

# Master of Arts in Counseling and Educational Psychology with emphasis in:

# Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy

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### College of Education University of Nevada, Reno

## Masters of Arts (M.A.) Degree Counseling and Educational Psychology Emphasis in Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy

This Marriage and Family Therapy emphasis description includes the following:

- I. Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy (MCFC/T) Program
- II. Program of Study
- III. Additional Program Requirements
- IV. Accreditation, Licensure, and Certification
- V. Additional Information
- VI. Contact Information

#### I. MARITAL, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING /THERAPY

The Master of Arts degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy is a 64 credit-hour, nationally accredited (CACREP) program. The purpose of this extensive training is to prepare graduates to be able to deal effectively with the variety of family constellations and the issues they are presented with. Toward that end, students in our program receive in-depth training in conceptualization skills as well as in the theoretical and practical application of systems theory.

Aside from formal clinical coursework, graduate students in the Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy program have the opportunity to intern in the Downing Counseling Clinic, located within the program's office suite. This clinic serves numerous university students as well as individuals, couples, and families from Reno and the surrounding communities. Interns are assigned a variety of clients and are responsible for setting up appointments, seeing scheduled clients and walk-ins, as well as providing emergency services for individuals, couples, and families. There are also opportunities to provide consultation as well as group counseling to various agencies in the community. In addition, the Clinic has cutting-edge technology that allows for ample supervision of marriage and family counseling interns.

It is important that future therapists be aware of their own family dynamics and issues. Hence, graduate students in the MCFC/T program are invited to explore their own families in terms of rules, roles, rituals, interactions, structures, and celebrations. In this manner, graduates gain insights into their own family dynamics which helps them to become better able to empathize and provide incisive help to others.

II. PROGRAM OF STUDY (courses required) We have made every effort to accurately represent when courses will be offered, however, please note that this list is tentative and may change as resources are available.

YEAR ONE Course Sequence: (complete prior to enrolling in year two)

| Dept | Course# | Cr | Course Title                              | F | Sp | Su | Yr | Grade |
|------|---------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-------|
| CEP  | 650     | 3  | Counseling Theory                         | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 765     | 3  | Introduction to Marriage & Family Therapy | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 670     | 3  | Foundations of MCFC/T – I                 | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 651     | 3  | Counseling Practicum                      |   | *  |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 766     | 3  | Advanced Marriage & Family Therapy        |   | *  |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 705     |    |   |   | *  |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 620     | 3  | Career Counseling                         |   |    | *  |    |       |
| CEP  | 761     | 3  | Group Counseling                          |   |    | *  |    |       |
| CEP  | 756     | 3  | Sexual Issues                             |   |    | *  |    |       |

YEAR TWO Course Sequence: (should have completed year one)

| Dept | Course# | Cr | Course Title  | F | Sp | Su | Yr | Grade |
|------|---------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-------|
| CEP  | 642b    | 3  | Assessment/Diagnosis in Marriage & Family Therapy                                 | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 767     | 3  | Couple Counseling   | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 680     | 3  | Foundations of MCFC/T - II  | * |    |    |    |       |
| EDRS | 700     | 3  | Educational Research  |   | *  |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 751     | 3  | Multicultural Counseling  |   | *  |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 780     | 3  | Law & Ethics in the Profession  |   | *  | *  |    |       |
| CEP  | 770f    | 6  | Internship in Counseling (take an incomplete in summer and continue through fall) |   |    | *  |    |       |

#### YEAR THREE Course Sequence: (should have completed year One and Two)

| Dept | Course# | Cr  | Course Title   | F | Sp | Su | Yr | Grade |
|------|---------|-----|--|---|----|----|----|-------|
| EDRS | 640     | 3   | Measurement and Statistics   | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 674     | 3   | Addictions Counseling  | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 770f    |     | Internship continued from summer   | * |    |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 773     | 6   | Internship in Marriage & Family Therapy (need to have completed 770f prior to enrolling) |   | *  |    |    |       |
| CEP  | 795     | 1-3 | Master's Degree Comprehensive Exam   |   | *  |    |    |       |

Total Marriage and Family Therapy Credits: 64 Credit Hours (Minimum)

#### III. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

a. Complete Program of Study Form: The program of study form must be submitted before 12 credits of course work have been completed. This form can be obtained online through the graduate school website <a href="http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/">http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/</a>. While the program is predetermined your advisor's signature is required. It is your responsibility to contact and consult with your advisor to complete this required form before 12 credits of course work have been completed. You will receive an outline of your course work as it should appear on your degree plan.

- b. **Three Credits per Semester Requirement**: Students admitted to the program must enroll in at least three credits per semester or they will be withdrawn from graduate standing.
- c. **Application for Internship Placement**: Students must confirm that all prerequisites have been completed. A formal, written application is required and may be obtained in the program office. This form must be submitted by April 15 for summer and fall internships and by November 1 for spring. It is understood that the effort expended must be comparable to formal course work. This translates to 300 clock hours devoted to the internship for each six credits. **Two six-credit** internships totaling 600 clock hours are required for graduation.
- d. **Comprehensive Examinations**: Students must register for at least 3 credits of regular coursework and enroll in CEP 795 (1 credit, minimum) in their last semester. The comprehensive examinations are scheduled once in the spring and fall.
  - Video recording: Students are expected to present one video-recorded portion of a counseling session as Part I of the Comprehensive Exam. The video is evaluated by trained judges and faculty. The video will not be returned to you so please submit it on media that you can part with.
  - A written paper conceptualizing the case presented in the video will accompany
    the DVD or other electronic submission. As requirements vary from semester to
    semester, specific instructions regarding the paper will be presented at an
    informational meeting held at the beginning of the semester in which you
    complete the comprehensive examination.
  - Written Examination: The comprehensive knowledge exam Part II is the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). The CPCE consists of 160 items, multiple-choice, with 20 items from each of the eight CACREP areas of (1) Human Growth and Development, (2) Social and Cultural Foundations, (3) Helping Relationships, (4) Group Work, (5) Career and Lifestyle Development, (6) Appraisal, (7) Research and Program Evaluation, and (8) Professional Orientation and Ethics.
- e. **Six-year Program Completion Requirement**: Degree requirements for the M.A. degree must be completed in six calendar years from the date of the first course listed in the approved program of study form.
  - f. **Application for Graduation** has to be obtained through the graduate school website at <a href="https://www.unr.edu/grad">www.unr.edu/grad</a>. Please check the website for due dates.

#### IV. ACCREDITATION, LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

The College of Education is accredited by both the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Northwest Association for Schools and Colleges (NASC). The CEP masters program in Marital, Couple, & Family Counseling/Therapy is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP).

Nevada State Licensure: After students complete the master's degree program in Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy, they are encouraged to apply to the Nevada Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners for internship status and to work toward Nevada State Licensure. If you are interested in licensure in California or other states, please contact the state's board directly. Requirements may vary.

The post-masters work toward licensure requires verification of an MA degree in counseling or a closely related degree and completion of the specific coursework in Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy (outlined previously in this prospectus). Upon completion of a MA degree with the concomitant course requirements, applicants apply to the Board to become a Marriage and Family Therapy – Intern (MFT-Intern) and begin the required 3,000 post masters internship. As part of the application process, applicants are required to present their internship plan to the board that includes the name of a primary and secondary supervisor as well as the specific location where the internship will be completed. Approximately one year into the internship, students are eligible to sit for the licensing examination.

For application materials and information, contact:

State of Nevada The Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners P.O. Box 370130 Las Vegas, Nevada 89134-0130 (702) 486-7388

Requirements for licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy vary significantly from state to state. So, students planning to pursue licensure out of Nevada are urged to gather information from those states. Graduates of the Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy emphasis are also encouraged to seek membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), American Counseling Association (ACA) and certification from the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

#### V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Prospective student meetings are held each semester, usually the week before classes begin. Please contact Terri Beber at <a href="echd@unr.edu">echd@unr.edu</a> for information and to register for the meeting. To obtain a University of Nevada catalog, contact the ASUN Bookstore, Mail Stop 194, (775) 784-6597. A University of Nevada Graduate School catalog can be obtained at the Graduate School web site <a href="https://www.unr.edu/grad">www.unr.edu/grad</a>, (Graduate School Mail Stop 326, and telephone (775) 784-6869).

If you are interested in applying, please read the Frequently Asked Questions document as this will answer many of your questions.

### VI. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY COORDINATOR: Jill Packman, Ph.D.

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