

**MS Degree in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy Program  
California State University, Fresno  
Student Outcomes Assessment Plan**

**Counseling: Option in MFT Mission Statement**

The MS in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy Program at California State University, Fresno is designed to prepare professional counselors to serve the mental health needs of an increasingly diverse and changing society in accordance with the ethical standards of the American Counseling Association. The purpose of the MS in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy program is to provide students with the academic and practical experiences that prepare them for entry level counseling positions, leading to state licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists. The Counselor Education faculty is committed to providing a program milieu that offers students the opportunity for professional and personal growth. The learning goals of the program emphasize achieving a firm understanding of the theoretical foundations of counseling and its practical applications, and becoming responsive to the cultural, ethnic, racial, disability, gender, sexual identity, and socio-economic context of individuals, couples, and families.

The program promotes the following areas of competencies that serve as goals and objectives:

**Goal 1: Prepare professional counselors to meet the mental health needs of an increasingly diverse and changing society.**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:**

The MS degree program in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy will prepare students to:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Objective 1.1</b> | Articulate orally and in written form a theoretical base and rationale for counseling   |
| <b>Objective 1.2</b> | Conduct effective individual, couples, marriage, family, child, and group counseling  |
| <b>Objective 1.3</b> | Identify the needs of people in a changing society related to human development and human sexuality over the life span  |
| <b>Objective 1.4</b> | Apply professional counseling expertise under direct supervision  |
| <b>Objective 1.5</b> | Accurately conduct mental health diagnoses and apply measurement and evaluation in the field of counseling  |
| <b>Objective 1.6</b> | Articulate orally and in written form a theoretical base and rationale for career development and describe the importance of career choice in a changing society  |
| <b>Objective 1.7</b> | Demonstrate awareness to the existence of cultural diversity, develop sensitivity to people with differences, and demonstrate responsiveness to recognized differences through counselor interventions with individuals and groups  |
| <b>Objective 1.8</b> | Recognize the need for and become directly involved with research in the field of counseling that is consistent in style and format with that of the American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition |

**Goal 2: Prepare qualified counselors who are proficient in written and verbal communications.**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:**

The MS degree program in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy will prepare students to:

- Objective 2.1** Use writing skills to communicate in a style and format consistent with the American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- Objective 2.2** Communicate with peers, professors, and supervisors in a manner that is consistent with appropriate mental health terminology and consultative practices.

**Goal 3: Prepare professional counselors to practice effectively in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments.**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:**

The MS degree program Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy will prepare students to:

- Objective 3.1** Develop and participate in cooperative and collaborative ventures with members of our professional and service community.
- Objective 3.2** Maintain effective working relationships with members of the mental health and service community.

**Goal 4: Promote the development of counselor professional identity and an understanding of the ethical standards of the American Counseling Association and the legal statutes of the State of California.**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:**

The MS degree program Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy will prepare students to:

- Objective 4.1** Identify counseling, legal, and ethical concerns related to the needs of people who are living and developing in a pluralistic society
- Objective 4.2** Adhere to the legal statutes of the State of California and ethical standards of the American Counseling Association.

**Program Objectives**

**Goal 5: Provide Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy students with the academic and practical experiences that satisfy the program accreditation standards set forth by the Counsel for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) and satisfy the licensure requirements of the State of California's Board of Behavioral Science as a Marriage and Family Therapist.**

**Learning Objectives and Assessment:**

The MS Degree program Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy will:

- Objective 5.1** Monitor and adjust program curricula to comply with regulations of the State of California's Board of Behavioral Science
- Objective 5.2** Maintain academic and practice curricula consistent with the standards set by the Counsel for the Accreditation of Counselor Education and Related Programs (CACREP).

**MS Degree in Counseling: Option Marriage and Family Therapy  
Course Requirements**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>Pre-requisite Coursework</b>		
COUN 174	Introduction to Counseling	3
COUN 176	Counseling and Mental Health	3
<b>Core Counseling Coursework</b>		
COUN 200	Seminar in Counseling Techniques	3
COUN 201	Seminar in Multicultural Aspects of Counseling	3
COUN 202	Seminar in Group Counseling	3
COUN 203	Seminar in Assessment in Counseling	3
COUN 206	Counseling Through the Lifespan	3
COUN 208	Practicum in Counseling	4
COUN 220	Seminar in Career Development Theory	3
ERF 220	Research in Education	3
COUN 298	Project	3
COUN 299	Thesis	3
<b>MFT Option Coursework</b>		
COUN 230	Seminar in Marriage and Family Therapy Theories	3
COUN 231	Seminar in Ethics and Professional Practices of Marriage and Family Therapy	3
COUN 232	Psychopathology and the DSM	3
COUN 233	Seminar in Child and Adolescent Therapy	3
COUN 234a	Contemporary Issues in MFT: Sexuality in Human Relation	1
COUN 234b	Contemporary Issues in MFT: Violence in Intimate Relationships	1
COUN 234c	Contemporary Issues in MFT: Substance Abuse Treatment	1
COUN 234d	Psychopharmacology	1
COUN 234e	Consultation	1
COUN 238	Advanced Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy	4
COUN 239	Field Placement in Marriage and Family Therapy	6

The MS in Counseling: option in Marriage and Family Therapy program course versus curriculum map is presented to delineate the programs' attempts to satisfy goals and objectives through the 60 unit program curriculum.

**Curriculum Map: MS Degree in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy**

I = Introductory level of understanding required  
 R = Reinforced level of understanding  
 A = Advanced level of understanding required

	<b>Goal and Objectives</b>	<b>Course Numbers</b>	<b>Competency Level</b>
1	<b>Goal:</b> Prepare professional counselors to meet the mental health needs of an increasingly diverse and changing society. Upon successful completion of the Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy, MS degree program, students will be expected to be able to:		
1.1	Articulate orally and in written form a theoretical base and rationale for counseling	COUN 174 COUN 202 COUN 208 COUN 230 COUN 233 COUN 234e COUN 238 COUN 239	I I R I I I A A
1.2	Conduct effective individual, couples, marriage, family, child, and group counseling	COUN 200 COUN 202 COUN 208 COUN 233 COUN 234d COUN 238 COUN 239	I I R I A A A
1.3	Identify the needs of people in a changing society related to human development and human sexuality over the lifespan	COUN 206 COUN 233 COUN 234a	I I I
1.4	Apply professional counseling expertise under direct supervision	COUN 200 COUN 202 COUN 208 COUN 238 COUN 239	I I R A A
1.5	Accurately conduct mental health diagnoses and apply measurement and evaluation in the field of counseling.	COUN 203 COUN 208 COUN 232 COUN 234d COUN 238 COUN 239	I R I A A A
1.6	Articulate orally and in written form a theoretical base and rationale for career development and describe the importance of career choice in a changing society.	COUN 220	I
1.7	Demonstrate awareness to the existence of cultural diversity, demonstrate sensitivity to people with differences, demonstrate responsiveness to recognize differences through counselor interventions with individuals and groups.	COUN 200 COUN 201 COUN 202 COUN 208 COUN 238 COUN 239	I I I R A A

1.8	Recognize the need for and become directly involved with research in the field of counseling that is consistent in style and format with that of the American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition	ERF 220 COUN 220 COUN 298 COUN 299	I I A A
<b>Goal and Objectives</b>			
2	<b>Goal:</b> Prepare professional counselors who are proficient in written and verbal communications	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Competency Level</b>
2.1	Use writing skills to communicate in a style and format consistent with the current American Psychological Association Publication Manual.	ERF 220 COUN 220 COUN 298 COUN 299	I I A A
2.2	Communicate with peers, professors, and supervisors in a manner that is consistent with appropriate mental health terminology and consultative practices.	COUN 200 COUN 202 COUN 208 COUN 238 COUN 239	I I R A A
<b>Goal and Objectives</b>			
3	Prepare professional counselors to practice effectively in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Competency Level</b>
3.1	Participate in cooperative and collaborative ventures with members of our professional and service community.	COUN 238 COUN 239	A A
3.2	Maintain effective working relationships with members of the mental health and service community.	COUN 200 COUN 202 COUN 208 COUN 238 COUN 239	I I R A A
<b>Goal and Objectives</b>			
4	<b>Goal:</b> Promote the development of counselor professional identity and an understanding of the ethical standards of the American Counseling Association and the legal statutes of the State of California.	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Competency Level</b>
4.1	Identify counseling, legal, and ethical concerns related to the needs of people who are living and developing in a pluralistic society	COUN 200 COUN 201 COUN 208 COUN 231 COUN 238 COUN 239	I I R I A A
4.2	Adhere to the legal statutes of the State of California and ethical standards of the American Counseling Association.	COUN 200 COUN 208 COUN 231 COUN 234a COUN 234b COUN 234c COUN 234d COUN 234e COUN 238 COUN 239	I R I I I I I I A A

**MS Degree in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy Program Goals and Objectives**

<b>Goal and Objectives</b>			
		<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Competency Level</b>
5	<b>Goal:</b> Provide Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy students with the academic and practical experiences that satisfy the program accreditation standards set forth by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) and the licensure requirements of the State of California's Board of Behavioral Science as a Marriage and Family Therapist.		
5.1	Monitor and adjust program curricula to comply with the regulations of the State of California's Board of Behavioral Science.	COUN 200 COUN 201 COUN 202 COUN 203 COUN 206 COUN 208 COUN 230 COUN 231 COUN 232 COUN 233 COUN 234a COUN 234b COUN 234c COUN 234d COUN 238 COUN 239	I I I I I R I I I I I I I A A A
5.2	Maintain academic and practical curricula reflective of standards set forth by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP)	COUN 200 COUN 201 COUN 202 COUN 203 COUN 206 COUN 208 COUN 220 ERF 220 COUN 230 COUN 231 COUN 232 COUN 234e COUN 238 COUN 239	I I I I I I R I I I I I A A

**Curriculum Matrix: MS Degree in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy**

I = Introductory level of understanding required

R = Reinforced level of understanding

A = Advanced level of understanding required

Course	Objective															
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2
COUN 174	I															
COUN 176	I															
COUN 200		I		I			I			I		I	I	I	I	I
COUN 201							I						I		I	I
COUN 202	I	I		I			I			I		I			I	I
COUN 203					I										I	I
COUN 206			I												I	I
COUN 208	R	R		R	R		R			R		R	R	R	R	R
ERF 220								I	I							I
COUN 220						I		I	I							I
COUN 230	I														I	I
COUN 231													I	I	I	I
COUN 232					I										I	I
COUN 233	I	I	I												I	
COUN 234a															I	
COUN 234b														I	I	
COUN 234c			I											I	I	
COUN 234d		A			A										A	
COUN 234e	I													I		I
COUN 238	A	A		A	A		A			A	A	A	A	A	A	A
COUN 239	A	A		A	A		A			A	A	A	A	A	A	A
COUN 298								A	A							
COUN 299								A	A							

**MS in Counseling: Option in MFT Program Assessment Timeline**

The following timeline was used to gather feedback on the MS degree in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy’s programmatic goals and objectives. It should be noted that the assessment measures initiated were cumulative in nature and are designed with the intent of providing a more holistic view of the programmatic function as they relate to the overall goals and objectives of the MFT option. It should also be noted that these assessment measures are continually evaluated and modified in order to more accurately and meaningfully assess student learning and program relevance.

**Counseling: Option in MFT Program Assessment Timeline**

Assessment Activity	Timetable for Implementation	Status
Graduate Writing Requirement	2000/2001 academic year	Completed
Clinical Review	2000/2001 academic year	Completed
CACREP Review	2001/2002 academic year	Completed
Advisory Board	2001/2002 academic year	Completed
Field-Site/Practicum Evaluations	2002/2003 academic year	Completed

Exit Survey	2002/2003 academic year	Completed
Employer Survey	2003/2004 academic year	Completed
Comprehensive Exam	2003/2004 academic year	Completed

The MS in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy's program coordinator is responsible to oversee the gathering and analysis of assessment data as it relates to the program's stated goals and objectives and or assign appropriate program faculty. Hence, the program coordinator gathers outcome assessment information personally or assign specific program faculty as deemed appropriate.

It is the program coordinator's responsibility to provide program faculty with a summary of data gathered through the assessment process. It should be noted that all program faculty will collect, analyze, and review outcome data based on teaching and administrative responsibilities. Faculty will be assigned responsibilities based on class assignments/administrative duties (i.e. The faculty member teaching Coun 220 Seminar in Career Development will be designated as the person (s) responsible for collecting, evaluating, and summarizing data associated with the graduate writing requirement). A breakdown of program faculty assessment gathering responsibilities is charted below.

Assessment Activity	Responsible Faculty(s)
Graduate Writing Req	Coun 220 instructor
Field Site Evaluations	Coun 239 instructor
Comprehensive Exam	Chair, Comp Exam Committee
Advisory Board	Program Coordinator
BBS Regulations	BBS Liaison
Clinical Review	Coun 208 instructor
Exit Survey	Graduate Technician
Employer Survey	Coun 239 instructor
CACREP Review	CACREP Liaison Program Faculty

**MS in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy program Assessment Activity versus Objective Matrix** is presented to delineate the programs' attempts to measure progress toward satisfying identified goals and objectives.

**MS in Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy Program  
Assessment Activity versus Objective Matrix**

Assessment Activity	Objective															
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2
Graduate Writing Req								X	X							
Field Site Evaluations				X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X		
Comprehensive Exam	X	X	X		X	X	X		X				X	X		
Advisory Board											X					
BBS Regulations															X	
Clinical Review	X	X		X			X			X				X		
Exit Survey															X	X
Employer Survey															X	X
CACREP Review																X

**Note:** See Appendix A for a listing of the above assessment measures and related program policies and procedures.



### **Implementation of the Counseling: Option in Marriage and Family Therapy Outcomes Assessment of Student Learning Plan**

The Counseling: Option in MFT program review and evaluate results gathered through the Outcomes Assessment of Student Learning process during twice-monthly program meetings. In addition, the program faculty review data collected through the Outcome Assessment of Student Learning during the annual faculty retreat with the intent of adjusting program milieu to meet the defined goals and objectives.