**Mission**

The Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program’s mission is to foster highly qualified mental health professionals who possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to improve the quality of well-being for individuals, couples, families, and wider social systems within their diverse and multicultural setting. Clinical training gives balanced attention to the range of physical/organic, interpersonal, relational, and cultural/contextual factors that can cause or exacerbate the issues presented for treatment by providing multiple points of intervention designed to positively impact the client’s contextual environment.

**Philosophy**

Program faculty hold the philosophy that education in Marriage and Family Therapy must occur in a context that is systematically oriented. Experiences in this program emphasize family therapy as integrated with practice and research in family and human development. This context is also informed by gender and cultural perspectives which are presented throughout all coursework and practicum.

The faculty believe that theory and practice in marriage and family therapy are best accomplished in synergy; that is, the elements of theory, research, and practice are intertwined and emphasized in all coursework and clinical experiences throughout the student's training. Since the program resides within an academic setting, it is recognized the courses must be somewhat discrete and independent. However, courses cannot be undertaken independently without consideration of their systematic position in the entire program. It is the aim of the program for students to be challenged and encouraged to integrate their learning throughout their entire time in the program.

The curriculum consists of substantive courses in family relations and human development, statistics and research methods courses, marriage and family therapy emphasis courses, and internship. Substantive content/theory courses and clinical practicum must be completed simultaneously. Students must be provided with experiences that enhance their training and practice with a variety of therapy models, family types, presenting problems, therapy settings, and supervisory modes.

Goal 1: The SCSU MFT program prepares graduates to become licensed in the State of Minnesota as marriage and family therapists and ready for employment in an entry level mental health/clinical job.

SLO 1.1: Full-time students will graduate within two years of entry, and PT students will graduate within seven years of entry.

SLO 1.2: Students meet the necessary clinical hour requirement set by the Minnesota MFT licensure board within four semesters of practicum/internship courses.

SLO 1.3:Graduates will successfully pass the National examination and of those remaining in Minnesota, will also pass the state exam.

SLO 1.4: Recent graduates will be successful in finding employment in entry level MFT positions.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate competent clinical skills, at their developmental level, defined as: (a.) practicing from a research based foundation, including common factor and evidence based practice literature, (b.) demonstrating reflective and ethical practice by following AAMFT ethical code and Minnesota state statutes pertaining to the practice of MFT, including paperwork requirements.

SLO 2.1: Students will demonstrate empathic and respectful interpersonal skills when working with individuals, couples, and families from all backgrounds, including cross-cultural populations.

SLO 2.2: By time of graduation, students will skillfully assess and evaluate individuals, couples, and families of diverse backgrounds in order to create appropriate diagnostic assessments, build relevant treatment plans, and manage crises.

SLO 2.3: By time of graduation, students will be able to communicate effectively through oral and written clinical paperwork.

SLO 2.4: Students will be ethical in their clinical practice, including seeking appropriate supervision when making ethical decisions pertaining to clinical practice.

SLO 2.5: By time of graduation, students will utilize an understanding of research and evaluation methods to inform their clinical practice.

Goal 3: Students utilize family systems and developmental theories in their approach to clinical practice.

SLO 3.1: By time of graduation, students are able to apply family therapy and systemic theories to conceptualizations and clinical practice.

SLO 3.2: By time of graduation, students are able to apply developmental models or theories appropriate strategies to individuals, couples, and families.

Goal 4: Students will be competent to work from a multicultural lens, including providing care to diverse family types, ethnicities, gender, sexual minorities, individual abilities, religious background, geography, and SES.

SLO 4.1: Students and alumni will exercise cultural humility when practicing in the field of marriage and family therapy.

Achievement rates for graduation, exam pass and licensure rates can be found on the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's [Student Achievement Criteria](http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/Content/COAMFTE/Student_Achievement_Criteria_Data.aspx).