

Become a Marriage and Family Therapist

Our complex world is becoming ever more difficult to navigate, placing an increasing strain on men, women, and children. Azusa Pacific University's Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy addresses this need, equipping men and women for professional counseling with individuals, couples, and families. With a foundation in Christian faith, a systemic family psychology approach, and an integration of theories of psychotherapy, students explore personal, ethical, and social values as they become competent, self-aware, culturally sensitive family therapists to serve the needs of their communities.

Financing Your Education

Grants, scholarships, loans, and company reimbursement are among the financial aid opportunities that may be available to help you complete your degree. We're committed to helping you understand and find resources for the costs of pursuing your education.

For the most current financial aid information, contact the Office of Graduate and Professional Student Financial Services at (626) 815-4570 or GPC@apu.edu, or visit apu.edu/gpc/sfs/.

Take the Next Step

You can make a difference every day as a marriage and family therapist. Learn more about our program, including admissions requirements, curriculum, and program faculty, at apu.edu/mft/.

Application deadlines

Fall: March 1 ■ Spring: October 1

Submit all application materials to:

Graduate and Professional Center, Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions
Azusa Pacific University, PO Box 7000, Azusa, CA 91702-7000
Fax: (626) 815-4571 ■ gpadmissions@apu.edu

I enjoyed the personal nature of the professors, many of whom engaged in self-disclosure as a means of modeling what vulnerability looks like, and I was so appreciative of the feedback I received from my professors, who worked hard to share all they could with the students. I also appreciated that the program required me to undergo 40 hours of therapy, which enabled me to learn about myself while developing new skills. I was able to articulate my experience to my therapist and practice what I would like it to look like someday.

Contessa Ruiz, MFT '07



Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology: Marriage and Family Therapy
(626) 815-4618 (Azusa) ■ (626) 857-2243 (Orange County)
(619) 718-9655 (San Diego) ■ (909) 888-9977 (Inland Empire)
mft@apu.edu

School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology:

Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)



Program Mission Statement

The Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology: Marriage and Family Therapy program is dedicated to the education and training of competent, self-aware, culturally sensitive family therapists. Using a foundation in Christian faith, a systemic family psychology approach, and an integration of theories of psychotherapy, students explore personal, ethical, and social values as they prepare to serve the needs of their communities.

Clinical Placement

Students develop therapeutic skills through required hours of direct clinical experience. Students in the two-year program normally do so in a 12-18-month clinical placement, while students in the three- and four-year programs do so in a 24-30-month placement.

Although students are responsible for securing a placement site, site directors, the director of clinical training, and the Introduction to Clinical Placement course provide assistance. In addition, students receive support from and opportunities to discuss clinical issues and problems with supervisors and faculty in clinical placement and supervision courses.

You Set the Pace

In designing your approach to MFT study, the blueprints can be laid out in a two-, three-, or four-year program. Depending on your course of action, you may take 6-15 units each 17-week semester.

Plans	Two-Year	Three-Year	Four-Year
Days per Week	2	2-3	2-3
Courses per Semester	4-5	3-4	2-3

An additional 15-20 hours per week for clinical placement training is required once trainee status is obtained at the end of the first year. MFT students must accumulate a minimum of 300 hours of direct clinical contact in their practicum setting prior to graduation.

Gottman Couples Therapy Level 1 Certificate

Students enrolled in the Couples Therapy course will complete Gottman Level 1 training, which equips students with new insight into couples’ struggles using research-based assessments and effective interventions based on the Gottman Sound Relationship House Theory. Students receive a certificate of completion and are then eligible to take the Level 2 training.

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) Option

With the addition of one course, this program also meets the requirements for licensure as a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC). LPCC students must accumulate a minimum of 300 hours of direct clinical contact in their practicum setting prior to graduation.



Program at a Glance

- Units: 66-69
- Average Completion Time: 24-48 months
- Cost per unit: \$717*
Base cost: \$47,322-\$49,473*
- Accreditation: WSCUC
- Locations: Azusa (main campus), San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego

Learn more about our Southern California regional locations: apu.edu/locations

**Costs provided are current for the 2016-17 year. Visit apu.edu for the latest information.*

Highlights

- Convenient scheduling for working professionals
- Blend of theoretical and practical elements of psychology
- Professionally active faculty-mentors
- Meets California requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist

Transferable Education

APU’s program allows you to transfer up to 12 units of graduate-level coursework from another regionally accredited school that meets licensing requirements. All units must be verified with the program director.

MFT Student Body

Approximately 80 percent work while they complete their degree. Lecture classes consist of 25-40 students, and clinical settings include about 12 students.

What Can Students Expect to Learn?

Diversity

Students will recognize the importance of diversity and its impact on clinical practice. They will be equipped with awareness of beliefs and customs of diverse cultural groups and know how to implement this knowledge when treating clients and interacting with agency personnel.

Identity Formation

Students will articulate their personal narrative inclusive of values, beliefs, behaviors, and traditions of faith that inform their worldview.

Ethical Practice

Students will understand the ethical guidelines and legal requirements within the field of marriage and family therapy, and will possess knowledge of when to use resources and seek consultation if faced with ethical or legal dilemmas in the context of therapy.

Competency

Students will become effective practitioners in marriage and family therapy with professional competencies in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment in the practice of systemic family psychology.

APU’s integration of spirituality within the context of helping people was intriguing and exciting; I chose APU primarily because of this. Though I have a Jewish mother and a Catholic father, I was shown respect and deference as a “minority” in a private Christian university. I was blessed with meeting lifelong friends and colleagues who accepted me for who I was, and not by my faith. This truly embodied the APU MFT program, and that same diversity and openness are the cornerstones of becoming a great therapist.

Rudy Hayek, MFT ’08

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the MFT program have many career options from which to choose, including:

- Agency directors, therapists, and/or staff
- Church counseling center administrators
- Hospital staff
- Nonprofit managers
- Private practice counselors
- Professional speakers
- Doctoral studies
- Supervisors
- Teachers
- University faculty and administrators
- Writers/contributing editors for professional journals