Master’s Degree Program in
Marriage and Family Therapy

2014-2015

Mercy College
555 Broadway
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

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1-800-MERCY-NY
http://www.mercy.edu
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About Mercy College

Mercy College is a comprehensive college offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Founded in 1950 by the Sister of Mercy, the College became independent in 1969. The guiding principles of the College are: service to the community through the education of both traditional and non-traditional students; reliance on the liberal arts and sciences as the foundation of education; and dedication to teaching and the advancement of knowledge. Mercy College encourages self-discovery and personal and social responsibility in a supportive learning environment in which students are challenged to live a life enhanced by the spirit of inquiry. The College encourages students to appreciate the natural and artistic realms, to grasp the complexity of moral issues, to recognize the significance of technologies and to understand human differences in culture, gender and race.

For over 50 years, Mercy College has provided a quality education to students who have the motivation and the dream of a better life, regardless of their cultural background or economic status. Many degree programs are offered at campuses in Dobbs Ferry, Bronx, White Plains, Yorktown, Manhattan and through a virtual campus on the internet. Courses are also held at eight extension centers in Westchester County and New York City, close to those communities where our students live.

Offering over 90 graduate, undergraduate and pre-professional degree programs, Mercy is one of New York’s largest independent institutions of higher education, with an enrollment of 10,000 students. Scholarship assistance is provided to more than 80% of the students.

Mercy Celebrates and takes strength from its diversity. The student body is 35% Latino/Latina, 31% African-American, 31% Caucasian and 3% Asian-American. Over 100 different countries are represented by students who attend the school.

Mercy College is committed to the proposition that students who are motivated to learn will not be denied an education strictly due to financial concerns. Financial assistance to graduate students at Mercy College is funded by the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. This program makes two types of loans available to students attending school for at least half time: Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans. A student qualifies for a Direct Subsidized Loan based on financial needs as determined by federal regulations. However, financial need is not a factor in determining eligibility for a direct unsubsidized loan.

Mercy is one of the most affordable four-year private colleges in the state. Mercy is still able to draw upon a dedicated and inspired faculty to maintain small class sizes and personalized attention. At Mercy, it’s not about who you are – but who you want to be, and how hard you are willing to work to achieve your goals.
Master’s Degree Program in Marriage and Family Therapy

M.S. M.F.T.

(Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy)

Program Contacts

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Purpose

The purpose of the 45-credit Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Program is to provide a comprehensive education in Marriage and Family Therapy through a course of studies designed to meet the educational requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist in New York State. Graduates of the Marriage and Family Therapy program are eligible to seek initial employment towards meeting the 1,500 hours of client contact experience required for licensure. According to the laws regulating Marriage and Family Therapy licensure, graduates will have up to four years after graduation from the master's degree program to meet the 1,500 hour experience requirement and pass a licensure qualifying examination to complete licensure requirements.

Students in the Marriage and Family Therapy Masters Program will learn the intellectual content of the major models in Contemporary Couple and Family Therapy, as well as how to apply these with couples and families in clinical practice. Complementing this, students will learn individual and group therapies, as well as how to work collaboratively with larger systems and communities.

Objectives/Expectations

Graduates of the Program are expected:

1. To identify relationship dilemmas of individuals, partners/spouses, parents, children, extended family members, and employers from a family systems perspective; and to promote meaningful solutions.

2. To provide family- systems oriented psychotherapies to help individuals, couples and families facing a range of difficulties, including couple and family interaction, children’s problems, mental illness, substance abuse, and family violence, and to collaborate with educational, foster care, adoption, legal agencies or other larger systems on behalf of families.

3. To work effectively with diverse couples and families, including ethnic, racial and religious diversity, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender couples and family members.

4. To work effectively and intergenerationally across all stages of the family life cycle.

5. To meet the qualifications for employment in a variety of professional settings including but not limited to, agency and hospital settings as well as private practice.
6. To effectively assess and intervene in family interaction problems that may stem from social or health care issues including managing chronic and/or life-shortening illness.

7. To write clearly and effectively, both for graduate level papers in American Psychological Association style, and for clinical paperwork requirements in internship settings.

8. To accrue 300+ clinical hours conducting individual, couple, group and family therapy in a community placement.

9. To demonstrate the skills and competencies required for New York State licensure and to complete the licensure examination successfully.

Admissions Requirements

Requirements for admission and matriculation include:

1. A completed application for Admission with the nonrefundable fee ($40)

2. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university

3. Applicants for admission to graduate study **must hold a bachelor’s degree with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher** from an accredited American college or university, or the equivalent degree from a foreign college or university. Rarely, applicants with a lower average may be considered for admission with special parameters based on professional experience. Students with a lower average may be admitted as a “special matriculant,” which will require that the student take six credits of coursework to demonstrate the ability to maintain a 3.0 average in the program. Students must have taken **at least one course in Statistics** at the undergraduate or graduate level, and receive a B or above.

4. **Two (2) detailed written** letters of recommendation from instructors in the major area of study or professional contacts. One letter must be from a professor.

5. A 5 page essay on the applicant’s reasons for pursuing the master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Shorter essays will not be accepted. The essay should detail:
   A. Why the applicant wants to be in the MFT program
   B. What personal and professional attributes the applicant brings to this endeavor
   C. The applicant’s career goals
This essay should reflect the applicant’s knowledge of what the field of MFT involves, include specific ideas and demonstrate the good writing skills required in graduate school.

6. An up-to-date Resume. Experience in Human/Social Services/Mental Health. When an applicant does not have experience in Human/Social Services, he/she will be required to do volunteer work in an agency setting 3 hours a week for the first semester.

7. A copy of the student’s Immunization Records.

8. Interview with the Program Director; will be scheduled by the department once all other documents have been received. This interview is a major part of the application process.

9. An Assessment of Admission by the specific program director or designee. All applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English. The evaluation must measure reading, writing, speaking and an understanding of the spoken language at a level appropriate for graduate studies. Proficiency will be determined by a standardized test such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a test(s) approved by the dean of Graduate Studies.

Application Procedures

An application form and general information regarding the Master in Marriage and Family Therapy may be obtained from the Admission Office at 1-800-MERCY-NY or online at https://www.mercy.edu/admissions/onlineapp.cfm?app_type=graduate

Each applicant must submit the following:
- Paper based or On-line application
- Signature page (for on-line applications only)
- $40 non-refundable application fee (check or money order)
- Official transcripts from all colleges, universities, technical/vocational schools and nursing schools
- At least two letters of recommendation (forms are also available online)
- 4-5 page Goal Statement/Personal Essay
- Up-to-date Resume
- Immunization Records

Send application materials to:
Mercy College
Admissions Processing Department
555 Broadway
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
Upon submission of all required documents, the applicant will be invited to an interview with the Program Director or her designee.

Qualified applicants will be admitted to the program and assigned to an advisor after consideration of all submitted documents and the admissions interview.

### Program Costs*

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<tr>
<th>Graduation Tuition</th>
<th>Marriage and Family Therapy (Psychology)</th>
<th>$814.00 per credit</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Registration Fee</strong></td>
<td>12 credits or more</td>
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<td>Less than 12 credits</td>
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<td><strong>Transcript Fee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>International Student Fee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Change of Program Fee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reinstatement of Cancelled Registration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Returned Check or Credit Card Fee</strong></td>
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For inquiries concerning Financial Aid, please visit on the web:  
http://www.mercy.edu/admissions/finaid  
Call: 1-888-464-6737  
Or Email: finaid@mercy.edu

Master of Marriage and Family Therapy

Degree Requirements
The 45-credit Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Degree is organized as follows:

- Human Development 3 credits
- Knowledge of Clinical Theory and Practice 21 credits
- Family Law 3 credits
- Research 3 credits
- Professional Ethics 3 credits
- Practica 9 credits
- Capstone 3 credits

Total 45 credits

Curriculum
Every Course is 3 Credits
- PSYN 602 Development across the Lifespan
- PSYN 605 Contemporary Couples Therapy: Theory and Practice
- PSYN 614 Introduction to Consultation and Family/Community Mental Health
- PSYN 616 Statistics and Research Methodology I
- PSYN 625 Domestic Violence: Cognitive Behavioral Approaches to Family Treatment
- PSYN 640 Practicum I
- PSYN 641 Practicum II
- PSYN 642 Practicum III
- PSYN 644 Group Experience
- PSYN 653 Family Systems Assessment
- PSYN 654 Psychopathology
- PSYN 656 Family Law
- PSYN 657 Contemporary Family Therapy
- PSYN 665 Professional Issues and Ethics
- PSYN 710 Capstone: Clinical Research Project

Schedule/Availability of Program
The program is designed to accommodate the schedules of employed students. All courses are offered in the afternoon and evenings. Internship requires daytime availability – Two full days per week.

Generally classes are offered Monday through Thursday at 4:15pm to 7:05pm and/or 7:15pm to 10:05 pm. Summer courses are at 5:1, except for Family Law, which is at 6 pm.
The MFT program is offered on a semester basis (Fall, Spring and Summer). Students may take anywhere between one and three classes per semester. Each class is worth three credits. Full time students may register for up to 9 credits per semester. Part-time students may register for either 3 or 6 credits per semester. Special permission of the Program Director is required to take 12 credits and only after the first semester.

**Suggested Schedule**

While students may choose to take classes based on the times they are offered and what will fit best with one’s schedule, there are pre-requisite courses and a recommended order for the clinical courses. See below for courses which must be taken before internship. Also it is important to note that the availability of classes can change semester to semester.

**IMPORTANT** Scheduling Notes:
- Practicum I (PSYN 640) is only offered in the Fall Semester
- Practicum II (PSYN 641) is only offered in the Spring Semester.
- Practicum III (PSYN 642) is only offered in the Summer Semester
- **To register for Practicum I (PSYN 640)** you must have taken at least 21 credits, which must include: Group Experience (PSYN 644), Family Systems Assessment (PSYN 653), Psychopathology (PSYN 654) and Professional Issues and Ethics (PSYN 665). It is recommended that you already take either Contemporary Family Therapy (PSYN 657) or Contemporary Couple Therapy before internship. Whichever of these two you do not take before internship should be taken in the fall semester, concurrent with PSYN 640.
- Students must contact the Director of Clinical Placements, Professor Glickman, **no later than Feb 1st** for acceptance in to Practicum I. Additionally, there will be a mandatory meeting for all students interested in Practicum at the end of January each year.

The following is a suggested 2-year plan. Your specific plan will be worked out with your advisor.

**Year 1**

*Fall Semester:*
PSYN 644 – prerequisite for 640  
PSYN 656 or 614  
PSYN 653 – prerequisite for 657  
and 605 and 640

*Spring Semester:*
PSYN 605 or 657  
PSYN 654 – prerequisite for 640  
PSYN 614 or 656

*Summer Semester:*
PSYN 665 – prerequisite for 640

**Year 2**

*Fall Semester:*
PSYN 640  
PSYN 605 or 657  
PSYN 602
Spring Semester:
PSYN 625
PSYN 641
PSYN 710

Summer Semester:
PSYN 642

Time Limit
Requirements for the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy must be completed within five years from the date of the candidate’s admission (exclusive of time spent in the Armed Forces). Exceptions will be made only if a student requests an extension of time in writing and in advance and receives the approval of the director.
PRACTICUM INTERNSHIP AND SPECIFICS

Acceptance for internship is determined by the Program Director and the Director of Clinical Placement. For **300 clinical hours, you must have 2 full daytime days available.** While we can occasionally find a site with one day and two evenings or a Saturday, we cannot guarantee this. **Practicum I will be offered only in the Fall semester, Practicum II will only be offered in the Spring semester, and Practicum III will only be offered in the Summer Semester.** The purpose of this is to align with the normal and expected practices of most clinical internship sites who offer a September – August training experience.

Students **may not use their employment for their internship site.** Occasionally a student may organize a separate department with totally separate supervision at their employment site for their internship, with permission from the Program Director and Director of Clinical Placements.

For each Practicum, 200 hours at the practicum site must be accumulated in order to pass the class. This means you will be at your site approximately 15 hours or two full days a week. Thus, after the three semesters of practicum, the student will have 600 hours total. **300 of those 600 hours must be direct client contact hours.** No student is able to graduate without 300 clinical hours.

For Practicum I, 75 of the 200 hours must be direct client contact hours.
For Practicum 2, 125 of the 200 hours must be direct client contact hours.
For Practicum 3, 100 of the 200 hours must be direct client contact hours.

All interns must remain at their site seeing cases during the January break between semesters, and during the late May break between semesters. Clinics and hospitals do not close down during university breaks and your clients must be seen.

To plan for taking Practicum I in the Fall Semester, you must receive approval from Professor Glickman, Director of Clinical Placements. **You must contact her by February 1st, the semester prior to taking Practicum – no exceptions.** This means if you are planning to take Practicum I in the Fall of 2015, you must notify Professor Glickman no later than February 1st, 2015.

**No student is allowed to set up their own placement as we work with sites under Affiliation Agreements with Mercy College that meet requirements of the NY State Department of Education. You may wish to be at your internship site more hours than 2 full days per week. You must NOT arrange a second site on your own. You must receive permission from Professor Glickman and Professor Imber-Black following a successful first semester in internship.**

In rare circumstances, a student is asked to leave the internship site due to lack of adequate clinical skills. **This will result in dismissal from the Marriage and Family Therapy program.**
Practicum I, Practicum II and Practicum III will be taken consecutively, fall for Practicum I, spring for Practicum II, and summer for Practicum III at the same placement.

To qualify for Practicum I, each student must have completed 21 credits, and have been in the program for at least one year (3 semesters). In addition, the following courses are required pre-requisites:

- PSYN 644 Group Experience
- PSYN 653 Family Lifestyle Assessment
- PSYN 654 Psychopathology
- PSYN 665 Professional Issues and Ethics
- You are strongly urged to take PSYN 657 or 605 before you begin Practicum I. Whichever course you do not take should be taken during the same semester as Practicum I. These are two critically important clinical courses.

Professor Elissa Glickman, Director of Clinical Placements
Contact Info:
Phone Number: 914-674-7737 Email: eglickman@mercy.edu

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Transfer Credits

Graduate courses taken at other institutions prior to admission at Mercy College may, if pertinent to the plan of study, be credited to the graduate degree. Permission to transfer credits must be requested in writing at the time of admission and official transcripts and course descriptions must be submitted to the Program Director for evaluation. Transfer credit will be granted only for courses taken in the five year period prior to acceptance in the Mercy College Program and for courses in which the student earned a grade of “B” or above. Students may request transfer credit for up to six credits. Course with a grade of “B-” are not acceptable for transfer.

Maintenance of Good Academic Standing

Completing the Marriage and Family Therapy program is NOT automatic. Students MUST maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0, and a grade of B or better in every class. The cumulative GPA for both good academic standing and degree conferral is a 3.00. If the academic average falls below 3.00 the student will be placed on academic probation and have one semester to bring the GPA back to this level. If the student receives a grade below a B -, they will be required to re-take that course. For grades below a B for a course, the student must immediately contact the Program Director, Dr. Evan Imber-Black.

A grade of F in any course results in dismissal from the program.

If a student is admitted in to the program with less than 3.0 undergraduate GPA, they are considered a Special Matriculant. A Special Matriculant is required to achieve a 3.00 average or better after completing 6 credits in the MFT program. Grades are subject to review by the faculty advisor and program director at the end of each term.
Academic Probation

All students who have a cumulative GPA of below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation. If a student will not be able to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 within a reasonable time, the student will be dismissed from the program. If a student receives a grade of “F” or “FW” in any course the student is subject to dismissal from the College. For all students on probation, future registrations must be reviewed and approved by the director of the student’s program as well as the graduate Dean. In all subsequent terms in which the student is on probation the student is required to achieve a term GPA of 3.00 or better. If the 3.00 or higher is not achieved the student will be dismissed. Students who receive a grade of less than “B-” will be required to repeat the course. Students will be allowed to repeat a course only once.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

All written work containing information that is not original must be cited and referenced, using the Style Manual of the American Psychological Association. This includes both direct quotes and summaries of the work of others. Any paper presenting the ideas or writings of someone else as if they were one’s own is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism includes the appropriation of words or ideas of another person without recognition of the source. Professors will use all resources to verify originality and authenticity, including electronic systems of verification. When plagiarism is determined, a grade of F will be given for the assignment and for the course, and will result in dismissal from the MFT program.

Any student who plagiarizes will receive an F in the course and will be dismissed from the program.

The faculty is here to support your success in the program. Students should utilize both MFT faculty and Graduate PASS for completion of papers. If a student is told to use the services of Graduate Pass, he/she must do so.

Maintenance of Matriculation

It is expected that students will fulfill the requirements for their graduate degree by registering over successive sessions. For cohort programs, registration is required during summer session(s). For non-cohort programs, summer registration is not required. Registration is accomplished by either enrolling in classes or Maintaining Matriculation. The Maintaining Matriculation fee is $100 per session and is processed as a registration. Students who have not maintained matriculation and wish to return to their program within one year after their last course will be charged the Maintaining Matriculation fee of $100 for each missed session. Maintenance of Matriculation without attending classes is limited to one year. Activated U.S. Military Reservists are not required to pay the Maintenance of Matriculation fee.
Capstone and Capstone Advisement

All students must register for Capstone during the second semester of internship (Spring semester). There are no exceptions.

Capstone may be completed either with an individual mentor, or in a small (8 student) seminar offered on a first come-first-served basis. Faculty mentors are readily available. The mentorship relationship must be initiated and negotiated by the student with a faculty member. A list of available faculty will be provided.

Students will be provided the directions for completing capstone. All capstones are based on demonstrating both scholarly and clinical knowledge of a model of Family Therapy of the student’s choosing, in collaboration with a faculty mentor. The capstone is approximately 60 to 75 pages in excellent written English and includes an oral presentation.

All Capstone students shall make satisfactory progress with their program’s culminating activity. After the student registers for their Capstone requirement, he/she will be given one subsequent term to complete their work. The Maintaining Matriculation registration must be completed for this subsequent term if no other courses are taken. After this period, a Capstone Continuation fee (equal to the cost of one graduate credit) will be charged for each additional term required to complete the project. Students can only register for Capstone Continuation for two terms. A student’s degree will not be released until all Maintaining Matriculation and Capstone Continuation registration and fees are recorded appropriately on a student’s record.

Degree Requirements
A 3.00 cumulative GPA is required and successful completion of 45 graduate credits including PSYN 710, Clinical Research Project. Students must also take the Child Abuse Seminar offered by Mercy College before graduating. The Child Abuse Seminar is a one-time two-hour seminar that is offered every semester.

Workshop requirements
All Marriage and Family Therapy students must attend one workshop in couple or family therapy per semester, in addition to regular coursework. Information regarding available workshops will be provided. Proof of attendance must be submitted to the program Graduate Assistant.
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Please note all prerequisites here

PSYN 602 Development Across the Lifespan
(May be taken online or in person)
A consideration of human development and behavior throughout the life span: childhood, adolescence, and the adult years; emphasis on normal growth and development focusing on both the critical issues involved for the individual as well as the family in each stage of development. 3 credits.

PSYN 605 Contemporary Couples Therapy: Theory and Practice
(Must be taken in person – NOT OFFERED ONLINE)
Prerequisite: PSYN 653
This course will provide Master’s students in Marriage and Family therapy with an in-depth examination of contemporary theories and practices in couple therapy. Couple assessment and intervention across the life cycle, including formation, early marriage, parenthood, mid-marriage and aging couples will be studied. Couple dissolution, separation, divorce, and re-marriage will be examined from the viewpoint of the work of the practicing family therapist. Couple issues including commitment, decision-making, conflict, gender differences, sexuality, infertility, intergenerational relationships, work, money, migration, illness, affairs, physical violence, and death of a spouse will be addressed in a family systems context and contemporary “best practice” models of Couple Therapy. 3 credits.

PSYN 614 Introduction to Consultation and Family/Community Mental Health
(Must be taken in person – NOT ONLINE – NOTE – this course is offered online for Mental Health Counseling students – not for MFT)
This course provides students with an introduction to three of the major foci within the field of community psychology: prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation from a systems perspective. It will cover historical trends in community mental health, family interventions, methods of building psychological health, social systems analyses and modification, support systems and coping mechanisms, skill training, the process of implementing community-based programs and community mobilization, community, research, and the role of paraprofessionals and other community helpers. A primary focus is on contemporary community problems affecting families. 3 credits.
PSYN 616 Statistics and Research Methodology I *(May be taken in person or online, however it is strongly recommended that you take this in person)*
How to design and conduct experiments, interpret obtained results, and refine the succeeding design and procedures is discussed. How to read and critique a problem, collect and analyze data and interpret and critique the outcome is demonstrated. Students will submit to the Mercy College Institutional Review Board a completed literature review, introduction, and methodology section of a proposed research project. Students should plan to take this course before capstone. 3 credits.

PSYN 625 Domestic Violence *(May be taken in person or online)*
This course will focus on several different forms of family and intimate relationship violence. It will examine the historical and psychological roots of family violence, theoretical models, and attention will be given to issues of definition and conceptualization. Among the areas covered are child neglect, physical, psychological, sexual abuse as well as spouse abuse, dating violence, and elder abuse. Attention will be given to cross cultural issues in defining and studying family violence and abuse. Prevalence, contributing factors and societal and gender views on domestic violence will be discussed. Therapy programs and resources for the abused individual and treatment strategies for the abuser are considered. 3 credits.

PSYN 640 Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum I *(Only offered in Fall semester)*
Requires permission of Director of Clinical Placements by February 1st, completion of PSYN 644, 653, 654 and 665; completion of one full year in the program (3 semesters) as well as completion of 21 credits, by the start of the requested Fall Semester. Provides students with supervised experience in an area that relates to their specialization in family therapy. On-site experiences are discussed during the weekly seminar which focuses on student concerns and basic issues of ethics, theory and practice. Students must apply for clinical placements the semester prior to registration. Students are expected to remain in their internship site for 3 semesters. **200 hours of fieldwork is required for completion of Practicum I. Of the 200 hours, 75 must be client contact hours.** Students are expected to be available to their agreed upon site in the summer for any required paperwork, training, background checks, etc. 3 credits.

PSYN 641 Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum II *(Only offered in the Spring semester)*
Prerequisite: Completion of PSYN 640 and permission of Director of Clinical Placements. Provides an expansion of knowledge of material introduced in PSYN 640. Students will be trained in the evaluation and treatment of family and marital relationships. Other topics include sibling relationships, communication among family members, psychiatric disorders parenting. **200 hours of fieldwork is required for completion of Practicum II. Of the 200 hours, 125 must be client contact hours.** 3 credits.
PSYN 642  Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum III
(Offered only in Summer semester)
Prerequisite: Completion of PSYN 641 and permission of Director of Clinical Placements.
This final practicum experience builds on Practicum I and II, enabling students to deepen and broaden their knowledge and experience in treating couples and families in Family Therapy in community clinics and hospital settings. 200 hours of fieldwork and all 300 clinical hours are required for completion of Practicum III. Of the 200 hours, 100 must be client contact hours.
3 credits.

PSYN 644 Group Experience
(Must be taken in person – NOT ONLINE)
An examination of groups, group therapy, including multiple family groups, and group leadership including such group techniques as may be used for treatment, promotion of growth, or improvement of relationships in diverse settings. The format of the course is both didactic and experiential. The empirical literature will be considered. This course is required before taking PSYN 640, Practicum I.
3 credits.

PSYN 653 Family Systems Assessment
(Must be taken in person – NOT ONLINE)
Students are introduced to the family genogram and to historical recollections and current interactions and their meaning, significance, and usefulness in helping to gain an understanding of the individual’s and family’s beliefs and interactions. Families across the family life cycle, triadic interaction, genograms and diverse family forms including ethnicity, social class, religion, migration and sexual orientation are a focus in this course. This course is a prerequisite for 605 and 657 and is required before taking PSYN 640, Practicum I. Students are required to take this course in their first semester, and no later than second semester.
3 credits.

PSYN 654 Psychopathology
(May be taken in person or online)
This course provides an introduction to the genesis, course, conceptualization, diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. This course is required before taking PSYN 640, Practicum I.
3 credits.

PSYN 656 Family Law
(Must be taken in person – NOT ONLINE)
The focus of this course is to familiarize students in the management and treatment of family and marital issues within the legal framework Students will learn competence in three areas of specialization: ethics and legal implications of practice; family violence and child abuse; and prevention and remediation. Students will learn how to read New York State statutes, including for divorce and adoption, and case law to enhance their skills as advocates for the families they service for mental health needs.
3 credits.
PSYN 657 Contemporary Family Therapy
(Must be taken in person – NOT ONLINE)
Prerequisite: Completion of Family Life Style Assessment (PSYN 653)
Overview of theories of family therapy and study of patterns of family interaction. Major models of Family Therapy will be introduced and studied. Students will have the opportunity to view videos of key Family Therapy theorists and practitioners. Attention is given to public and private agencies that deal with the contemporary problems faced by families. The emerging role of larger systems as providers of family services is presented. Students will apply systemic concepts of assessment and intervention to a relationship
3 credits.

PSYN 665 Professional Issues and Ethics
(May be taken in person or online)
A seminar devoted to discussions and the evaluation of a broad range of ethical issues in psychology and marriage and family therapy of both a theoretical and practical nature. Problems of ethics and the role of the therapist will receive particular attention. The Code of Ethics of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, the professional guild association of MFT, will be studied and learned.
3 credits.

PSYN 710 Clinical Research Project (Capstone)
To be taken during the student’s next to the last semester, (spring) while enrolled in Practicum II (PSYN 641).
Students, either in a small seminar or under the guidance of a mentor approved by the Program Director, will write a major case report and literature review of the model of therapy with which the case was approached based on a family or couple treated during their internship with their Practicum site. It is advisable to begin the process of defining the area for the literature review during the PSYN616 Research Methods course. The paper must follow APA format and there will be an oral case and model presentation attended by the faculty mentor and the supervisor of the clinical case. The formal document for application for the capstone must be completed and signed prior to registering for PSYN710. Capstone will be 60 – 80 pages.
3 credits.
PROGRAM FACULTY

Evan Imber-Black, Ph.D; LMFT, Program Director. Dr. Imber-Black teaches core clinical courses in the MFT program and is responsible for admissions and curriculum and faculty coordination. Dr. Imber-Black is the former editor of Family Process, the major scholarly journal in family systems research and Family Therapy. She is affiliated with the world-renowned Ackerman Institute for the Family, the major post-graduate training institute in Family Therapy.

Previously, Dr. Imber-Black was the Director of the Family and Group Studies Program, providing systemic training to psychiatric residents and Founder and Director of the Urban Institute for Families and Family Therapy at Einstein College of Medicine. This innovative institute provided family systems training for front-line mental health workers who were called upon to see the most difficult family situations with no training to do so. An institute without walls, the Urban Institute provided live supervision in clinics and hospitals throughout the Bronx. Before coming to New York, Dr. Imber-Black was the Director of Training at the Family Therapy Program in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary, and Director of the Family Therapy Training Program in the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Imber-Black is a past president of the American Family Therapy Academy; recipient of the 1990 American Family Therapy Academy Award for Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory and Practice; and the 1999 recipient of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Cumulative Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy.

Throughout her internationally recognized career, Evan Imber-Black has made major contributions in thematic areas that cut across different models of practice, including Families and Larger Systems, Family Rituals and Family Secrets. She is the author of over 75 original papers, and several books, including:

- *Secrets in Families and Family Therapy* – WW Norton, 1993
  Second edition, 2003 (co-edited with Janine Roberts and Richard Whiting)

Saliha Bava, Ph.D; LMFT, Associate Professor. Dr. Bava received her Ph.D. in Human Development with a Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Dr. Bava has 14 years of teaching experience, as well as many years of experience presenting for, and training fellow and student therapists. Dr. Bava has published 10 professional articles in several psychotherapy books and scholarly journals. Dr. Bava is an elected member of the board of directors of the American Family Therapy Academy.

Previously, Dr. Bava was the Associate Director of the Houston Galveston Institute in Houston Texas, where she developed community-based projects, provided supervision, consultation, and clinical services, designed/supervised internships and continuing education training programs, developed/conducted clinical research and program evaluation, developed funding and grant plans, administered grants and programs, developed and implemented policies and procedures for clinical, training and administrative functions, developed clinical, training,
and membership databases, coordinated the counseling center, and organized 15 international conferences.

Dr. Bava is the Director of Research for the International Trauma Studies Program in New York City.

**Elissa B. Glickman, M.S., LMFT**, Director of Clinical Placements for the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy program. She teaches the Practicum 1 and 3 courses and acts as a liaison between the students in the practicum classes and the supervisors at the field sites where students earn their practicum hours. She earned her Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from Iona College. She is licensed in Marriage and Family Therapy and also works in private practice seeing couples and individuals in Westchester County.

**Deborah D. Aikens, Ph.D.**, Professor received her B.A. in Psychology and Sociology, M.S.W. in Social Work and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Howard University. Her Ph.D. research focus was on institutional sexuality and its impact on post-prison behavioral patterns. In addition to being an adjunct professor for Mercy College, Dr. Aikens is also currently a professor at Bronx Community College teaching in the Social Sciences department. Dr. Aikens specializes in Drugs and Behavior, as well as Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Treatment. She is available to MFT students as capstone mentor.

**Lascelles W. Black, MSW, LMFT**, Adjunct Professor, has thirty years of experience in both public and private sector mental health services, specializing in social work, family therapy and systems approaches to human problems. He has held supervisory positions in agencies and hospital settings and teaching positions in universities. For the past twenty years, his public sector work has been devoted to homelessness with the mentally ill and drug/alcohol addicted homeless, and HIV/AIDS, where he has developed a family systems approach for clients.

Lascelles Black’s work commitments have been to poor, immigrant and minority populations, and those who are learning to deliver services to them. In several venues, he has been instrumental in organizing family services within agencies which previously were convinced that homeless clients had no families, when, in fact, families were often nearby and could be mobilized. Similarly, in his work with people with HIV/AIDS, he has created services to include couples, adolescents, young children and extended families. All of this work has enabled Lascelles Black to develop a keen appreciation for the dilemmas and difficulties of introducing new paradigms in to larger systems. He brings to the classroom a sense of what is required to work at the multiple levels of directors, supervisors, front-line workers and interns in a family and community context. Lascelles Black has published chapters and original papers in the areas of HIV/AIDS, homelessness and African-American and bi-racial couples and families. He maintains a private practice in NYC and Westchester.

**Amanda Craig, Ph.D., LMFT**, Adjunct Professor, is an AAMFT board approved supervisor and licensed marriage and family therapist in the State of New York. Dr. Craig was born and raised in Richfield, Minnesota, and completed her undergraduate education at the College of St. Catherine, majoring in both psychology and sociology. She earned a master's degree in
Counseling Psychology and a post master’s certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, and received her doctorate in Family Psychology from Capella University.

Dr. Craig has administered counseling and therapy services to adolescents, adults, couples and families. She is trained in the PREPARE/ENRICH premarital inventory for couples, and specializes assisting people who struggle with addiction as well as couple and family relational issues. She has worked in a variety of settings in different capacities including: behavioral intervention specialist in a high school special education department, consultant in an EAPs setting, researcher in a university setting, developer of a substance abuse program in a juvenile correctional facility, manager of a program for juvenile sex offenders, and senior director of a men and women’ substance abuse program for those involved in the criminal justice system.

Currently Dr. Craig runs a private practice in New York City, and also provides services to individuals and organizations as a clinical supervisor, part-time consultant, professor and training facilitator.

Dr. Craig is available to MFT students as a capstone mentor.

Diana D’Amico Juettner, J.D., Professor, Program Director for Legal Studies, Co-Chair, Social and Behavioral Sciences Division. She designed and introduced the Aging and the Law and Employment Law Courses into the undergraduate curriculum. She lectured on elder law topics such as living wills, health care proxies, durable powers of attorney and estate planning for civic and community groups. In June of 2000, Dr. Juettner completed the Negotiation and Advanced Negotiation Workshops at Harvard Law School’s Program of Instruction for Lawyers. Additionally she has completed mediation training at New York University’s School of Continuing Education, certificate programs in Conflict Resolution at Cornell University, School of Labor & Industrial Relations and Marywood University. She team teaches the Conflict Resolution courses which she has developed with her colleagues. Dr. Juettner is a member of the Society for Professionals in Dispute Resolution and the American Bar Association Section on Conflict Resolution and has been named to Who’s Who in Education and Who’s Who in American Law. Dr. Juettner is available to MFT students as a capstone mentor.

Michael Davidovits, Ph.D., LCSW, Adjunct Professor, is on faculty at the Ackerman Institute for the Family where he also serves as Assistant Director of the Project for Adolescents and their Families. He supervises in the Family Medicine Residency Program at Columbia University and maintains a private practice in Manhattan, focusing on the treatment of couples and adolescents and their families. In addition, Dr. Davidovits consults frequently to agencies in the greater New York area that serve at-risk youth. He is available to MFT students as a capstone mentor.

Noris A. DeJesus-Petrone, CMFT, MA in Psych, Adjunct Professor. Her therapeutic approach as a clinician is structuralism, which is sometimes combined with transgenerational theory. She focuses on how the family of origin and past generations may have an influence on the identified patient’s presenting problems. Noris DeJesus-Petrone received her Masters in Psychology from the City College of the City University of New York, her Post-Master Certificate in Couple Family Therapy from Drexel University, and her Doctorate Degree from Drexel University.

She provides bilingual and culturally sensitive, individual, marital (couple), family and group therapy for outpatients. Noris Dejesus-Petrone is conducting research for her doctoral
dissertation on the effects of body image disturbances among Hispanic Women from Central America, South America, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico who are in heterosexual sexually intimate relationships.

Dr. DeJesus-Petrone is available to MFT students as a capstone mentor.

**Judge Robert Mulroy, J.D.,** Adjunct Professor was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in 1984 as well as being admitted to the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1984. He received his B.A. in English at Fordham University and his J.D. at Fordham Law School. Judge Mulroy is currently at the NYS Office of Court Administration as a Hearing Examiner/Support Magistrate at the Bronx Family Court. Additionally, Judge Mulroy is a professor at Berkeley College. He teaches Family Law.

**Kimberly Rapoza, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor at Mercy College's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She received her B.A. from The University of Massachusetts and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston University. While a graduate student at Boston University, she studied with Dr. Kathleen Malley-Morrison, a leading researcher in the area of family violence. During that time she received a Clara Mayo Fellowship to support her dissertation work which explored correlates and predictors of dating violence in young adult couples. Her research interests encompass the impact of interpersonal violence on physical and psychological wellness, substance use and attachment styles. Examining the definitions, prevalence and conceptualizations of abuse within both a domestic cross-cultural and international arena are also topics of current interest. Currently, Dr. Rapoza has received an EARDA pilot grant from the National Institute of Health to investigate the relationship between chronic stress, social support, attachment and physical/psychological illness. She has also received a RIMI sub-project grant from the National Institute of Health to further explore a multi-component model assessing psycho-social and physiological mechanisms that might underlie compromised psychological and/ or physical health, particularly for women and ethnic minority populations. Dr. Rapoza teaches Statistics and Research Methodology.

**Jacqueline Shinefield, RN, LMFT, Ed.D,** Adjunct Professor, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She received her Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and Doctoral Degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco. She served as clinical supervisor for MFT interns at the USF Family and Child Development Center in San Francisco for over fifteen years and specialized in school-based family therapy. Dr. Shinefield currently serves on the Board as Development Chair for the International Oxford Symposium in School-Based Family Counseling and Board for Metro AAMFT. She maintains a private practice in New York City, working with individuals, couples, and families using cognitive behavioral/solution-focused therapy. She has a particular interest in prevention/treatment of professional burn-out, families in acute crisis, group facilitation and school consultation.

**Lisa Lavelle, MSW, LCSW,** Adjunct Professor is a licensed Clinical Social Worker and Family Therapist. She is on the faculty of the world renowned Ackerman Institute for the Family where she teaches in the post-graduate externship. Ms. Lavelle specializes in problems confronting couples and families with serious medical illness. She maintains a private practice in NYC. She is available for capstone mentorship/
Stephanie Manes, LCSW, Esq., is a licensed clinical social worker. She received her BA from Barnard College in 1990, her JD from Brooklyn Law School in 1995 and her MSW from New York University School of Social Work in 2007. She completed post-graduate studies in family and couple's therapy at the Ackerman Institute for Families in 2010. Stephanie is currently affiliated with Ackerman Institutes Center for Families and Health. She also maintains a private practice in New York City. Ms. Manes is available for capstone mentorship.

Victoria Dickerson, PhD, is an internationally known clinician, a writer, and a teacher of narrative ideas and practice. She currently teaches in the master's program in clinical psychology at San José State University, a summer seminar series at Johns Hopkins University, and an online course at Mercy College. She is on the editorial board of Family Process journal, and is the Associate Editor for New Media for Family Process. She does workshops nationally and internationally, and has written numerous articles, book chapters, and two books: If Problems Talk: Narrative Therapy in Action (1996), and more recently the author of Who Cares What You're Supposed To Do?—Breaking the Rules to Get What You Want in Love, Life, and Work (2004). Dr. Dickerson teaches Ethics and is available for capstone mentorship.

For Further Information:

For further information about the Master in Marriage and Family Therapy Degree, please get in contact with Program Director, Dr. Evan Imber-Black. Call (914) 674-7800 or email eimberblack@mercy.edu.
Directions to the Mercy College
Dobbs Ferry Campus

From Lower Westchester & New York City:
Saw Mill River Parkway (North):
To Dobbs Ferry Exit. Turn left onto Ashford Avenue. Turn right onto Broadway (Rt. 9), continue ½ mile to entrance on left.
New York Thruway (North):
To Exit 7, Ardsley. Turn right at end of ramp and continue to traffic light. Turn left onto Ashford Avenue. Follow route as above.

From Northern Westchester & Putnam Counties:
Saw Mill River Parkway (South):
To Dobbs Ferry Exit. Exit onto Ashford Avenue. Follow route as above.

From Rockland & Orange Counties & New Jersey:
Tappan Zee Bridge:
Exit immediately after toll (exit 9). Turn left at end of ramp onto Broadway (Rt. 9). Continue 4 miles on entrance on right.

From Westchester County & Connecticut:
Cross Westchester Expressway (West), to New York Thruway (North):
To Exit 9, last exit before Tappan Zee Bridge. Turn left at end of ramp onto Rt. 119. Turn left at traffic light onto Broadway (Rt. 9). Continue 4 miles to entrance on right.

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