

3/16/11

**Texas Woman's University
College of Professional Education
Department of Family Sciences**

MS in Family Therapy

Admissions Process

The admissions procedure begins with making application to the Graduate School of TWU (details on TWU website). The student must have completed a bachelor's degree with at least a 3.25 GPA on the last 60 hours of work. Once Graduate Admissions has approved the application and forwarded it to the Department of Family Sciences and the student's Letter of Intent has been received by mail by the deadline (Feb. 15 or Sept. 15), the student is invited to the Applicant Interview Day. This day includes writing an essay, a therapist-client role play, and a small group interview with faculty. Acceptance into the program may be unconditional or provisional for the next long semester following this Applicant Interview Day.

Philosophy of the Family Therapy Programs

The Family Therapy Programs use a systemic approach that conceptualizes problems as located within the relationships and interactions between people rather than only within the individual(s). We are interested in the multiple systems within which all people live and the recursive connections between them. Our program is committed to providing an open context that promotes equality, social tolerance, and the right to express different points of view. We actively seek enrichment through the strength, power, and wisdom of diversity.

Master's Program Course Requirements

The program requires 57 semester hours of coursework. Clinical coursework includes at least 3 semesters of Internship in Family Therapy (totaling 300 hours of therapy, 150 hours of which is with couples and families), a time commitment of at least 20 hours per week each semester. The student must apply in advance each semester for an internship section assignment. Students must select, interview with, and be accepted to work with clients at an approved community agency in the area, the Counseling and Family Therapy Clinic (CFTC) on campus, or other approved site for internship.

Thesis or Non-thesis Option

- The student who chooses the Thesis Option will design, conduct, write, and defend a thesis under the direction of the major advisor. The student will enroll in at least 2 semesters of Thesis with the major advisor and work closely with him/her. The thesis option involves conducting original research that will contribute to knowledge in the field of family therapy and help to move the profession forward.
- The student selecting the Non-Thesis Option will take 6 semester hours of courses approved by the members of the student's advisory committee.

Final Examination in Family Therapy

Family Therapy students will sit for and pass the Family Therapy Final Examination during the last semester of their program. Students must apply for the exam in advance and pass it with a score of 70% or above in order to graduate.

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Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

The master's program contains the coursework needed to apply to take the exam in Texas for licensing as a Marriage and Family Therapist. After passing the national exam, the graduate may be licensed as an LMFT-Associate and will be required to complete 3000 hours of family therapy under supervision by a state-approved supervisor before being fully licensed as an LMFT.

The website for the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage & Family Therapists details the requirements for licensure and the application process.

The Advisory Committee

A major advisor, one of the family therapy faculty members, will be assigned to the student when she or he is accepted for admission into the program. The advisor helps the student plan coursework every semester and answers questions the student may have. If at any point the student wishes to change advisors, another faculty member may be asked to serve and a Change of Advisor Form completed and submitted to the FS office. The student's committee, composed of the major advisor and 2 other professors (at least one of whom must be from the family therapy faculty) is selected by the student in consultation with the major advisor. *Before completion of 12 semester hours of coursework*, the student works with the major advisor to prepare the degree plan, a form setting forth the coursework for the degree. All the committee members must approve and sign the degree plan, which is submitted to the FS office.

Department of Family Sciences

Our Department of Family Sciences includes the Counseling & Development, Family Studies, Early Childhood Development & Education, and Family Therapy components, providing a variety of faculty disciplines and perspectives to our students. Texas Woman's University truly celebrates diversity as we are enriched by students of differing physical ability, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, and socioeconomic status, among other differences. Our department offers opportunities for students to enhance professionalism through membership in a variety of student organizations. Family Therapy students are expected to become student members in our campus organization Student Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and to join the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy <www.aamft.org> as student members. We also encourage student attendance at AAMFT and TAMFT Annual Conference and other family therapy and family sciences workshops and seminars.

Additional information can be found in the TWU Catalog and TWU Student Handbook.