

# MASTER OF ARTS IN FAMILY STUDIES

The Family Studies program offers a master's degree in Family Studies. The Master of Arts (MA) degree in Family Studies is an advanced educational track in early childhood, human development, interpersonal relations, and family studies. Graduates of the program may enter a variety of human services vocations and/or pursue further advanced degrees in human and family development including early childhood, adolescence, marriage and geriatrics.

The Family Studies program focuses on basic human developmental and behavioral characteristics of the individual within the context of the family system. The curriculum includes instruction in the conditions that influence human growth and development; strategies that promote growth and development across the life span; and the study of family systems.

The curriculum is designed to prepare the candidate to pursue doctoral studies in related areas to become educators and researchers. The Family Studies program also provides an advanced educational track for the candidate who wishes to seek employment in the non-clinical areas of social service delivery, research, family policy and family law, parenting and family life education, health and well-being, prevention and program evaluation. The curriculum covers theory, research and practice with individuals and families across the life span. The curriculum strives to address diversity, power, privilege and social justice with the goal of creating an environment that welcomes and provides mentorship to a diverse student body by a diverse group of faculty and instructors.

## Admission to the Program

Contact the Office of Graduate Admission at [gradadmis@fairfield.edu](mailto:gradadmis@fairfield.edu) for deadline information and application requirements.

All potential candidates will be required to attend an interview with one of the faculty members in the Department of Family Therapy and Social Work. Candidates will be notified about interviews shortly after the application deadline.

## Requirements

The MA in Family Studies requires completion of a minimum of 33 credits. Candidates must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 and pass a comprehensive examination and/or master's thesis at the end of the program.

Students are required to complete the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
PSYC 5810	Behavioral Statistics	3
PSYC 5820	Research in Psychology	3
PSYC 6230	Program Evaluation	3
Select 8 courses from the following, in consultation with advisor:		24
MFTH 5433	Social Justice and Diversity in Professional Practice	
MFTH 5447	Human Development Across the Family Lifecycle	
MFTH 5465	Introduction to Substance Abuse and Addictions	

MFTH 5470	Queer and Trans Mental Health	
MFTH 5525	Divorce, Single Parenting, and Blended Families	
MFTH 5550	Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy	
MFTH 6552	Intervention in Structural and Strategic Family Therapy	
MFTH 6555	Foundations of Marital and Family Therapy	
MFTH 6556	Research in Marriage and Family Therapy	
MFTH 6561	Advanced Interventions in Family Therapy	
MFTH 6565	Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Family Therapy	
MFTH 6567	Couples Therapy	
MFTH 6900	Special Topics (Shell)	
MFTH 6999F	Comprehensive Exam in Family Studies	0
MFTH 5598	Tavera Site Placement Process <sup>1</sup>	0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33</b>

<sup>1</sup> \$215 one-time fee required