

# NSU Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS)

## Learning Objectives for Degree Programs in Family Therapy

### M.S. in Family Therapy

In accordance with the Core Competencies for Marriage and Family Therapists as developed by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), at the end of the Master's Degree Program in Family Therapy, students will be able to display competency in five primary domains of activity. Consistent with these competencies, at SHSS we specifically endeavor to emphasize throughout our coursework, competencies in diversity matters, including cultural and gender awareness.

The primary domains are:

- 1) **Admission to Treatment** – All interactions between clients and therapist up to the point when a therapeutic contract is established.
- 2) **Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis** – Activities focused on the identification of the issues to be addressed in therapy.
- 3) **Treatment Planning and Case Management** – All activities focused on directing the course of therapy and extra-therapeutic activities.
- 4) **Therapeutic Interventions** – All activities designed to ameliorate the clinical issues identified.
- 5) **Legal Issues, Ethics, and Standards** – All aspects of therapy that involve statutes, regulations, principles, values, and mores of MFTs.
- 6) **Research and Program Evaluation** – All aspects of therapy that involve the systematic analysis of therapy and how it is conducted effectively.

The 5 secondary domains within each of the 6 primary domains are:

- 1) Conceptual
- 2) Perceptual
- 3) Executive
- 4) Evaluative
- 5) Professional

The complete listing and description of each of these core competencies can be found at: [http://www.aamft.org/resources/MFT\\_Core\\_Competencies/MFT%20Core%20Competencies%20\(December%202004\).doc](http://www.aamft.org/resources/MFT_Core_Competencies/MFT%20Core%20Competencies%20(December%202004).doc)

## Ph.D. in Family Therapy

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In addition, individuals who complete the Ph.D. program in Family Therapy will be able to:

- Present and describe their clinical skills to an audience of peers using video and other technologies
- Understand and utilize research methodologies including both quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Write a publishable quality paper in the field of family therapy utilizing APA format
- Develop skills in teaching in the area of family therapy
- Develop skills at providing supervision in the area of family therapy
- Produce and defend an original research project in the area of family therapy

## **Doctor of Marriage & Family Therapy (DMFT)**

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- Understand and utilize research methodologies including both quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Develop skills in teaching in the area of family therapy
- Develop skills at providing supervision in the area of family therapy
- Produce and present an original applied clinical project relevant to family therapy

