Why UNLV’s MFT Program?

Our master’s of marriage and family therapy program is one of the top master’s programs in the U.S., and one of the few master’s programs in the southwestern U.S. that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. This accreditation is the “gold standard” of accreditation in MFT education.

State-of-the-Art Clinical Training
You will be trained to work with clients in a state-of-the-art clinical training facility where you will gain 500 hours of face-to-face therapy experience working with individuals, couples, and families. Within our clinical training, you will have the flexibility to choose your own modality while being supervised through that modality by well-qualified on-site supervisors and faculty. Because our clinic is a full service counseling center providing quality, low-cost counseling to residents of the Las Vegas community, you will be see a wide variety of client populations and presenting problems over the course of your training experience.

High Quality Instruction
By surveying the best programs in the country, we created a model program that is both innovative and successful. Our students learn the practice of marriage and family therapy through cutting-edge courses. We also pride ourselves on our steady availability to our trainees. We also are very serious about our teaching and consistently revise our courses based on the student needs and input, and have a variety of options during the program through which students can provide feedback about our teaching. Further, supervision is an integral part of the training. Students receive the highest quality supervision from AAMFT Approved-Supervisors at a low ratio of cases to supervision. As a result of our well-rounded curriculum and top-notch facilities, our students have one of the highest pass rates in the country on the national marriage and family therapy exam, with one of the overall highest average scores. In fact, over the last 10 years, only 2 students have not passed the exam on their first attempt.

Research Opportunities and Preparation for Doctoral Work
The research we conduct at UNLV is cutting-edge in the field of family therapy. Research interests of the faculty include infidelity and its treatment, forgiveness, medical family therapy, LGBT studies, ecological and family sustainability, technology and couples, change process in couples therapy, and sexual dysfunction. We also actively apply for grants in the area of family sustainability, understanding decision-making around high-risk sexual behavior, and the therapeutic process. In addition, we use our clinic as a place to conduct research for both faculty and student projects. We welcome the opportunity to involve graduate students in our work. We are happy to supervise student research as well as collaborate with graduate students on current and future studies. Interested and motivated students have the opportunity to gain research experience, present at conferences, and publish in academic journals and texts. We have been very successful in placing students in PhD programs in marriage and family therapy and counseling education. In fact, 100% of our students who have applied to doctoral programs during the past 10 years have been accepted into a PhD program.

Training by Clinically-Experienced, Award-Winning Faculty
The faculty members are nationally and internationally distinguished in the field of family therapy and have a wide variety of expertise.

- Dr. Stephen Fife has extensive experience working with individuals, couples, and families on a variety of mental health and relationship problems, with a particular focus on the treatment of
infidelity. His research interests include change processes in marital therapy, conceptualization and treatment of marital conflict, forgiveness, treatment of sexual addictions, and theory and philosophy of marriage and family therapy models.

- **Dr. Katherine M. Hertlein** has specialized training in play therapy and routinely works with families struggling with divorce, co-parenting issues, trauma in childhood, infidelity, and sexual problems. Her research interests include infidelity, sexuality, and technology and relationships.

- **Dr. Colleen Peterson** has extensive experience working with cancer patients and their families, incest, sexual abuse, and rape survivors, and children and adolescents and their families. She is interested in supervision, ethics and outcome research in marriage and family therapy.

- **Dr. Gerald R. Weeks** lectures nationally and internationally on the practice of sex and couple therapy. He has provided over 30,000 hours of therapy just within this specialization and thousands of hours of supervision from beginning level student practitioners to those with many years of experience. He also has specific interest in strategic/brief therapy, hypoactive sexual desire, reframing, therapeutic compliance, termination, affairs, paradox, therapeutic writing, and sex and couples therapy. In 2009, he was awarded “Outstanding Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy by AAMFT and in 2010 named “Family Psychologist of the Year.”

**Participation in Research and Scholarship**

The research we conduct at UNLV is cutting-edge in the field of family therapy. We are the only MFT program conducting research on ecologically-informed family therapy practices, online gaming and relationships, and the use of technology within the practice of marriage and family therapy. Other research interests include infidelity and its treatment, forgiveness, medical family therapy, affirmative practices, and sexual dysfunction. We also use our clinic as a place to conduct research for both faculty and student projects. Some grants we have been awarded include:

- *What Were You Thinking? A Theory to Reduce High-Risk Sexual Behavior*
- *Breaking up is Hard to Do: A Test of a New Treatment for Couples Therapy*
- *Does Therapeutic Alliance Affect Termination Status*
- *Exploration of Cyber-Based Technology in Marriage/Couple and Family Therapy and Supervision in Remote and Rural Areas*

We are also very committed to student achievement through research and scholarly activity and work to provide these opportunities to interested students. In fact, many of our students have presented regionally, nationally, and internationally, including at the National Council of Family Relations Annual Conference and the American Association for Family Therapy Annual conference. We have also published books and several articles with our students. We have also published 2 books and several articles with our students. For instance, 10 of our students co-published cinematic reviews, in which they analyzed diverse family forms clinical and systemic lenses. In addition, to garner more publishing opportunities for students, our faculty has contacted two journal book review editors regarding student interests and has subsequently provided book review publication opportunities for 7 of our students. Additionally, the program offers various capstone/thesis options that give the student flexibility and enhances their career success.