The mission of Saint Louis University's medical family therapy program is to train marriage and family therapists who are engaged in service to individuals, couples, families and the community. Through a scholarly and reflective process, the faculty are involved in the development of professional clinicians who understand and recognize the primacy and importance of scientific inquiry, diversity and social justice; who respect and accept multiple perspectives; and who strive to practice in a collaborative engagement with other professionals and the community.

M.A. in Family Therapy (Optional Concentration in Medical Family Therapy):

The Master of Arts in family therapy is based on a systemic/relational view of individuals, couples and families. It fulfills the course and practicum requirements toward licensure in Missouri as a licensed marital and family therapist. The program requires a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree. Prerequisites include 18 credit hours in the behavioral sciences. Program requirements include didactic courses, two semesters of practicum, three semesters of internship in a community setting and the attainment of a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical contact. The concentration in medical family therapy prepares students to function as part of an integrated care team in addressing the biopsychosocial needs of individuals and families.

Ph.D. in Medical Family Therapy:

The doctorate in medical family therapy is based on a systemic/relational view of individuals, couples and families. It prepares clinicians to work within an integrated healthcare setting in collaboration with medical and mental health professionals. Coursework focuses on theory, practice and research in the field of couple and family therapy with an emphasis on intervention in primary care medical settings and as adjunct health providers in specialty care. The doctoral program involves a minimum of 51 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree, plus comprehensive examinations and original research culminating in the dissertation (12-plus credit hours). The Ph.D. has a clinical component in which students are trained in both mental health and medical settings as part of an integrated care team of health professionals. Students are required to complete a nine- to 12-month internship.

Both the marriage and family therapy doctoral program and master's program at Saint Louis University are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. The Ph.D. program is available as a part-time or a full-time program.
Medical Family Therapy
+ School of Medicine

FACULTY

Craig W. Smith, Ph.D.: Medical family therapy, integrated care, marriage and family therapy teaching and supervision, telebehavioral health

Katie Heiden-Rootes, Ph.D.: Multicultural relationships in families and therapy, health care outcomes for LGBTQ youth and families, sexual health for women

Dixie Meyer, Ph.D.: Neurobiological applications in counseling, couples counseling, drama therapy, affect regulations and attachment

Nancy C. Morrison, Ph.D. (Emeritus): Family resiliency, single-parent and remarried families, postmodern therapy and teaching

J. Douglas Pettinelli, Ph.D.: Child development and family development, brain development, attachment processes, emotional regulation, shame, sibling relationships, adoption, an overall eco-systemic view of human development in context

J. Max Zubatsky, Ph.D.: Caregiving for chronic illness, geriatrics, community health, collaborative care in medicine, treatment approaches for couples

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Possible careers in medical family therapy include:
- Academic positions
- Research positions
- Clinical positions in medical and mental health centers
- Private practice and consulting

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Scholarships and financial aid are available. For more information, please visit the website of the office of scholarship and financial aid: finaid.slu.edu.