



# Marriage and Family Therapy

## New Student Orientation

**Department of Counselor Education  
and Family Studies**

**LIBERTY**  
UNIVERSITY.

# Welcome New Students!

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Director: Marriage and Family Therapy program

# The Mission of Liberty University

“To develop Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge, and skills essential to impact the world.”



## Clinical Counseling

Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT)/Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)

Requires state licensure

Provides billable mental health services on parity with other health services

Work in conjunction with Psychiatrists (MD), Psychiatric Nurses (PMHN),  
Psychologists (LCP), and Social Workers (LCSW)

## Non Clinical Counseling

Pastoral Counselors (Non-licensed)

Human Services, other helping  
professions (Non-licensed)

Lay Counselors (non-licensed)

# Accreditation

- Regional Accreditation

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
  - Liberty is accredited by SACS



- National Accreditation:

- CACREP
  - Clinical mental health or Professional counseling program
  - Marriage and Family Counseling (Residential)
- COAMFTE
- Non-CACREP/COAMFTE, but meet regional accreditation and state standards
  - Marriage and Family Therapy (online)
  - Same course content as CACREP program, but online

# MFT program



- Value of MFT degree:
  - Working with couple/families
  - Learn to apply systems theory in counseling
    - Counseling ‘individuals’ in a new light
  - Dual Licensure option
- Unique states requirements: [Link is here](#)
  - Student is responsible to stay current with state requirements
  - Some states require course work outside of the Liberty DCP
    - Liberty’s MFT degree is based on VA LMFT requirements

# MFT program




- MFT Resources:
  - American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT): <https://aamft.org/>



# Your Journey

You are  
here!



## Academic Training

- Course work
- Field Work
- National exam??
  - [AMFTRB link](#)
- Degree from Liberty

## Post-Graduate Supervision

- Resident
- Pass Exam
- Process Varies by State

## Licensed Professional

- Continuing Education
  - Professional growth
- Professional org.:
  - AAMFT, AACC, etc.

# Professional Development

- It involves Knowledge . . .
  - Academics
    - Theoretical Approaches
    - Core Competencies
    - Specialty Courses
    - Ethical Practices
    - Licensing Regulations



# Professional Development

- ... and Counseling Skills . . .
  - Application of Knowledge
  - Skills Courses (505/512)
  - Practicum
    - Search for Site when taking 512
  - Internship
    - Couple/family hours
      - VA 200/240 with couples/families
  - Supervision (Faculty and Site)

# Professional Development

- It involves Professional Behaviors
  - Ability to Work Professionally
  - Conduct in Class and Field Sites
    - Adherence to Policies
      - Includes due dates, paperwork, etc.
    - Quality of Work
    - Respectful in your Interactions
  - Ethical behaviors (Code of Ethics)
    - Maintain Confidentiality

# Professional Development

- It involves Counseling Disposition:
- (Awareness—Attitudes & Beliefs)
  - Emotional Regulation
    - Manage Anxiety
    - Resolve Conflict
    - Openness to Feedback
  - Maintain Boundaries
  - Character (Maturity)
  - Caring / Empathy
  - Self-Awareness



# **Professional Development:**

## **Involves the “*Total Person*” of the Counselor**

- No other discipline requires this in quite the same way
- Developing a Counselor Identity
- Be a mature, growing person
  - Emotionally, Relationally, Professionally, and Spiritually
- The process is important: Marathon not a sprint
  - Cannot shortcut the process
  - Evaluate your time

# **Dr. Steve Johnson**

**Clinical Director**

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program**

**Marriage and Family Counseling Program**

**Marriage and Family Therapy Program**

# Parting Recommendations

- **Read the Handbook!!!**
  - You passed Gate 1: Admissions
  - Gate 2: CEFS 546 Psychopathology
  - Gate 3: CEFS 698 Counseling Practicum
- **Prerequisites for courses are not suggestions.**
  - Do not back yourself into a corner
- **Professional Development:**
  - Fellow students do not always have accurate information
  - Please re-read emails before sending them
- **The faculty are committed to help you in this process!**