

## New Program Proposal

# Couple, Marriage, and Family Counseling, Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Couple, Marriage and Family Counseling (CMFC) may be pursued as a stand-alone credential or in conjunction with the Master's Degree in Education in counseling, the Master's in Social Work degree, the Ed.D., or the Ph.D. in Education. With advance planning, all 12 credits may be applied to the Master's of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Completion of the CMFC certificate, however, does not guarantee acceptance into any other degree program (which requires a separate application for admission).

## Admission Requirements

Requirements for admission to the CMFC certificate program are current "good standing" (non-probation) in an UMSL graduate mental health practitioner training program (such as counseling, social work, or psychology), **OR** all of the following criteria must be met:

1. Undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better;
2. Enrollment in a graduate mental health practitioner training program, or completion of a mental health practitioner master's degree;
3. Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a current or former college-level instructor (or someone with a graduate degree who can attest to the applicant's capacity to complete graduate-level work);
4. Two-page personal statement explaining the applicant's personal and professional goals.

## Certificate Requirements

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CNS ED 6500	Introduction to Systems Theory for Couples and Family Counseling	3
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CNS ED 6510	Marriage Counseling and Enrichment	3
CNS ED 6520	Family Counseling	3
CNS ED 6380	Clinical Mental Health Counseling Field Experience <sup>1</sup>	3
or CNS ED 7000	Advanced Theories and Practice of Counseling	
or CNS ED 7780	Doctoral Internship	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

<sup>1</sup> For CNS ED 6380/CNS ED 7000/CNS ED 7780, the counseling must be completed at a site requiring the student to work with couples/families.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S007050	Mike Griffin		No

Rationale

UMSL is uniquely qualified to establish a certificate program in couple, marriage and family counseling, because there is a long history of training counselors to do such work on the UMSL campus. For over 30 years, coursework in couple, marriage, and family counseling has been offered through the College of Education, now provided through the Department of Education Sciences and Professional Programs. In the State of Missouri there is a "Marriage and Family Therapist" license, but there are no entry level graduate programs designed to train practitioners to obtain that license. The proposed CMFC will allow established mental health professionals and graduate students in mental health professions to complete coursework toward the license. It also will allow professionals to seek the "Certified Family Therapist" credential offered by the National Credentialing Academy of Certified Family Therapist, a respected certification credentialing organization sponsored by the American Counseling Association's family counseling division--the International Association of Marriage and Family Counseling. This graduate certificate, therefore, provides an organized program that offers training in couple, marriage, and family counseling: (a) to meet the needs of professionals and students seeking such training or credentials, and (b) to increase availability of trained mental health professionals providing needed couple, marriage, and family counseling services to the community. The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook (2020) describes the employment outlook for marriage and family therapist as follows: "Employment of marriage and family therapists is projected to grow 22 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth is expected due to an increasing use of teams for treatment, in which these therapists work with other counselors to address patients' needs." Existing faculty members provide the needed expertise for this program, and the required courses are regularly scheduled.