Admission Requirements for the Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Admission to the Master’s program in Marriage and Family Therapy is made on a competitive basis.

Admission for the **Evening Track** occurs two times per year (Fall and Spring). All applications must be completed and received by March 1 for Fall admission of the following academic year and by November 1 for admission for the following Spring semester. Approximately twenty (20) students are accepted per each academic semester (Fall and Spring).

Admission for the **Weekend Cohort Track** occurs once per year (summer). All applications must be completed and received by March 1 for admission for the following summer semester. Approximately twenty (20) students are accepted for the cohort beginning the following summer.

The decision to admit a student into pre-candidacy status for the MFT program is based on the candidate's cumulative grade point average (GPA), recommendations by persons able to judge the candidate’s aptitude for success in the profession, and a personal statement as to the candidate’s personal background and motivation for entering the MFT field (see below).

The admission standard for this program requires a minimum of **2.70** combined undergraduate and previous graduate GPA (of at least a 3.00 for graduate work) based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00. Students with grade point averages between 2.40 and 2.69 may appeal their denials for admission. Conditional admission may be considered on a space-available basis. All students who are accepted into the department are initially granted pre-candidacy status and are assigned an academic advisor. The advisor will orient the student regarding prerequisites, course scheduling, potential course transfers and substitutions, and the planned program of study. Pre-candidacy status allows the student to begin taking classes (see below).

**Candidates for initial admission will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:**

1. **Grade point average:** Minimum 2.70 grade point average (GPA) based on a 4.00 point scale where A is 4.00

2. **Three recommendations** from individuals able to attest to the student's suitability as a prospective Marriage and Family Therapist

3. **Personal essay** regarding the applicant’s motivation and readiness to pursue a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Candidates will be asked to respond to the following questions (three to five pages maximum, double-spaced):

   a. Personal and professional experiences and reasons that influenced you to pursue the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.

   b. Personal characteristics you believe will contribute to your success as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

   c. Please comment on your view regarding the importance of your engaging in a personal therapy experience as part of becoming a marriage and family therapist.

   d. **If applying for the Weekend Cohort Track:** A statement that explains your reasons for opting for the Weekend Cohort Track and your ability to commit to a weekend-based cohort program.

**MFT PRE-CANDIDACY AND DEGREE CANDIDACY**

To qualify for Degree Candidacy, students must complete the prerequisite courses (CNSL 500, CNSL 501, and MFT 505 or PSY 512) and MFT 541, achieving a grade of B or better in each course and receive favorable ratings on the "Attitudes and Attributes" scale by instructors for CNSL 501 and MFT 541. On fulfillment of these requirements, students meet with their advisors to complete their Planned Programs of Study and the Application for Degree Candidacy. These documents are submitted to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for final approval and acceptance into the program as Degree Candidates. Any Student who does not meet the criteria for degree candidacy (as specified above) is not permitted to continue in the program and will receive a dismissal letter.