

# Family Therapy Program



The Family Therapy Program within the Kent School of Social Work is dedicated to developing professionals in marriage and family therapy (MFT) to work with families within their community contexts.

The University of Louisville has a long history of involvement in this important area. It began offering its first MFT courses in the 1970s and in 1983 offered students a postmaster's certificate. Eleven years later, the Family Therapy Program became a part of the Kent School of Social Work.

This is currently the only program in the nation officially recognized by AAMFT that is housed in a school of social work. See program descriptions on the back for more

information on the programs we offer at the Master's level.

Students may pursue specialized study of MFT at the University of Louisville by completing the Master of Science in Social Work with a specialization in marriage and family therapy (MSSW-MFT Specialization). Students earn their MSSW along with credentials in MFT.

Kent's Family Therapy Program prepares students to help families-at-risk by offering excellent education that focuses on strengthening individuals, families and communities. The program offers innovative applications of family systems, theory and practice.

The MSSW-MFT Specialization curriculum meets course requirements for Kentucky licensure and clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Coursework focuses on theoretical foundations, practical application, ethics, integration of research, theory and practice, and supervised clinical practice.

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## MSSW-MFT Specialization

This specialization gives social work students the opportunity to focus on families and incorporates MFT skills in their social work practice. Teaching social workers MFT skills fulfills Kent's mission to effect durable change, not only for the families they work with but also for the communities in which these families live and work.

The MSSW-MFT Specialization can be completed in either two or three years (the two-year program begins in the summer). Requirements include an additional:

- 6 semester hours of academic coursework in addition to the 60 hours required for the MSSW degree, and
- 8 semester hours of ongoing individual and group supervision.

Consideration for admittance into the MSSW-MFT specialization is dependent on acceptance into Kent School's MSSW program.

## Advanced Standing MSSW-MFT Prep Track

Students with a BSW and applying for Advanced Standing Status (one-year program) are eligible for the **Advanced Standing MSSW-MFT Prep Track**. In this program, students will receive specialized, competency-based training in marriage and family therapy practice and service delivery. Beginning in their first summer, students will be placed in pre-approved clinical practicum settings with community agencies who have agreed to meet the requirements of our Clinical Affiliation Agreement.

In the Advanced Standing MSSW-MFT Prep Track, students begin their studies in MFT, and then upon graduation, are eligible to complete the additional coursework needed as a postgraduate. This coursework completes their preparation to be a Marriage and

## Application Materials

When applying to the MSSW-MFT Specialization program, students should first apply to the Kent School for admission to the MSSW program at: <http://louisville.edu/kent/students/future-students/future-students-information> The following additional items should be emailed to Graduate Admissions at [gradadm@louisville.edu](mailto:gradadm@louisville.edu):

- A letter of intent explaining the applicant's interest in the program, knowledge and understanding of family therapy, work experiences in human services (voluntary or paid) and professional goals and expectations.
- A five-page summary of significant experiences from the applicant's family of origin and how those are likely to affect his or her professional development.

\*Please notify the MFT department as a courtesy so that they are aware you have submitted these materials by sending an email to [danette.baker@louisville.edu](mailto:danette.baker@louisville.edu)

Family Therapist; Associate Status (MFT-A). Once they have their MFT-A, they are able to work under approved supervision to complete the full requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Kentucky (LMFT).

Graduates of the program are very competitive due to the rigor and comprehensiveness of their training.

## Admissions to MSSW-MFT Prep Track

The following are the requirements for application to the specialization:

Eligibility: Eligibility to apply is limited to students with a BSW who have applied and been accepted to the Advanced Standing Program at the Kent School of Social Work.

## For More Information

Consult the Kent School and Family Therapy Program website at:

[louisville.edu/kent/family](http://louisville.edu/kent/family)

or contact:

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502/852-0383

Enrollment: Admission is achieved by students submitting the following additional materials to Graduate Admissions at [gradadm@louisville.edu](mailto:gradadm@louisville.edu) by January 15th:

A letter of intent explaining the applicant's interest in the program, knowledge and understanding of family therapy, work experiences in human services (voluntary or paid) and professional goals and expectations.

A five-page summary of significant experiences from the applicant's family of origin and how those are likely to affect his or her professional development.

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