

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2024-2025

Couple and Family
Therapy Program

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the handbook is to provide students with information concerning the Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) program at the University of Colorado Denver. It is intended to clarify relevant information, policies, procedures, requirements, and expectations. At student orientation or through faculty advisement, students admitted into the CFT program are provided with information on how to access the handbook on our website. The listed courses, requirements, and policies for completion of the CFT Program are subject to change even after a student is admitted and students are encouraged to annually review the requirements and discuss them with their advisor/faculty mentor. If the courses and /or requirements change, these new requirements may be applied to students who are already enrolled in the CFT program.

It is the **responsibility of the student** to read and become familiar with the information in this handbook. To confirm that you have read this handbook and have understood the responsibilities, policies and procedures outlined herein, please sign the [Informed Consent](#) in this handbook and submit it to the Program Director on Tevera.

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To reach a Participating (adjunct/part time) Faculty member, please contact them using their CU Denver email address. Please call Academic Services for more information: 303.315.6353

MA IN COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM

Description of Couple and Family Therapy Program

The program in Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). The CFT program prepares master's level therapists with academic, professional, and personal credentials to provide relational, systemic therapy and equips them to pursue doctoral studies. The program requires a minimum of two and a half (2.5) years to complete, and students have a maximum of seven (7) years to complete the program. Full time students typically complete requirements in 2.5 to 3.5 years.

CFT Program Anti-discrimination Policy and Diversity Statement

We encourage applications from persons from a variety of sociopolitical contexts, such as racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, veterans, sexual and gender minorities, and individuals from a variety of religious and spiritual backgrounds. The CFT faculty provides open and supportive learning environments where students are invited to engage in personal and reflective processes about their own and others' experiences, beliefs and values. We seek to train systemic and relational therapists who can approach clients with integrity, respect and sensitivity for differences in beliefs, values, and lifestyles.

In accordance with the AAMFT Code of Ethics (Section 1.1) we believe: Marriage and family therapists provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status. AAMFT Code of Ethics Section 1.1

CFT Program Mission Statement

The M.A. in Couple & Family Therapy at the University of Colorado Denver prepares students for careers as ethical couple and family therapists who treat mental and emotional disorders, while promoting optimum relational health through a systemic, holistic approach. The focus of the CFT program is systemic and relational, with a commitment to fostering an open culture of social, relational, and cross-cultural contexts of learning that are essential for effective therapist training. Educating students with a critical eye on research, the CFT program prepares relational therapists who value inclusion and prize diversity such that they are prepared to offer a continuum of mental health services across a variety of settings for the benefit of the community and society.

CFT Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

The Couple and Family Therapy Program is committed to the following Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).

Program Goal #1 (Diversity): To train professionals who are committed to diversity and cultural responsiveness in relational/systemic therapy.

- SLO #1: Students will demonstrate clinical competency in working in diverse settings and with diverse client populations.
- SLO#2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of multicultural conceptualization.

Program Goal # 2 (Systemic knowledge & Practice): To prepare professionals who are competent in knowledge and clinical practice using relational/systemic therapy.

- SLO# 3: Students will demonstrate their knowledge of family systems therapy theories.
- SLO# 4: Students will apply a systemic framework in their clinical practice.

Program Goal # 3 (Research): To prepare professionals who are informed in family systems research.

- SLO# 5: Students will develop a research proposal on topics related to family systems practice.
- SLO# 6: Students will learn to critically analyze common family systems assessments.

Program Goal # 4 (Ethics): To prepare professionals with knowledge and skills in legal and ethical practice of family systems therapy.

- SLO# 7: Students will demonstrate an applied knowledge of MFT legal and ethical guidelines and professional standards.

CFT FACULTY AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

CFT courses are graduate level and are intended to prepare students for professional roles in the couple and family therapy field. Therefore, students should expect rigor in academic work.

1. Students should be prepared to use APA style (**latest edition**) for papers and will be expected to proofread papers for correct spelling, grammar and syntax. Failure to conform to these standards will result in lower scores on projects.

1. Students should adhere to their degree plans and take three or fewer courses per semester, especially if they are working full time. **Students who desire to take a fourth class during a semester must submit a written request to their faculty mentor, who will present it to the full faculty for review for final decision.** Students are encouraged to adjust their course load, so they are not overextended. This guideline is stipulated for students to be able to devote sufficient time for adequate class preparation and learning.

2. Students who do not demonstrate the expected skills in courses focused on skill acquisition by earning a B- or better will be asked to repeat these courses until adequate skills are developed. Students may repeat a course twice. Failure to successfully complete the course a second time will lead to dismissal from the program.
3. Professional behavior is expected in class. Faculty expect students to complete reading assignments **prior** to class. Additionally, faculty expect students to come to class prepared for the day's topics/discussions and to arrive on time. At a minimum, students should expect three hours of work outside of class per credit hour. In addition, students should exhibit a positive attitude, active learning style, receptivity to new ideas, openness to feedback, flexibility, and respect for faculty members and peers.
4. **Confidentiality** is the norm for all classroom interaction. Therefore, in keeping with the ethical guidelines of the mental health professions, information that is discussed about students, clients or others affiliated with the CFT program is not to be discussed outside of the class or setting in which it originated. Students are expected to be active participants in maintaining and creating a safe environment in the classroom. Cell phones are to be turned off and students are expected to refrain from holding side conversations during class lectures or activities. **During class time, computer use should be limited to note taking or other specific class-related activities. Faculty reserve the right at any time to ask students to put away computers, tablets, smart phones, etc.**
5. Students can expect faculty to return telephone calls and email messages within two business days of receiving them. If faculty are out of the office, they will respond to calls and emails within two business days of their return to the office. Students can expect faculty to return papers and exams within three weeks. Faculty will provide notice if additional time is required for grading.
6. Emails are the primary form of communication and students are expected to check their CU Denver email regularly. In preparation for a professional workplace, students are also expected to respond timely to telephone calls and email messages from faculty and others in the School.
7. Students must maintain AAMFT student membership.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM GOVERNANCE

The CFT program believes in the importance of student participation in the program's governance. Therefore, two students will be elected by the students to be the Student Representatives. Student representatives will serve in their role for one academic year. Elections are typically held at the end of Spring semester for roles beginning in the following Fall semester.

Qualifications:

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1. CFT Student Representatives must be students in good standing with a 3.0 or above GPA.
2. Responsive skills for timely and reliable communication with faculty and students.
3. Invested in ongoing professional development as an emerging CFT professional.

Duties:

1. Participate in program meetings once per month (typically, the first Wednesday of every month in Fall and Spring semesters).
2. Collect information from fellow students regarding what is working and what is not working in the program, academic resources, program climate, student services, etc.
3. Participate in brainstorming potential program enhancements to address students' concerns during faculty meetings.
4. Report back to the student body in a professional manner information gathered during faculty meeting.
5. Participate in program governance discussions such as class schedule, access to student resources, student services etc.
6. Represent CFT students at program events such as interview day, new student orientation, and information sessions.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The listed courses, requirements, and policies for completion of the CFT Program are subject to change even after a student is admitted and students are encouraged to annually review the requirements and discuss them with their advisor/faculty mentor. If the courses and /or requirements change, these new requirements may be applied to students who are already enrolled in the CFT program.

New Student Orientation

Mandatory new student orientation meetings are held in the Fall and Spring. The meeting is scheduled on the Friday prior to the beginning of each semester in order to reach all students. Orientations aim to:

- ◆ Provide new students with information about the CFT program.
- ◆ Provide new students with registration information.
- ◆ Introduce new students to the staff of the School of Education & Human Development Academic Services Center.
- ◆ Provide new students with resources for the School of Education & Human Development, the University of Colorado Denver, and the Auraria Campus.
- ◆ Begin discussions on family systems perspectives, interpersonal dynamics, self of therapist, intersectionality and diversity in lived experiences.

Advisement/Mentoring

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Each applicant admitted into the CFT Program is assigned a faculty mentor. The name of the mentor is included in the applicant's email informing them of admission to the program. **It is recommended that students contact the faculty mentor soon after being admitted to the program.** If a student wants to change mentors, a request is made to the faculty member desired as the new mentor. If the faculty member agrees, the faculty member submits the mentor change to the Student Service Center. The Change of Mentor form is available on the CFT webpage under "Online Forms": <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/couple-family-therapy>

Every CFT student is required to meet with their faculty mentor at least once a year. These meetings are set up to help you in your professional development. Preparation for these meetings includes a review of program policies and questions you may have regarding them, areas of interest within the field and questions about avenues for involvement, etc.

Grading Policies

In accordance with the SEHD Student Policies and Procedures Handbook, the minimum acceptable grade is "B minus" (See P. 21: [SEHD Student Handbook](#)). Students are required to maintain at least a "B" (3.00) average in all work attempted while enrolled. Students receiving less than a B minus in any course will be required to repeat the course and follow any remediation plan that may be developed to meet the students' specific needs. If the student is not able to complete the course the second time with a passing grade, as well as follow through with a remediation plan, in a satisfactory manner, the student will be dismissed from the program.

If a student receives a grade of "I" (incomplete), they are responsible for completing work within one year in order to receive a grade other than "failure" (F). Please see below for the SEHD Incomplete Policy. Students receiving Financial Aid should consult with a Financial Aid advisor before making the decision to take an "incomplete," as this policy may affect Financial Aid eligibility status. Grading policies for Practicum and Internship are available in the packets for these classes and vary slightly from the classroom grading policy.

Incomplete "I" Grade Policy

An Incomplete "I" is a temporary grade, which may be given at the instructor's discretion to a student when illness, necessary absence, or other reasons beyond the control of the student prevent completion of course requirements by the end of the academic term.

Incomplete grades may be given only in the following circumstances:

- The student's work to date is passing;
- Attendance has been satisfactory through at least 60% of the term;
- An illness or other extenuating circumstance legitimately prevents completion of required work by the due date;
- Required work may reasonably be completed in an agreed-upon time frame;
- The incomplete is not given as a substitute for a failing grade;

- The incomplete is not based solely on a student's failure to complete work or as a means of raising his or her grade by doing additional work after the grade report time;
- The student initiates the request for an incomplete grade before the end of the academic term;
- The instructor and student complete the "Application for Incomplete Grade" form before the end of the academic term.

Appropriate grades must be assigned in other circumstances. A failing grade and last date of attendance should be recorded for students who cease attending class without authorization. Students who are unable to complete a course and who do not meet these circumstances should consider dropping the course.

The following provisions for incomplete grades apply:

- The "Application for Incomplete Grade" may be obtained at <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources>.
- Instructors should submit a file copy of the "Application for Incomplete Grade" form when the Incomplete grade is assigned to Academic Services.
- The instructor submits the final grade on Change of Record form (available in Academic Services) and submits the form to Academic Services for processing.
- It is in the student's best interest that incomplete grades be made up by the end of the following academic term. Incomplete grades must be made up and final grades submitted within one calendar year from the date Incomplete was recorded. Only under the most extenuating circumstances may an Incomplete be made up more than one calendar year from the date it is recorded and only with a dean's approval.
- The course work may be completed while the student is not enrolled.

- Incomplete grades appear on the transcript for one year. Incomplete grades do not affect the grade point average. After one year, or at the time of graduation, Incomplete grades will change to 'F' and affect GPA.
- An Incomplete grade may not be considered passing for purposes of determining academic standing, federal financial aid eligibility, athletic eligibility, or other purposes.
- Notation of the original incomplete status of the grade remains on the student's transcript along with the final grade.
- An Incomplete should not be assigned when it is necessary for the student to attend additional class meetings to complete the course requirements. Students who receive an incomplete grade in a course must not reregister for the course in order to remove the "I".
- An Incomplete should not be assigned where the normal practice requires extension of course requirements beyond the close of a term, e.g., thesis or project type courses. Rather, the course should remain ungraded or In Progress (IP) until the project is complete.

Grade Appeals Process

The steps in the University of Colorado Denver Couple and Family Therapy Program grade appeals process are as follows:

1. The student appeals to the individual faculty member.

2. If the student is not satisfied with the instructor's decision, they can follow the appeals process through the Student Academic Appeals Committee in the School of Education & Human Development.
3. The student should contact the Academic Services Advisor for the Couple and Family Therapy Program for details on the SEHD Appeals Process.

Policy for Student Complaints of Faculty

If students have complaints regarding a couple/family faculty member, they should follow the following policy to address their concerns:

1. Email the faculty member outlining student concerns and request to set up an in-person meeting with the faculty member to discuss these concerns. The student must initiate this email contact within 30 days of the end of the semester in which the incident prompting the complaint occurred.
2. The student can request that another faculty member be present at this meeting.
3. If the concern is not alleviated after the in-person meeting, the student should send a detailed email to the Program Director (or Dean, if the complaint is against the Program Director). This email should include:
 - a. all correspondence with the faculty member that pertains to this concern,
 - b. the student's account of their concerns regarding the faculty member,
 - c. the student's account of the face-to-face meeting
 - d. what continues to concern the student.This email must be submitted within 10 days of the in-person meeting.
4. At that point, the Program Director (or Dean) determines the course of action. The Director (or Dean) will communicate this decision via email to the student within 14 days.

Graduate Level Writing Expectation

APA Style Guide - <http://www.apastyle.org/manual/index.aspx>.

The CFT Program students are expected to write at a graduate level. **The current APA writing style is required for all papers in CFT courses (Bookmark: <http://www.apastyle.org/manual/index.aspx>).** Errors such as incomplete sentences, improper grammar and syntax, incorrect spelling, disorganization, failure to use APA style correctly, and failure to address required topics in papers are not acceptable. Papers containing substantive writing errors will not be read. Instead, such papers will be returned, and students will be required to seek consultation with the writing center on campus and to resubmit the paper by the resubmission deadline provided by the instructor. Instructors will deduct points at their discretion per assignment for papers that, upon re-submission, still contain gross errors. It is the student's responsibility to attain and demonstrate graduate level writing skills. The CU Denver Writing Center staff are available to assist students with improving their writing skills. The CU Denver Writing Center is located in North Classroom Room 4014 and can be reached at (303) 315-7355 for more information visit <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/writing-center/>. Please allow writing center staff plenty of time to schedule your appointment.

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Course Waivers

Students may **not** use work experience or professional development seminars to waive course requirements. Students may waive courses only when they have taken a similar graduate level course with equivalent content at another accredited institution; these may be courses that have been used to satisfy requirements of another Master's degree. Students already admitted to the program who wish to waive courses must obtain a Course Waiver Form and submit the form to the program faculty mentor with appropriate documentation of the course (transcript, course syllabus, and course description). Students who waive courses must take an elective in order to satisfy the credit hour requirements for the Master's degree. **Course waivers will not be evaluated until an admissions decision is made.** Form is available on the CFT webpage under "Online Forms": <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/couple-family-therapy>

Course Transfers

Transfer credit is defined as any credit earned at another accredited institution either in the United States or abroad.

All courses accepted for transfer must:

- a. Be graduate level (5000 or above);
- b. Have a "letter" grade, courses in which the grading is either satisfactory/unsatisfactory or pass/fail are not accepted;
- c. Have a grade of "B minus" or better;
- d. Be validated by the faculty mentor to ensure that the courses were taken within a timeframe such that their content is considered "current"

Transferring credit requires an official transcript and a [Transfer of Credit form](#). Note: All credit transfers must be approved by the faculty mentor and submitted to the Academic Services Center for a dean's signature. For the M.A. program, only a total of nine semester credits can be transferred.

Leave of Absence

A student may take periodic leaves of absence from the Couple and Family Therapy program if unable to enroll in courses for two consecutive semesters including summer and must request a leave of absence using the form, available on the CFT webpage under "Online Forms": <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/couple-family-therapy>

Program faculty will review the student's request and may approve it, disapprove it, or request that it be revised. Leave of absences have been approved for students who become new parents, assume new jobs, are recuperating from an extended illness, are coping with a disabling or medical condition, plan to be out of the country, and/or are serving in the military (on tour). Students may want to contact the University's Disability Resource Services to determine whether or not an extension is available as reasonable accommodation. With an approved leave of

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absence, students are assured that they will be permitted to resume studies as planned. Students who discontinue coursework for more than three consecutive semesters, inclusive of summer, *without* arranging for a leave of absence will need to reapply to the program and will be in competition with all other new applicants.

Re-Admission Policy

Students who are not granted a leave of absence and who do not enroll for courses in the Couple and Family Therapy Program for **three** consecutive semesters including summer must apply for re-admission to the Couple and Family Therapy Program. Students who are dismissed from the program are also eligible for re-admission. A student dismissed for academic reasons can reapply after six semesters. Such students must complete a re-admission application and request re-admission by writing a letter to the program faculty explaining their absence. To obtain more information about the re-admission process, please contact Academic Services at education@ucdenver.edu

The CFT Faculty have the prerogative to grant or deny re-admission and may stipulate the conditions under which re-admission and graduation from the program occur. Students have 7 years from the semester they are first admitted into the program to complete the degree, including any leaves of absence the student may take. Only graduate-level courses less **than** 10 years old (taken as a degree-seeking student, in non-degree status, or at another institution) may count toward the Master's degree. The Couple and Family Therapy Faculty will make all final course approval decisions.

Minimum 3.0 GPA Required Each Semester

All Couple and Family Therapy students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 each semester while they are in the Couple and Family Therapy program. If students fall below a 3.0 GPA in any given semester, they will be placed on Academic Probation and will have two consecutive semesters in which to bring their GPA to a 3.0. Students who fail to bring their GPA to a 3.0 in the aforementioned timeframe may be dismissed from the program.

Background Check

A background check will be conducted on all admitted students to the Couple and Family Therapy Program. Continued enrollment to the program is contingent on a satisfactory background check. Students who fail to fully disclose civil or criminal charges or who falsify their applications in any way are subject to immediate dismissal from the program.

Policy Exceptions

Students who want to be granted an exception to any of the policies in the Couple and Family Therapy Program Student Handbook must submit a request available on the CFT webpage under "Online Forms": <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/couple-family-therapy> stating the nature of the request, the rationale for the request, and must attach relevant documentation. Such requests must be submitted to faculty

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mentors for discussion in the faculty meeting. Faculty as a whole will act on students' policy exception requests. Be aware that absent of extraordinary circumstances, policies will not be waived.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the inclusion of another author's words, concepts, and illustrations in one's own work, without properly acknowledging the creator of this content. Students are expected to submit class assignments, papers, and examinations that consist of their own ideas and to appropriately cite material taken from scholarly resources. Appropriate citations include the accurate identification of the original author in the body of a paper or assignment and an accurate description of the source of the material in the reference section. Within this process, it is critical that students understand how and when to appropriately paraphrase material and when to use and cite actual quotations from the original author's work within APA standards. Self-plagiarism, the submission of an assignment or paper that was submitted for credit in another class, either in part or in its entirety, is also prohibited. Consequences for plagiarizing can range from a request to resubmit the class assignment, receipt of a grade of "F" for the course, or dismissal from the university.

Reasonable Accommodation

It is the policy of the University of Colorado to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability. Whether the requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on an individual basis by the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS) and the School. Accommodations may include assistance in identifying volunteer note-takers, alternative testing (extra time, scribe, reader), textbooks in alternate format (Braille, enlarged, digital-audio), priority registration and/or interpreters services. If a student wants to pursue an accommodation, they should contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services. (<https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/disability-resources-and-services>). The office is located at 1201 Larimer Street, Academic Building 1, Suite 2116. They can be reached via email at disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu or via phone at (303) 315-3510.

Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team

The Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team was created at the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campuses to address the health and safety needs of students as well as the campus community. If you have immediate concern about the behavior or safety of a student at CU Denver, help by making a referral to the campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team. The CARE team's purpose is to promote a safe productive learning, living, and working environment by addressing the needs of students, faculty, and staff. If you or a classmate are in need of help, please submit a concern at <https://www.ucdenver.edu/student/health-wellness/care-team> or call 303-315-7306.

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

CFT Program Monitoring Process

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical, responsible and professional manner. The student must be familiar with the relevant Codes of Ethics of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

The CFT Program faculty expects prospective therapists to be concerned about other people, to be emotionally stable and psychologically well adjusted, to be effective in interpersonal relationships, and to be able to receive and give constructive feedback. **Further, we expect students to be committed to personal growth and professional development through opportunities provided in course work, group labs, supervision, assigned and self-selected readings, and personal therapy.** The CFT Program faculty believes that it is ethically imperative that therapists are willing to do in their own lives what they ask their clients to do.

The CFT Program faculty have a responsibility to the students in the program, the profession, and the eventual consumers of therapy services provided by CFT Program graduates, to monitor not only students' academic progress, but also the professional dispositions of students.

AAMFT provides guidelines of professional behavior via its Code of Ethics. These dispositions should be of a quality as to NOT interfere with the professionalism or helping capacity of the student. The faculty has an ethical obligation to the public and the professions to ensure that any student who does not demonstrate sufficient professional disposition receives corrective feedback and plan for remediation. Family therapy literature continues to show that the most important aspect of therapy is the person of the therapist. Faculty of the CFT Program therefore believes that it is their ethical responsibility to students, future clients, and the State of Colorado to train therapists who demonstrate the dispositions of an effective therapist, as detailed below, and who are culturally responsive and diversity conscious.

The following **Professional Dispositions Review Form** lists characteristics described in the literature as being desirable for professional therapists. The development and dispositions of students in the CFT Program are reviewed by faculty (Including core faculty, adjunct faculty, site supervisors, university and site staff, and other persons in supervisory or teaching roles) on an on-going basis. When concerns about a student's dispositions arise, the form and process described below will be used to provide formal feedback and support the student's development.

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS REVIEW FORM					
Student Name:					
Faculty Completing this Evaluation:					
TIME PERIOD OR INCIDENTS COVERED BY THIS EVALUATION:					
DISPOSITIONS:	UNACCEPTABLE 1	2	ADEQUATE 3	4	EXCELLENT 5

1) Respects the privacy and confidentiality needs of others. (e.g. clients, peers, faculty, staff)					
1) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
2) Understands and maintains ethical guidelines for counselors/therapists as published by the relevant professions and organizations.					
2) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
3) Engages actively in learning, training, and/or experiential processes and opportunities for personal and professional development.					
3) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
4) Remain open to ideas, learning, feedback, and change					
4) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
5) Cooperates with remediation plans and endeavors to adjust or improve behavior.					
5) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
6) Fulfills obligations promptly, consistently, reliably, and according to expectations stated by professor/instructor or supervisor.					
6) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
7) Follows the procedures and policies of the Couple and Family Therapy Program and the School of Education and Human Development. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the content of relevant material from official sources including syllabi, program handbooks, and University web sites.					
7) Comments (note if unable to rate):					

8) Engages effectively as a team member supporting the efforts of peers, faculty, and the SEHD.					
8) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
9) Uses technology (including all hardware and social media) appropriately and ethically in all situations while respecting others who are present or impacted.					
9) Comments (note if unable to rate):					
<p>Remediation Plan:</p> <p>I have discussed this evaluation with a faculty member (name of faculty member):</p> <p>Student Signature: _____</p> <p>I have discussed this evaluation with the student named above:</p> <p>Faculty Representative Signature: _____</p>					

Students failing any skill-building course twice face immediate dismissal. Students' development is evaluated and discussed by the faculty on an ongoing basis. If the faculty determines that a student's professional dispositions are lacking, the form above will be completed by one or more faculty members and/or other relevant professionals (e.g., practicum supervisor, internship supervisor). Information and evaluation may be requested from instructors, supervisors, or other professionals working with the student.

After the Professional Dispositions Review Form is completed, the student will be contacted via email to arrange a time for an in-person meeting to discuss the evaluation(s). The meeting also includes the student's faculty mentor. The student will be given paper copies of all forms at this meeting, and the meeting will provide an opportunity for the student and faculty to discuss the evaluation(s) and next steps.

If the person completing the form is the student's faculty mentor, the student may request another faculty member be present at the meeting as well. If more than one faculty (or other professional) completes a Professional Dispositions Review Form regarding the same incident or time period, one of the individuals completing the forms will be designated to contact the student and discuss the forms in person.

The student is presented with a written copy of the Professional Dispositions Review Form(s) at the in-person meeting. The student and faculty will meet to discuss the form and any recommended

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remediation deemed appropriate or support needed in order for the student to continue successfully in the program. The ratings will be discussed and explained and if further actions are required, a plan for completing those actions will be constructed. Specific within that plan will be a) the name of the person with whom the student will meet to carry out the plan, and b) the time frame for meeting with that person. Next, a specific plan and schedule for implementing the needed actions will be determined. A copy of the Professional Dispositions Review Form, any action plans, and a summary of any actions taken will be given to the student and copies will be placed in the student's file.

If a student receives **more than one** Professional Dispositions Review Form during any one semester **OR** receives a review form from more than one relevant professional (instructor, supervisor, etc.) during their program, the student will be required to meet with their faculty mentor to discuss a remediation plan. A copy of the Professional Dispositions Review Forms, the remediation plan and a summary of any actions taken will be given to the student and copies will be placed in the student's file.

If a student receives three Professional Disposition Forms or more during their course of study **OR** does not successfully follow a prior remediation plan, the student will be required to meet with their faculty mentor and two other faculty members to discuss consideration of continuation in the Couple and Family Therapy Program. If the faculty determines that the student's professional dispositions are inappropriate to the field of CFT, and such behaviors would be a detriment in working with others, the student will be denied continuance in the CFT Program.

Evaluation of Practicum and Internship Students

Policies for review of students during Practicum and Internship include the above criteria as well as additional criteria appropriate for clinical work. Information concerning this process is found in the Practicum and Internship Handbook (See under "Handbooks" here: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/couple-family-therapy>).

Personal Therapy

The Couple and Family Therapy Program faculty believe that participating as a client in individual or group psychotherapy, couple or family therapy can significantly enrich learning in CFT courses. **Personal therapy is, therefore, strongly recommended for the Couple and Family Therapy program** either with a licensed mental health professional or a graduate student-therapist supervised by a licensed mental health professional.

Addressing Personal Concerns –Therapy educators may require students to address any personal concerns that have the potential to affect professional competency (AAMFT Code of Ethics). Personal therapy may, at any time, be required by the program faculty for the student to continue in the program. Commencement of therapy and recommendation of additional therapy may be a stipulation or condition at the time of the student's screening or at any time during their continuation in the program. The student has the right to choose their own therapists for this

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requirement. You may choose your therapist by looking up resources in your geographic area. Psychology Today (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us>) provides a directory of mental health professionals with information about their credentials, specialties, and insurance coverage. You may also consider other directories such as: <https://www.inclusivetherapists.com/>

Other resources in the Denver area include:

Regis University Counseling center: <https://www.regis.edu/life-at-regis/student-wellbeing/health-and-counseling-center/counseling-services/index>

Professional Psychology Center, University of Denver, 303-871-3626
<https://psychology.du.edu/clinics/ppc>

Low-cost resources for mental health services:
https://www.mhfac.org/images/uploads/files/Low_Cost_Resources.pdf

Below are a few examples of crisis services for immediate assistance:

Call/Text 988 (24/7): https://988colorado.com/en?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Colorado Crisis Services: <https://coloradocrisisservices.org/> (Ph: 1-844-493-8255, 24/7 hotline)

Phoenix Center at Auraria: <https://www.thePCA.org/> (Ph: 303-556-2255, 24/7 hotline)

COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY CURRICULUM

Courses in the graduate program in Couple and Family Therapy at the University of Colorado Denver are designed to provide a gradual and stratified skill-building experience, beginning with introductory courses, and culminating with the internship experience.

Course sequencing is utilized to maximize the learning and skill-building process. **Students are responsible for reviewing the catalog and schedule to be certain that all prerequisites for courses have been taken.** Any student who has not followed the above procedure and has registered for a class out of sequence may be administratively dropped from the class.

Master of Arts in Couple and Family Therapy

(54 semester hours)

Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Prerequisites	Semester offered**
CMFT 5150	Foundational Family Therapy Theories	3		Fall and Spring
CMFT5160	Individual & FT Foundational Techniques and Self of the therapist	3		Fall and Spring
CMFT 6180	Family Issues: Multicultural Intersectional Systems through the Lifespan	3		Fall and Spring
CMFT 5151	Contemporary Family Therapy Theories	3	CMFT 5150, 5160	Fall and Spring
CMFT 5161	Individual & FT Contemporary Techniques and Self of the Therapist	3	CMFT 5150, 5160	Fall and Spring
CMFT 5330	Professional Identity & Relational Ethics	3	CMFT 5150, 5160	Fall and Spring
LDFs6200	Lifespan Development	3		Fall, Spring, and Summer
RSEM 5120	Introduction to Research	3		Fall, Spring, and Summer
CMFT 5180	Therapy with Couples/Relationships	3	CMFT 5150, 5151, 5160, 5161, 5330	Fall and Spring
CMFT 6160	Advanced Assessment & Treatment in Family Systems	3	CMFT 5150, 5151, 5160, 5161, 5330, RSEM 5120, COUN 6250	Fall and Spring
COUN 6250	Mental Health Diagnosis	3		Fall, Spring, and Summer

CMFT 6140	Counseling/Therapy with Children, Adolescents & Their Parents	3	CMFT 5150, 5151, 5160, 5161, 5330	Spring and Summer
CMFT 6170	Family Issues: Addictions & Trauma in Family Systems	3	CMFT 5150, 5151, 5160, 5161, 5330	Fall and Spring
CMFT 6000	Introduction to Sex Therapy	3	CMFT 5150, 5151, 5160, 5161, 5330	Fall and Spring
*CMFT 5910 & CMFT 5911	Practicum in Couple & Family Therapy	6	CMFT 5150, 5151, 5160, 5161, 5330, 5180, 6180, 6160, 6140 COUN 6250 RSEM 5120, LDFS 6200	Fall, Spring, and Summer
*CMFT 5930	Internship in Couple and Family Therapy	3	CMFT 5910, CMFT 5911	Fall, Spring, and Summer
*CMFT/CO UN 5930	Internship in Couple and Family Therapy	3	CMFT 5910, CMFT 5911	Fall, Spring, and Summer
Total Credits		54		

*Courses will be cross-listed until all current students enrolled in the CACREP & COAMFTE approved 63-credit hour program graduate.

** For current offerings please contact the program advisor or your faculty mentor.

Refer to the CU Denver academic calendars for course registration deadlines:

<https://www.ucdenver.edu/student/student-calendars>

All courses except CMFT 5910, 5911, and 5930 are capped at 15 with a waitlist option. These maximum enrollments are monitored very closely. Students are expected to register as soon as their registration window opens to secure a place in these classes. If the class is full, place yourself on the waitlist. Waitlists allow the program director to assess whether additional sections may be offered.

CMFT 5910, 5911, and 5930 are capped at 8 students per section in line with COAMFTE standards for group sizes for clinical supervision.

CURRICULUM MAP

The curriculum in the Couple and Family Therapy Program meets the following standards set by national regulatory bodies:

A. COAMFTE 12.5 Accreditation Standards’ Developmental Competency Components:

- Knowledge of the MFT profession
- Practice of relational/systemic therapy as a qualified behavioral/mental health provider
- Commitment to ethical practice through ethical codes of the MFT profession and pertinent regulatory bodies
- Awareness, knowledge and skill to responsibly serve diverse communities
- Development and application of research to further the knowledge and practice of the MFT profession.

B. COAMFTE 12.5 Accreditation Standards’ Foundational Curriculum Areas (FCAs) chart:

The foundational curriculum covers the knowledge and skill required to practice as a MFT by covering the Foundational Curricular Areas below.	Current CU Denver courses
<p><i>FCA 1: Foundations of Relational/Systemic Practice, Theories & Models (Minimum of 6 semester credits/8 quarter credits/90 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area facilitates students developing competencies in the foundations and critical epistemological issues of MFTs. It includes the historical development of the relational/systemic perspective and contemporary conceptual foundations of MFTs, and early and contemporary models of MFT, including evidence-based practice and the biopsychosocial perspective.</p>	<p>CMFT 5150 Foundational Family Theory</p> <p>CMFT 5151 Contemporary Family Theories</p>
<p><i>FCA 2: Clinical Treatment with Individuals, Couples and Families (Minimum of 6 Credits/8 quarter credits/90 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area facilitates students developing competencies in treatment approaches specifically designed for use with a wide range of diverse individuals, couples, and families, including sex therapy, same-sex couples, working with young children, adolescents and elderly, interfaith couples, and includes a focus on evidence-based practice. Programs must include content on crisis intervention.</p>	<p>CMFT 5160 Individual and Foundational Family Therapy Techniques</p> <p>CMFT 5161 Individual and Contemporary Family Therapy Techniques</p> <p>CMFT 5180 Therapy with Couples/Relationships</p>
<p><i>FCA 3: Diverse, Multicultural and/or Underserved Communities (Minimum of 3 Credits/4 quarter credits/45 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area facilitates students developing competencies in understanding and applying knowledge of diversity, power,</p>	<p>CMFT 6180 Family Issues: Multicultural Intersectional Systems through the Lifespan</p>

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<p>privilege and oppression as these relate to race, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability, health status, religious, spiritual and/or beliefs, nation of origin or other relevant social categories throughout the curriculum. It includes practice with diverse, international, multicultural, marginalized, and/or underserved communities, including developing competencies in working with sexual and gender minorities and their families as well as anti-racist practices.</p>	
<p><i>FCA 4: Research & Evaluation (Minimum of 3 Credits/4 quarter credits/45 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area facilitates students developing competencies in MFT research and evaluation methods, and in evidence-based practice, including becoming an informed consumer of couple, marriage, and family therapy research. If the program’s mission, goals, and outcomes include preparing students for doctoral degree programs, the program must include an increased emphasis on research.</p>	RSEM 5120 Intro to Research
<p><i>FCA 5: Professional Identity, Law, Ethics & Social Responsibility (Minimum of 3 Credits/4 quarter credits/45 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area addresses the development of a MFT Identity and socialization and facilitates students developing competencies in ethics in MFT practice, including understanding and applying the AAMFT Code of Ethics and understanding legal responsibilities.</p>	CMFT 5330 Professional Identity and Relational Ethics
<p><i>FCA 6: Biopsychosocial Health & Development Across the Life Span (Minimum of 3 Credits/4 quarter credits/45 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area addresses individual and family development, human sexuality, and biopsychosocial health across the lifespan.</p>	LDSF 6200 Lifespan Development CMFT 6000 Intro. to Sex Therapy
<p><i>FCA 7: Systemic/Relational Assessment & Mental Health Diagnosis and Treatment (Minimum of 3 Credits/4 quarter credits/45 clock hours)</i></p> <p>This area facilitates students developing competencies in traditional psycho-diagnostic categories, psychopharmacology, the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of major mental health issues as well as a wide variety of common presenting problems including addiction, suicide, trauma, abuse, intra-familial violence, and therapy for individuals, couples, and families managing acute chronic medical conditions, utilizing a relational/systemic philosophy.</p>	CMFT 6160 Advanced Family Assessment COUN 6250 Mental Health Diagnosis
<p><i>FCA 8: Contemporary Issues</i></p> <p>This area facilitates students developing competencies in emerging and evolving contemporary challenges, problems, and/or recent</p>	CMFT 6170 Addictions & Trauma in Family Systems

<p>developments at the interface of Couple or Marriage and Family Therapy knowledge and practice, and the broader local, regional, and global context. This includes such issues as immigration, technology, same-sex marriage, violence in schools, etc. These issues are to reflect the context of the program and the program’s mission, goals, and outcomes. Programs are encouraged to innovate in this Foundational Curricular Area.</p>	<p>CMFT 6000 Intro. to Sex Therapy</p>
<p><i>FCA 9: Community Intersections & Collaboration</i> This area facilitates students developing competencies in practice within defined contexts (e.g., healthcare settings, schools, military settings, private practice) and/or nontraditional MFT professional practice using therapeutic competencies congruent with the program’s mission, goals, and outcomes (e.g., community advocacy, psycho-educational groups). It also addresses developing competency in multidisciplinary collaboration.</p>	<p>CMFT 6140 Counseling/Therapy with Children, Adolescents & Their Parents.</p> <p>CMFT 5910 Practicum in Couple & Family Therapy</p> <p>CMFT 5911 Practicum in Couple & Family Therapy</p> <p>CMFT 5930 Internship in Couple and Family Therapy.</p>
<p><i>FCA 10: Preparation for Teletherapy Practice</i> This area facilitates the development of competencies in teletherapy. This may include such issues as emerging legal and ethical requirements, documentation, response to crises, awareness of the therapeutic space, joining, appropriate individual and systemic interventions (e.g., couples, play therapy), or other topics of importance to the context of the program and with diverse populations. Programs are encouraged to innovate in this FCA.</p>	<p>CMFT 5330 Professional Identity & Relational Ethics</p> <p>CMFT 5180 Therapy with Couples/Relationships</p> <p>CMFT 5910 Practicum in Couple & Family Therapy</p> <p>CMFT 5930 Internship in Couple and Family Therapy.</p>

C. AAMFT Code of Ethics: Standards

Standard 1.1 Marriage and family therapists provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status.

Standard 2.2 Marriage and family therapists do not disclose client confidences except by written authorization or waiver, or where mandated or permitted by law. Verbal authorization will not be sufficient except in emergency situations, unless prohibited by law. When providing couple, family

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or group treatment, the therapist does not disclose information outside the treatment context without a written authorization from each individual competent to execute a waiver. In the context of couple, family or group treatment, the therapist may not reveal any individual's confidences to others in the client unit without the prior written permission of that individual.

Standard 3.1 Marriage and family therapists pursue knowledge of new development and maintain competencies in marriage and family therapy through education, training, or supervised experiences.

Standard 3.2 Marriage and family therapists maintain adequate knowledge of and adhere to applicable laws, ethics, and professional standards.

D. AAMFTRB Examination Domains, Task Statements & Knowledge Statements

Domain 01: The Practice of Systemic Therapy

- 1.02 Maintain consistency between systemic theory and clinical practice.
- 1.03 Integrate individual treatment approaches within systemic treatment approaches.
- 1.04 Integrate multiple dimensions of diversity and social justice within a systemic treatment approach.

Domain 02: Assessing, Hypothesizing, & Diagnosing

- 2.01 Join with the client system to develop and maintain therapeutic alliance.
- 2.05 Assess how individual members of the client system perceive impacts of relational patterns on the presenting issues.

- 2.17 Assess the impact of the developmental stage of members of the client system and the family life cycle stage on presenting problem formation, maintenance, and resolution.

Domain 03: Designing & Conducting Treatment

- 3.04 Develop a treatment plan reflecting a contextual understanding of presenting issues.
- 3.08 Select therapeutic interventions based on theory and relevant research (individual, couple, group, and family).
- 3.23 Integrate client's cultural knowledge to facilitate effective treatment strategies.

Domain 04: Evaluating Ongoing Process & Terminating Treatment

- 4.01 Use theory and/or relevant research findings, including culturally relevant research findings, in the ongoing evaluation of process, outcomes, and termination.
- 4.05 Develop a plan in collaboration with client to maintain therapeutic gains after treatment has ended.

Domain 05: Managing Crisis Situations

- 5.01 Assess severity of crisis situation to determine if and what immediate interventions may be needed.

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5.17 Teach client techniques to manage crisis situations.

Domain 06: Maintaining Ethical, Legal, & Professional Standards

6.01 Integrate ethical codes of licensing boards, relevant professional organizations, and associations into professional practice.

6.12 Inform client of parameters of confidentiality and privileged communication to facilitate client's understanding of therapist's responsibility.

6.14 Consult with colleagues and other professionals as necessary regarding clinical, ethical, and legal issues and concerns.

Course content in all required courses covers one or more aspects of the program mission, goals, and student learning outcomes. Below is a list of courses that specifically include course assignments that aligned with program goals and student learning outcomes.

Program Goal	Student Learning Outcomes	Courses
<p>Program Goal #1 (Diversity): To train professionals who are committed to diversity and cultural responsiveness in relational/systemic therapy.</p>	<p>SLO #1: Students will demonstrate clinical competency in working in diverse settings and with diverse client populations.</p> <p>SLO#2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of multicultural conceptualization.</p>	<p>CMFT 6180: Family Issues: Multicultural Family Systems</p> <p>CMFT 6170: Family Issues: Addiction & Trauma in Family Systems</p> <p>CMFT 6000: Intro to Sex Therapy</p>
<p>Program Goal # 2 (Systemic knowledge & Practice): To prepare professionals who are competent in knowledge and clinical practice using relational/systemic therapy.</p>	<p>SLO# 3: Students will demonstrate their knowledge of family systems therapy theories.</p> <p>SLO# 4: Students will apply a systemic framework in their clinical practice.</p>	<p>CMFT 5150: Foundational Family Therapy Theories</p> <p>CMFT 5160: Foundational Family Therapy Techniques</p> <p>CMFT 5151: Contemporary Family Therapy Theories</p> <p>CMFT 5161: Contemporary Family Therapy Techniques</p> <p>CMFT 5180: Couples/Relationships Therapy</p> <p>CMFT 6140: Counseling Children, Adolescents & Their Parents</p> <p>CMFT 6000: Intro to Sex Therapy</p> <p>CMFT 5910: Practicum</p> <p>CMFT 5911: Practicum</p> <p>CMFT 5930: Internship</p>
<p>Program Goal # 3 (Research): To prepare professionals who are informed in family systems research.</p>	<p>SLO# 5: Students will develop a research proposal on topics related to family systems practice.</p> <p>SLO# 6: Students will learn to critically analyze common family systems assessments.</p>	<p>CMFT 6160: Advanced Family Assessment & Treatment in Family Systems</p> <p>CMFT 5180: Couples/Relationships Therapy</p>

<p>Program Goal # 4 (Ethics): To prepare professionals with knowledge and skills in legal and ethical practice of family systems therapy.</p>	<p>SLO# 7: Students will demonstrate an applied knowledge of MFT legal and ethical guidelines and professional standards.</p>	<p>CMFT 5330: Professional Identity & Relational Ethics CMFT 5910: Practicum CMFT 5911: Practicum CMFT 5930: Internship</p>
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PRACTICUM

ALL CFT COURSEWORK MUST BE SATISFACTORIALLY COMPLETED PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR PRACTICUM.

Practicum is a 6-credit hour course due to the intensity and required time commitment. In order to provide adequate client load and supervision for students, **Practicum enrollment will be limited each semester depending on expected client load at supervisory capacity at the primary practicum site. Students must apply to Practicum by completing an online pre-practicum application. Due dates are as follows:**

- Fall Practicum** applications are due by April 15
- Spring Practicum** applications are due by September 15
- Summer Practicum** applications are due by February 15

INTERNSHIP

The Internship for graduate students in the Couple and Family Therapy field is probably the most important and comprehensive professional experience in the Couple and Family Therapy program. The Internship is designed to allow students to apply skills and knowledge they have gained in a supervised setting comparable to their ultimate choice for a professional work setting. To ensure that the student's individualized career goals are met during the Internship experience, arrangements for the Internship are negotiated between the student, the on-site Internship supervisor, the Clinical Coordinator, and the student's supervising professor at the University of Colorado, Denver.

Prior to enrolling in the Internship, students must have successfully completed Practicum (CMFT 5910 & CMFT 5911).

A separate handbook with more detailed information about Practicum and Internship experiences is available to students on the CFT program webpage.

END OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students demonstrate extent of their knowledge and skills via completion of *one* of the following requirements:

- a. Master's capstone project
- b. Comprehensive exams
- c. Master's thesis

The Master's capstone project and Comprehensive exams are part of the second semester internship requirements (CMFT 5930). Details of both options are provided in the CMFT 5930 syllabus. An advanced copy may be obtained by emailing the Clinical Coordinator, Dr. Chélynn Randolph.

Students choosing master's thesis option must begin the process as early as possible in the program, given the time duration for its completion as noted below.

Thesis Option Guidelines

The CFT Program in the School of Education and Human Development *does not require a thesis*. However, students who are considering doctoral studies at some future point in time are encouraged to write a thesis under the supervision of a CFT program core faculty member.

Minimum eligibility requirements include:

- Successful completion of all core courses; consultation with thesis advisor should begin as soon as student is considering the thesis option
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Demonstrated ability to pursue research work, as evidenced by research papers developed in other Couple and Family Therapy Program coursework.
- Preliminary identification in discussion with student's faculty mentor of a thesis topic or area of interest
- Agreement from two CFT faculty members to serve on the thesis committee; the third required member can be another Couple and Family Therapy faculty member as well, or the third member can be an outside member (see below for requirements regarding outside members)

Process:

Eligible students will be expected to follow a prescribed process in completing the requirements of the thesis. An overview of the process is provided below. The Thesis Committee must have three members. The Thesis Committee can consist of a thesis advisor member, a minor member and an outside member (optional for third member to be outside member); the Committee may also comprise three members that are all Couple and Family Therapy Program Faculty. The thesis advisor must be a full-time member of the Couple and Family Therapy faculty; the second committee member may hold adjunct faculty status and the outside committee member may be a

faculty member of another department, school, or college at the University, at another University or an individual from the preferred community.

NOTE: Although the formal procedure entails application through the academic advisor, the student is encouraged to make informal contacts with appropriate subject-matter faculty to determine interest and availability.

Before the student will be allowed to enroll for thesis credit, the Thesis Committee must formally approve a written thesis proposal, which includes a thesis plan and a timetable for completion.

The thesis document will be prepared in accordance with CU Denver Graduate School's [Guidelines for Preparing Master's and Doctoral Theses](#), available from your Academic Services advisor.

1. **Consultation with Thesis/Faculty Advisor:** When a student is thinking about writing a thesis, they should contact their thesis/faculty advisor to establish whether or not the eligibility criteria are satisfied (see eligibility above) and to determine whether or not a thesis fits within the student's overall academic program. The following are included in the consultation:
 - a. Possible research topic
 - b. Approach to studying the research topic
 - c. Time frame for completion
 - d. Possible committee members

2. **Selection of Thesis Committee:** The purpose of the Thesis Committee is to:
 - a. Assist the student in completion of the thesis proposal
 - b. Formally approve the thesis proposal
 - c. Assist the student in implementing the thesis plan
 - d. Review drafts of the thesis; and
 - e. Approve the final copy of the thesis

The student should select a thesis advisor who is knowledgeable about the research topic. The thesis advisor must be a full-time member of the Couple and Family Therapy faculty. The student should be sure that the thesis advisor is interested in the topic, has time available, and is willing to assume advisor responsibilities. The thesis advisor will serve as Chairperson of the Thesis Committee.

In addition to the Thesis Advisor, the Thesis Committee includes one CFT faculty member, and a third committee member who may be another CFT faculty member or from outside the program who is a fully qualified researcher in the subject matter of interest. Qualifications of an outside member may include that the member hold a doctorate degree in Couple and Family Therapy or related area; qualifications of the outside member may be determined in consultation with student and student's thesis advisor. Adjunct Couple and Family Therapy faculty members and full or part-time faculty members in other academic units in SEHD and at CU-Denver are eligible.

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- 3. Development of Thesis Proposal:** After identifying a research topic, the student must prepare a thesis proposal. Please contact your thesis advisor or program director for details regarding the outline for the proposal.

Committee approval of the thesis proposal is obtained through an oral presentation of the proposal in collaboration and consultation with the Thesis Committee. University Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) approval process will be initiated after the Thesis Committee has approved the thesis proposal.

- 4. Conduct of Research:** If primary or secondary sources of data from participants are involved, data collection/analysis may begin only after COMIRB approval has been secured.
- 5. Preparation of Thesis Draft and final Thesis copy (in compliance with APA format):** With guidance from the Committee, the student prepares a thesis draft in accordance with the timetable. The student should expect that several drafts will typically be required before the Thesis Committee provides formal approval of thesis and final thesis oral defense process.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation upon completion of the course requirements is NOT automatic. Students are responsible for ensuring they have met all graduation requirements. Once registration is available for the semester students intend to graduate, including summer, they may apply for graduation online in the UCDAccess student portal. An application for graduation is due by Census Date for the semester that the student intends to graduate. Census date is available on the Academic Calendar at <https://www.ucdenver.edu/student/registration-planning/academic-calendars>.

Students who submit an online application for graduation and do not graduate that semester will need to submit another online application for the semester they plan to graduate. Graduation ceremonies (commencement) are held twice a year (May and December), at the completion of the spring and fall semester. Students graduating in summer may participate in the December ceremony.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Individuals in the Couple and Family Therapy profession who practice in the state of Colorado may seek licensure as marriage and family therapist. To aid students in planning their professional careers, the requirements of our couple and family therapy training program correlate with the educational and clinical requirements for licensure in Colorado. If a student adequately completes the courses required for graduation in the Couple and family therapy program, they will be well prepared to seek licensure in the state of Colorado. After graduation, students must still obtain additional clinical supervised experience. For LMFT licensure, students take the AMFRTB exam

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after graduation and complete post-masters clinical hours. For additional information on State of Colorado licensure requirements see the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies website: www.dora.state.co.us.

PROGRAM ENDORSEMENT POLICY

Only students who have completed the required plan of study for the Couple and Family Therapy program will be endorsed for credentialing as couple/marriage, family therapists, or recommended for positions as marriage, family and couples interns, or marriage, family and couples therapists.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) Licensure Requirements

Marriage and Family Therapists are licensed in all 50 states, although the designation and licensing requirements vary from state to state (please see https://www.aamft.org/Directories/MFT_Licensing_Boards.aspx for licensure requirements in all states). Within Colorado, the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA; <https://dpo.colorado.gov/MarriageFamilyTherapy>) oversees the licensing of all health care providers. University of Colorado Denver faculty will only endorse a student for licensure when they complete the degree requirements listed below or will endorse only those specific courses completed at UC Denver. In Colorado, an applicant for licensure as a **Marriage & Family Therapist (MFT)** must meet the following requirements:

Applicants must have completed a Master's or Doctoral program with a major in Marriage and Family Therapy or its equivalent in compliance with C.R.S. 12-43-504(1)(c) and 12-43-503. This means that the applicant obtained a Master's or Doctoral degree from a program that was approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) at the time of graduation, or an equivalency program.

The CU Denver couple and family program qualifies as a COAMFTE accredited program and meets the following criteria as outlined by DORA: a graduate degree from a regionally accredited program and the program included a supervised practicum/ internship appropriate to the practice of marriage and family therapy. The course work required for the MFT license application in Colorado includes:

- Marital and Family Studies (courses must equal 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)
- Marital and Family Therapy (courses must equal 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)
- Human development (courses must equal 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)
- Professional studies (course(s) must equal 3 semester or 4 quarter hours)
- Research (course(s) must equal 3 semester or 4 quarter hours)
- a minimum of 300 hours of supervised practicum/internship

In addition, applicants for an MFT license must complete the following:

- Post-graduation: → 2,000 overall clock hours of experience over a minimum of 24 months; 1,500 of those hours must be face-to-face direct client contact and 1,000 of those hours must be with couples and families for the purpose of diagnosis, assessment, and intervention.

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→ 100 supervision hours over a period of 24 months; 50 of those hours must be face-to-face, individual supervision and the remaining hours may be a combination of individual and group supervision.

- A passing score on the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board's (AMFTRB) Examination in Marital and Family Therapy (<https://amftrb.org/your-exam-roadmap/>).
- A passing score on the Colorado Jurisprudence Exam (As of August, 2024, this must be completed before applying for the MFT-C status after graduation to accrue hours towards licesure).

Important: Licensure requirements for MFTs vary in States across the country. If you are planning to practice in a different state other than Colorado, please consult the following resources to verify whether CU Denver's MA in CFT program's *educational and clinical* requirements are sufficient:

a. State authorization and professional licensure information through the University of Colorado, Denver offices: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/state-authorization>

b. Links to State-specific webpages though AAMFT:

https://www.aamft.org/AAMFT/BUILD_Your_Career/MFT_State_Provincial_Resources/Advocacy/State_Resources/MFT_State_Resources.aspx?hkey=261d7879-9d5b-4aa0-b60c-c15e82b8b095

GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

Financial Aid

A limited number of students receive financial aid through grants, loans, work-study programs, assistantships, and scholarships. The Financial Aid Office is in the Student Commons Building, Room 1107 (Lynx Central), 303.315.5969 or financialaid@ucdenver.edu.

Financial aid programs are offered at the federal and state levels. Programs are offered on a need and non-need basis. Financial aid applications must be submitted once every academic year. To apply, students need to submit the Fee Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the University of Colorado Denver Student Financial Aid Application, and several other documents. For specific information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Assistantships

The CFT program and the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver have a limited number of assistantships available for Master's candidates. Check the School of Education & Human Development website under News and Events, Employment Opportunities for a list of available assistantships. In addition, students may be employed as graduate assistants in other programs within and outside of the School of Education & Human

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Development. Research assistants are sometimes employed on funded research projects within the School and University.

Laurie Bond Memorial Scholarship

The Laurie Bond Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000.00/year is available to CFT students who have completed 30 hours in the program, who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better, and who can demonstrate the qualities and characteristics of Laurie Bond. Applications are open in the Fall semester. The award is made in January. Additional information is available on the School of Education & Human Development Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Tuition webpage.

List of Student Resources available at CU Denver

SEHD graduate student resources: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate>

Writing Center: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/graduate-education/services-resources/the-writing-center>

Library Services: <https://library.auraria.edu/>

Disability Resources & Services: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/disability-resources-and-services>

Delta Kappa Honor Society: Couple & Family Therapy

The University of Colorado Denver Couple and Family Therapy program is a chapter of Delta Kappa, the International Marriage & Family Therapy Honor Society.

Couple and Family Therapy students are strongly encouraged to participate and pursue membership in the Honor Society for Marriage and Family Therapists. See the following link for further information about Delta Kappa, its membership criteria, its activities, opportunities, and benefits for CFT students.

<http://www.deltakappamft.org/Home>

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

To enhance graduate education and set the foundation for full participation in the couple and family therapy profession, it is strongly recommended that all graduate students become members of the professional organizations or associations which represent their area(s) of special interest.

Most professional organizations offer reduced membership rates to students as well as the following benefits:

- Receipt of professional publications (journals and newsletters) published by the organization and divisions in which membership is held.
- Reduced registration fees for professional meetings (seminars, conventions, workshops) sponsored by the organization.
- Eligibility for member services (library resource use, legal defense funds and services, group liability insurance).
- Involvement with activities and issues, which are directly or indirectly pertinent to their profession (legislation and professional credentialing, including licensure, certification and program accreditation).
- Affiliation with other professionals having interests and areas of expertise similar to their own.

Most professional organizations have both regional and national affiliations. Students will be given information on how to join the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) at orientation sessions. Typically, students are required to obtain a faculty signature verifying student status in order to receive a student rate when joining any of these organizations.

International & National Organizations

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT, www.aamft.org)

American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA, <https://afta.org>)

International Family Therapy Association (IFTA, <https://www.ifta-familytherapy.org>)

European Family Therapy Association (EFTA, www.europeanfamilytherapy.eu)

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR, <https://www.ncfr.org>)

State Organizations

Rocky Mountain Family Therapy Network (<https://www.rockymountainfamilytherapy.network/>)

Licensure and Certification Organizations

Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB,

<https://www.amftrb.org>)

Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA, <https://dpo.colorado.gov/>)

LINKS TO OTHER RESOURCES

Information about the University of Colorado Denver, the School of Education & Human Development, and the Couple and Family Therapy program is available on-line. The home web address is: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academics/graduate/couple-family-therapy>.

Program Specific Resources for the Couple and Family Therapy program:
<https://education.ucdenver.edu/academic-services/student-resources/graduate/couple-family-therapy/>

The University of Colorado Denver Catalog is another source of information concerning the Couple and Family Therapy program. Students are encouraged review the Online Catalog at <http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/>.

COAMFTE Accreditation standards: <https://www.coamfte.org/>

INFORMED CONSENT

Couple and Family Therapy Program

University of Colorado Denver

As a student in the Couple and Family Therapy Program, you can expect to have a variety of didactic and experiential experiences that will comprise your degree path. This document helps you know in advance what to expect. By signing it, you are indicating you have been informed about aspects of the Couple and Family Therapy Program and are a willing participant in these learning processes. Please initial in the space next to each item and sign the statement at the bottom of the page.

1. I understand that the Couple and Family Therapy Program is committed to social justice and to its mission to increase awareness, knowledge and skills in multicultural and diversity competency. I understand that throughout my program I am expected to examine my cultural identity, and own biases and privilege. _____
2. I understand that I am expected to participate in personal therapy to improve my awareness of my own issues that may affect my ability to become an effective therapist. I understand I am entitled to counseling/therapy services under the same conditions as other University of Colorado Denver students receive on campus. This therapy is available to me at Regis University Counseling and Family Therapy Center at no cost. _____
3. I understand that I am expected to be involved in experiential activities that will require personal reflection. _____
4. I understand that I may be asked to disclose personal information about myself in the course of my training for the benefit of my own learning and that of my peers. I understand that I have the right to determine the content of my self-disclosures. _____
5. I understand that I will be receiving feedback and evaluation from faculty regarding my academic performance as well as my ethical and professional behavior. If I have concerns, questions about feedback, evaluation, or grades I agree to first discuss the issue with my instructor or the person providing the feedback. I also understand I may speak with the program director or Dean of the SEHD (if the problem is with the program director) for assistance in resolving difficulties I may be having with faculty members and or staff. I can also access the University's Ombuds person for assistance if I do not feel comfortable with the aforementioned option. _____
6. I understand that I must demonstrate competency in therapy skills and earn at least a B in all "skills" classes in order to move forward in the Couple and Family Therapy Program. _____
7. I understand that the Couple and Family Therapy Program has a monitoring process in which my professional characteristics will be evaluated on a regular basis. I understand if there are concerns about my academic, professional, or ethical performance I will be notified by my faculty mentor and will participate in a remediation plan. _____
8. I understand that there are limits to confidentiality such that faculty must ensure professional and ethical standards are maintained. I understand confidentiality may be breached when faculty members believe I have engaged in unethical or unprofessional behavior or when it seems likely I may inflict harm on myself or others. _____
9. I understand that I am responsible for finding my own internship site among those approved by the Couple and Family Therapy Program faculty. I understand a paid internship is not guaranteed and is unlikely. _____
10. I understand that if I wish to take more than 3 classes per semester, I must obtain permission from the full faculty, and that there is a process outlined in the Student Handbook. _____
11. I understand that I must apply to Practicum and Internship, with deadlines outlined in the Student Handbook. I also understand that due to space limitations, I may not be guaranteed a Practicum placement during the semester of my choosing. _____
12. I understand that the School of Education & Human Development has a Student Appeals Committee to which I can file a grievance if I believe a grade does not reflect my actual academic performance and I have not been able to come to a satisfactory solution with my instructor. _____
13. I understand that my course plan does not guarantee that I will be in a given class in a given semester. Factors such as low enrollments, instructor availability, etc. may cause a class to be cancelled, or I may be waitlisted and not granted access to a particular class. _____

I have read the above informed consent and understand its contents.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed July 2024.