

Direct Client Contact Hours (Internship)

Direct Client Contact is when students meet directly with their clients to begin, continue, and terminate counseling as students are working through the therapeutic process with their clients. Students may have the role of a solo therapist, co-therapist (student is leading the therapy process accompanied by approved supervisor), family therapist, or group therapist.

Minimum hour requirement: 240 hours

- Direct Client Contact is to be **clinical in nature** using the counseling skills learned in COUC 505, 512, and 667 as well as other counseling courses.
- Student can earn **no more than 25%** of their direct client contact hours as intake interviews and assessments. Anything beyond this may count as related hours.
- Student can earn **no more than 50%** of their direct client contact hours as group counseling. This is to ensure that students are diversifying their clinical experience.

MFC students are responsible for checking with their state board to verify the number of Direct Client Contact hours with couples and families. For example, the state of Virginia requires students to earn a minimum of 200 hours with couples and families during their 600-hour Internship. If you have a question about your state requirements, you will need to contact your state board directly.