

## Educational Effectiveness – Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

### **Program Goals**

PG1 To graduate students prepared with clinical and theoretical tools to provide individual, couple and family therapy as entry-level professional MFT practitioners.

PG2 To graduate students who demonstrate cultural competence and are able to provide individual, couple and family therapy with diverse clients.

PG3 To graduate students with an entry-level professional ability to reflect theologically/spiritually on their clinical practice in a multi-faith world

PG4 To graduate students with commitments to service, advocacy and public participation as an MFT.

Program Goals are measured by the following mechanisms and benchmarks.

### **Program Goal 1**

- **Passing the MFT Program Exit Examination.** This documents mastery of the fundamental body of knowledge in marriage and family therapy and pastoral counseling.
  - Benchmark established by the MFT Program Faculty: 100% of graduates will pass the Exit Examination with a score of 70 or above.
  - Results: All forty-six graduates in academic years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 passed this exam. Average score for 2015-2016 graduates was 79. Average score for 2016-2017 graduates was 93. Average score for 2017-2018 was 92. Average score for 2018-2019 was 97. Average score for 2019-2020 was 81 (pandemic year). Average score for 2020-2021 was 80.
- **Successful completion of the Senior Integration Experience.** This evaluation procedure documents that a student has successfully presented an example of their work in an interdisciplinary context (which includes an outside reviewer) that shows entry-level clinical skills, theological reflection skills, pastoral formation appropriate to an entry-level pastoral counselor and marriage and family therapist, and the ability to integrate the basic body of pastoral counseling and marriage and family therapy knowledge.
  - Benchmark established by the MFT Program Faculty: 80% of seniors will pass the Senior Integration Experience with an average rubric score “acceptable” or better in each rubric category.
  - Results: All students graduating in academic years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 successfully completed the SIE.

- **Graduates who desire MFT licensure are able to obtain state licensing.**
  - Benchmark established by the MFT Program Faculty: 80% of graduates who opt for state licensing and take the AMFTRB exam within two years of graduation will pass the exam on the first administration.
  - Results: Review of 2015-2016 graduates (9) show that six graduates have been licensed as Marriage and Family Therapists in Kentucky or Indiana and three are licensed as Marriage and Family Therapy Associates. Five of the 2016-2017 graduates (7) have obtained LMFT status in Kentucky and one in Tennessee. One obtained license in Kentucky as a Marriage and Family Therapist Associate. One is receiving additional training in a religious field. Nine individuals graduated in 2017-2018. Three have obtained LMFT status in Kentucky and two have obtained Marriage and Family Therapy Associate status. One individual is completing Ph.D. work. Two graduates are working in a religious context and are not seeking licensure. Four of the six 2018-2019 graduates have obtained Associate and one has obtained LMFT status. One graduate has obtained employment outside of the therapy field. The 2019-2020 graduates (5) considered future goals in light of the pandemic. Three have obtained Associate MFT licensure in Kentucky. One graduate is seeking licensure in another state. One graduate will incorporate her MFT skills into her work as an art therapist. Some members of the 2020-2021 graduating class (12) are seeking Associate licensure. Others will continue their work in a religious field.

**Program Goal 2**

- **Student representation of cultural, racial and ethnic identity, and sexual orientation.** The MFT assumes that a fundamental anchor of this program goal is experienced by diversity within the student body. This diversity enriches the overall academic experience. The 2015-2016 student body included 25 females and 6 males of which 24 identified as white/non-Hispanic, 4 as African American, 1 as Latino/Hispanic, and 2 as non-resident aliens (Turkey and Korea). Ages ranged from 24 to 65 years. The 2016-2017 student body included 21 females and 5 males of which 19 were White/non-Hispanic, 3 were African-American, 1 was Latino/Hispanic, 2 were non-resident aliens (Turkey and Korea) and 1 identified as multi-ethnic. Ages ranged from 22 to 66 yrs. The 2017-2018 student body included 20 females and 5 males. These individuals identified as White/non-Hispanic (20), African American (5). They ranged in age from 22 years to 67 years. The 2018-2019 MFT student body included 20 females and 5 males of which 20 were white/non-Hispanic and 5 were African American. They ranged in age from 23 to 66 years. The 2019-2020 MFT student body included 26 females and 6 males. Members of this cohort identified as 10 African American, 21 white/non-Hispanic and 1 multi-racial. They ranged in age from 24 to 67 years. The 2020-2021 MFT student body included 27 females and 7 males. One member of this cohort identified as German, 12 identified as African American, 1 as multi-racial, and 20 identified as white/non-Hispanic. Ages ranged from 22 to 55 years.

- **Benchmark established by the MFT Program Faculty:** 80% of graduating students will score “Expected” or better in Senior Integration Experience rubric areas covering SLO 4 (graduating students will be able to use a multi-contextual approach to Marriage and Family Therapy that attends appropriately to religious, cultural, racial, economic, gender, and sexual orientation diversity in client, client-therapist, supervisory, and broader social systems).
- **Results:** Data shows that 75% of students scored expected or above in academic year 2013-2014. This fell below the 80% benchmark. The faculty reviewed data and initiated changes in curriculum to strengthen this SLO and meet Program Goals. The benchmark was met in academic years 2014-2020. Percentage of students scoring expected or above—2014-15, 100%; 2015-2016, 86%; 2016-17, 100%; 2017-18, 100%, 2018-2019, 100%, 2019-2020, 100%; 2020-2021, 100%.

### **Program Goal 3**

- Benchmark established by the MFT Program Faculty: 80% of graduating seniors will pass the Senior Integration Experience Senior Integration Experience in areas covering SLO 3 with a score of “acceptable” or better.
- Benchmark established by the MFT Program Faculty: 80% of alumni surveyed within three years of will rate their own preparation to reflect theologically on their work and the theories that inform their professional practice as “good” (3 on a scale 1-5) or better.
- **Results:** Percentage of students scoring expected or above on Senior Integration Experience—2014-15, 100%; 2015-2016, 86%; 2016-17, 100%; 2017-18, 100%; 2018-2019, 100%; 2019-2020 100%; 2020-2021, 100%.

Percentage of alums rating “good” or better their preparation to reflect theologically on work and the theories that inform their professional practice – 2014-2015, 100%, 2015-2016, 100%. 2016-2017, 100%. 2017-2018 graduates to be surveyed this year.

### **Program Goal 4**

- This Program Goal was established by the MFT Program faculty in academic year 2018-19. Data will be collected and analyzed beginning in academic year 2019-2020.
- **Results:** Data collected included scores on rubric for Sections VI and VII of the SIE. 100% of graduating students scored “Meets Expectations” on sections VI and VII of the SIE. Data point added in 2021: 80% of students will score “Meets Expectations” on the Sphere of Influence Final Project in PC 3173. No data for analysis at this time.