play Media in Counseling	Pre-req: ECHD 7040 Summer Odd years
<b>ECHD 8150/8150E:</b> Child and Family Counseling	Pre-req: ECHD 7040 Fall Spring, Summer
<b>HDFS 7100/7100W:</b> Family Intervention	
<b>HDFS 8050:</b> Mechanisms of Change in MFT	Doctoral students only Fall even years
<b>HDFS 8060:</b> Contemporary Models of Treatment across the Lifespan	Doctoral students only Fall Odd years
<b>HDFS 8080:</b> Global Mental Health: Systemic Applications to Contemporary Challenges	Doctoral students only Spring odd years
<b>SOWK: 7100:</b> Professional Practice in the Field of Intimate Partner Violence	Not offered on a regular basis
<b>SOWK 7116:</b> Social Work with groups	Spring
<b>SOWK 7160:</b> Direct Practice with African American Adults, Families, & Children	Not offered on a regular basis
<b>SOWK 7210:</b> Family Therapy	Pre-req: SOWK 7114, SOWK 7125, SOWK 7214 Spring
<b>SOWK 7214:</b> Advanced Social Work Practice with Individuals*	Pre-req: [(SOWK 7112/E) and (SOWK 7114/E) and (SOWK 7118/E) and (SOWK 7115/E) and (SOWK 7125/E) and SOWK 7113 and (SOWK 7126/E) and permission of department]

	Fall
<b>SOWK 7240:</b> Assessment and Treatment of Trauma	Pre-req: Not offered on a regular basis
<b>SOWK 7245:</b> Sex Therapy	95% online; Not offered on a regular basis
<b>SOWK 7280:</b> Clinical Practice with Children and Adolescents	Not offered on a regular basis
<b>Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy</b>	
	<b>6 credits from the list below</b>
<b>HDFS 9070:</b> Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy (POD)	Pre-req: POD: Doctoral students only Fall, Spring, & Summer semester
<b>ECHD 7700:</b> Individual Counseling Practicum	Pre-req: ECHD 7040 & POD Spring
<b>ECHD 7850:</b> Internship in School Counseling	Pre-req: ECHD 7700 or POD Fall & Spring
<b>ECHD 7860:</b> Internship in Community Counseling	Pre-req: ECHD 7700 or POD Fall & Summer
<b>ECHD 9760:</b> Advanced Counseling Psychology Practicum	Pre-req: POD Fall, Spring & Summer
<b>SOWK 7225:</b> Advanced Social Work Field Education	Pre-req: SOWK 7118 or SOWK 7118E or SOWK 7218 or permission of department Fall, Spring & Summer

\*Please note: SOWK 7214 addresses advanced theory and practice with individuals within family systems and community environments. Topics will include assessing individuals within a family and community context using multiple theoretical orientations.

## Faculty

### Mary Frances Early College of Education

- Georgia B. Calhoun, Ph.D.
- **Brian A. Glaser, Ph.D.\***  
**Unit Coordinator, College of Education**
- Jolie Daigle, Ph.D.

### College of Family and Consumer Sciences

- Maria Bermudéz, Ph.D.
- **Jennifer L. Gonyea, Ph.D.**  
**CMFT Program Coordinator**  
**Unit Coordinator, Family & Consumer Sciences**
- Desiree Seponski, Ph.D.
- Elizabeth Wieling, Ph.D.

### School of Social Work

- Rosalyn Campbell, Ph.D.
- Jennifer Elkins, Ph.D.
- **Michael Robinson, Ph.D.\***  
**Unit Coordinator, Social Work**
- Kate Morrissey Stahl, Ph.D.

### Emeritus Faculty

- Jerold Bozarth, Ph.D.
- George Gazda, Ed.D.
- Arthur M. Horne, Ph.D.
- Allie C. Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
- David Kurtz, Ph.D.
- James Pippin, Ed.D.
- Sharon Price, Ph.D.
- John C. Dagley, Ph.D.
- Jerry Gale, Ph.D.

### Adjunct Clinical Faculty

- Teddy Kemp, M.S.W., Family Counseling Services, Athens
- Joe Scalise, Ed.D., Private Practice, Athens
- Ron Weeks, M.S.W., The Family Project, Inc., Gainesville

## Procedures for Applying to MFT Certificate Program

1. Apply to, gain admission to, and enroll in a graduate degree program at the University of Georgia.
2. Discuss your interest in the interdisciplinary certificate program in Marriage and Family Therapy with your regular academic advisor in your department.
3. Set your appointment with the CMFT Program Unit Coordinator in your department/school to discuss your interests. See previous page for list of Coordinators.
4. Identify an appropriate practicum site and discuss the opportunities for placement with your advisor, the Unit Coordinator, and the director of the practicum facility. It is imperative that opportunities exist for you to work with couples and families in your practicum under the supervision of someone trained in Marriage and Family Therapy **if you want to use these hours to count for licensure as a marriage and family therapist**. A facility which typically has a caseload of only individuals seeking therapeutic assistance would not provide you the opportunity to receive supervised experience credit hours of practicum required for licensure in MFT. It is important to note that most approved practicum sites require evidence of sufficient therapeutic competency to warrant assignment of a couple or family.
5. In consultation with your advisor and/or the Unit Coordinator plan your curriculum to meet your degree requirements and the certificate program requirements.
6. Complete the "Application for Admission to the MFT Certificate Program" form.
  - Use the questions in Appendix A to prepare the information for your application
  - The application asks for your proposed plans for how you will complete the certificate course requirements within your time to graduation. Please use the Bulletin and discussion with your Unit Coordinator to create a plan.
  - When submitted, your application will be sent to the CMFT Program Coordinator. Please allow 2 weeks for a response.
7. If admitted, you will be added to the MFT Certificate email list and receive important MFT certificate information, timelines, and course information.
8. Once you are admitted to the MFT certificate program you should start pursuing the MFT certificate coursework you discussed with your regular advisor, your MFT Unit Coordinator, and outlined in the application.

### Note:

- Application to the program should take place relatively early in your degree program to ensure appropriate curriculum planning. In Social Work, the application must be submitted by January 15 of the year preceding Concentration practicum. Advanced Standing students must submit the application by August 30.



## Checklist for Applying for Admission to the Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate Program

- Gain admission to the University of Georgia Graduate School.
- Enroll in a graduate degree in one of the eligible departments.
- Meet with your regular advisor and the MFT Unit Coordinator in your department to discuss the certificate, practicum opportunities, and where the certificate coursework would fit into your regular degree requirements.
- Complete the Application for Admission to the MFT Certificate Program form: <https://forms.office.com/r/wTgVHiWiEm>

## Checklist for certifying completion of the Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate Program

- Complete the MFT Certificate Completion Form <https://forms.office.com/r/VUM6Dh4gdU>. You will be asked to provide:
  - Updated Student Information
  - Completed Program of Study: courses to complete the certificate with grades and semester taken, and email address for your Major Professor.
  - Your Advisor, Unit Coordinator, Site supervisor, and Field Liaison (SW students) Approval of systemic practicum.
- Check that Program of Study information is correct before submission
  - Includes all course names and numbers
  - Includes only courses taken within last five years
  - Includes only courses taken or to be taken at the University of Georgia unless approved by CMFT Executive Committee
  - Includes six hours outside the student's own department or school. The professional studies core course counts towards 3 of the 6 hours even if the course is taught in the student's own department.
  - Includes attachment of unofficial transcript showing coursework and grades
- MFT Certificate Completion Form to be completed by April 15<sup>th</sup> the semester of graduation. The program coordinator will approve the awarding of the certificate if all requirements are completed and signatures are included. The program coordinator will contact the student if the certificate cannot be approved due to missing or incorrect information or signatures.
- The MFT graduate assistant will create the certificate and mail it to the student at the address listed in the Student Information. For master's degree students, the certificate will be awarded upon completion of the certificate requirements and completion of the master's degree program in which the student is enrolled. For students already holding a master's degree, the certificate will be awarded at the end of the semester in which the certificate requirements are satisfied.

**Appendix A**  
**Application for Admission to the MFT Certificate Program**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/wTgVHiWiEm>

All students who wish to earn the Pre-Professional Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy must complete the application to be admitted to the certificate program. Please review the application questions below, the application checklist on page X, and the list of Certificate courses and when they are offered prior to submitting completing the application here: <https://forms.office.com/r/wTgVHiWiEm>

Your application will be automatically emailed to the MFT Program when you submit via Forms.

**Required information:**

Required Information	Name
	810 #
	Department
	College/School
	Degree Program (Masters or Doctorate)
	UGA Campus
	Address (to mail completion certificate)
	Phone number
	UGA email
	Personal Email (used for post-graduation communication)
	Plan to complete MFT Certificate coursework – list on pgs 5-8

**Deadlines:**

- For all applicants, submit the application as soon as possible to start receiving important MFT certificate program information.
- Submit application by January 15 to qualify for MFT Institute funding and scholarships.
- For social work students, submit this application by January 15 to be considered for an MFT Concentration placement the following year. (August 30 for advanced standing students.)