

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY – MS

The Master's Program Student Learning Outcomes are derived from the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Core Competencies, Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB), and AAMFT Code of Ethics

Domain 1: Therapeutic Relationship Competencies- Graduates will demonstrate competence in identifying contextual factors in the therapeutic environment in order to provide unbiased treatment.

- 1.1** Conveys respect (warmth, acceptance, understanding)
- 1.2** Affirms worth, uniqueness, strengths, and potential in client
- 1.3** Effective in the use-of-self in establishing and sustaining the therapeutic relationship
- 1.4** Maintains clients' engagement in therapy

Domain 2: Cultural Competencies- Students will demonstrate competence in providing culturally sensitive clinical treatment to individuals, couples, and families.

- 2.1** Identifies the issues of diversity which impact the therapeutic environment and process
- 2.2** Recognizes the impact of own gender, culture, ethnicity, religion, age, and beliefs on the therapeutic process
- 2.3** Provides an unbiased therapeutic environment when client's values or beliefs are different from own
- 2.4** Applies treatment strategies consistent with client's values and beliefs

Domain 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning- Graduates will demonstrate competence in identifying relevant clinical issues and directing the course of therapy.

- 3.1** Identifies presenting problems
- 3.2** Observes systems interactional patterns of behaviors
- 3.3** Routinely assesses relevant clinical issues, client strengths, and coping skills, and possible substance abuse
- 3.4** Uses DSM criteria to determine diagnoses
- 3.5** Evaluates client's coping skills to determine timing of interventions
- 3.6** Assesses self as part of the system
- 3.7** Treatment plan designed appropriately

Domain 4: Conceptual Competencies- Students will demonstrate competence in conceptualizing cases utilizing a variety of systemic theories.

- 4.1** Demonstrates an understanding of a variety of theoretical models
- 4.2** Conceptualizes the system as the unit of treatment
- 4.3** Bases hypotheses and goals upon theory
- 4.4** Gathers adjunctive resource information
- 4.5** Distinguishes between content and process

Domain 5: Structuring Competencies- Students will demonstrate competence in structuring clinical sessions.

- 5.1 Restructures client interaction verbally and/or physically
- 5.2 Establishes and reviews therapy goals with clients
- 5.3 Modifies the treatment process by monitoring therapeutic progress
- 5.4 Concludes treatment in a planned manner

Domain 6: Intervention Competencies- Students will demonstrate competence in utilizing a variety of theoretical appropriate therapeutic interventions.

- 6.1 Links interventions and theory coherently
- 6.2 Utilizes theoretically appropriate and client-specific clinical interventions
- 6.3 Follows up on interventions
- 6.4 Utilizes a wide range of interventions

Domain 7: Case/Crisis Management- Students will demonstrate competence in managing therapeutic crises.

- 7.1 Routinely observes and assesses for indications of abuse, danger to self or others
- 7.2 Develops/implements a plan (with assistance of supervisor) to reduce potential of danger
- 7.3 Manages reporting requirements appropriately
- 7.4 Recognizes the need for referral for adjunctive services and identifies appropriate referrals

Domain 8: Legal Related Matters- Students will demonstrate competence in managing legal issues related to the practice of MFT.

- 8.1 Demonstrates knowledge of legal issues relevant to therapy setting
- 8.2 Adheres to legal statutes
- 8.3 Recognizes and appropriately manages mandated reporting requirements
- 8.4 Obtains client's (or legal guardian's) authorization for release to disclose or obtain confidential information
- 8.5 Maintains security of client therapy record

Domain 9: Ethical Related Issues- Students will demonstrate competence in managing ethical issues related to the practice of MFT.

- 9.1 Demonstrate knowledge of ethical issues arising in the therapy context
- 9.2 Informs clients of the parameters of confidentiality and conditions of mandated reporting
- 9.3 Maintains appropriate therapeutic boundaries

Domain 10: Professional- Students will demonstrate competence in maintaining professional conduct in all aspects of clinical work.

- 10.1 Presents a professional image including punctuality, professional attire, etc.
- 10.2 Complies with work setting policies and procedures
- 10.3 Completes all paperwork requirements adequately
- 10.4 Establishes collegial working relationship with professional colleagues

Domain 11: Use of Supervision- Students will demonstrate competence in actively engaging in supervision and incorporates feedback into clinical work.

11.1 Well prepared and active in seeking or maximizing supervision process

11.2 Openly shares concerns and ideas with supervisor

11.3 Identifies personal reactions/counter-transference issues that could interfere with the therapeutic process

11.5 Demonstrates openness and incorporates feedback about therapy from supervision

11.6 Seeks supervisory feedback to make improvements

Domain 12: Research- Students will demonstrate competence utilizing current research to inform clinical practice.

12.1 Familiar with evidence-based treatment research

12.2 Reads current MFT and other professional literature

12.3 Uses current MFT and other research to inform clinical practice

12.4 Determines the effectiveness of clinical practice and techniques