



WESTERN SEMINARY



# 2010-2011 Academic Catalog Gospel-Centered Transformation

## Master of Arts (M.A.) in Marital and Family Therapy Program

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Western Seminary offers the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Marital and Family Therapy program (requiring 72 credits) through the San Jose and Sacramento branch campuses. The Marital and Family Therapy program (M.A.-MFT) may be augmented by two dual-track degree options, an M.A. in Marital and Family Therapy/M.Div. (Pastoral Counseling) program (requiring 120 credits), and the M.A. in Marital and Family Therapy/M.A. (Biblical and Theological Studies) (requiring 108 credits). In addition to the Seminary's general educational goals, the M.A.-MFT program endeavors to achieve the following:

1. Equip marriage and family therapists and pastoral counselors for ministry in and through the Church.
2. Integrate biblical and theological foundations with the insights of psychology and practical therapy/counseling strategies.
3. Promote growth in Christian maturity demonstrated through effective interpersonal relationships.
4. Prepare individuals who are seeking state licensure as professional marriage and family therapists.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Western Seminary offers the Marital and Family Therapy program thoroughly grounded in a biblical worldview. Based on the Seminary's Christ-centered approach, theological reflection and spirituality are viewed as significant components in the therapeutic process. In particular, the Seminary underscores the necessity for a healthy sense of self and wholeness in Christ as vital for those desiring to counsel others in the ministry of family therapy. In the midst of their academic training, students participate in small group processing intended to foster personal exploration of their own areas of need requiring spiritual and emotional healing. The Marital and Family Therapy program combines theoretical constructs with practical application both within the personal lives of students as well as in their future professional work as marriage and family therapists.

Three major areas of rigorous academic study are blended in the M.A.-MFT program: biblical, theological, and family therapy/counseling studies. In addition, course work in character development (combining traditional classroom and small-group processes) facilitates spiritual and emotional growth.

### PROGRAM VOCATIONAL PURPOSES

The M.A.-MFT program intends to prepare Christian marital and family therapists with the knowledge, skills, and insights needed to practice therapy in non-profit organizations or mental health clinical settings, residential and outpatient treatment programs, and counseling centers. For individuals not desiring to enter vocational marriage and family therapy, the M.A.-MFT program prepares individuals for church staff positions and for parachurch ministries.

The M.A.-MFT/M.Div. (Pastoral Counseling) dual degree track expands one's preparation in the biblical and theological areas while adding a substantial ministerial emphasis. This track is designed to prepare individuals for such ministries as the pastorate, chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, family ministries, pastoral care and visitation, discipleship, and small group ministries.

The M.A.-MFT/M.A. (Biblical and Theological Studies) dual degree track provides scholarly discipline and training for thorough theological/psychological research and integration as well as an academic base suitable for biblical or theological doctoral studies.

The M.A.-MFT program meets the educational requirements for licensure by the California Board of Behavioral Science. Both dual-track programs prepare individuals for membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Courses are held at convenient times for working adults. The M.A.-MFT program is designed to be completed within three years. Courses have been strategically sequenced to maximize academic achievement, personal growth, and the integration of psychology and theology.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Seminary given on pages 18-19, applicants to the Marital and Family Therapy program must have earned an accredited baccalaureate degree with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale), including a breadth of liberal arts. Applicants who do not meet the general academic requirements may petition the Admissions Committee for consideration.

Entering M.A.-MFT students are expected to bring a foundational knowledge of psychology. Proficiency in this foundational knowledge will be confirmed through a placement exam required of all incoming M.A.-MFT students who do not have an undergraduate degree in psychology. If deficiencies are indicated, remedial work will be required. Students may satisfy these deficiencies by completing an approved course at a higher education institution or by self-study and retaking the placement exam. Students who do not satisfy proficiency requirements may be prevented from registration for CNS courses until the deficiencies are remedied.

Applications must give evidence of a vital spiritual life, personal character, interpersonal relationships, goals, motivation, and potential for future counseling ministry as fitting the program. These will include growing and nurturing relationships with people, commitment to a biblical/theological orientation to the therapeutic process, and vocational aspirations involving the care and nurture of others.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The M.A.-MFT degree is conferred upon the attainment of pertinent personal and academic requirements. In addition to the general seminary requirements outlined on pages 31-32, degree candidates must (1) give evidence of a genuine Christian character, orthodox belief, and conduct consistent with a God-given call to a position of leadership; (2) complete all courses in the prescribed M.A. curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 overall, and 3.0 in the major; (3) complete a minimum of 30 hours of personal therapy, and (4) complete a minimum of 250 practicum hours, including 150 hours of face-to-face therapy with clients.

## M.A. IN MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

The courses are drawn from marital and family therapy/counseling studies (50 credits), character development studies (4 credits), biblical studies (10 credits), and theological studies (8 credits).

### Spiritual and personal formation: 4 credits

- SFS 501 Learning to Love God and Others ..... (2)
- MFM 500 Discovering and Developing Ministry Potential ..... (2)

### Biblical literature studies: 10 credits

- DBS 506 Learning to Interpret Scripture ..... (4)
- BLS 503X Interpreting New Testament II: Epistles 1 ..... (2)
- BLS 503Y Interpreting New Testament III: Epistles 2 ..... (2)

Choose one of the following four: (2)

- BLS 501X Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel ..... (2)
- BLS 501Y Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon (2)
- BLS 502X Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi ..... (2)
- BLS 502Y Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels ..... (2)

### Theological studies: 8 credits

- THS 501 Knowing the Triune God: Theology I ..... (4)
- THS 502 Glorifying the God of our Salvation: Theology II ..... (4)

### Marital and family therapy/counseling studies: 50 credits

- CNS 501 Clinical Foundations: Basic Counseling Skills/Interventions .  
..... (2)
- CNS 502 Psychological Theory & Techniques ..... (3)
- CNS 503 Family Systems Therapy ..... (3)
- CNS 504 Psychotherapeutic Systems ..... (2)
- CNS 505 Psychopathology ..... (3)
- CNS 506 Legal and Ethical Issues ..... (2)
- CNS 507 Human Life Span Development ..... (3)
- CNS 508 Introduction to Integrative Issues ..... (2)
- CNS 509 Advanced Integration ..... (2)
- CNS 511 Marriage and Contemporary Issues ..... (3)
- CNS 512 Group Therapy ..... (3)
- CNS 513 Social & Cultural Foundations ..... (2)
- CNS 514 Research in Family Studies ..... (2)
- CNS 515 Marriage and Family Assessment ..... (2)
- CNS 517 Child & Adolescent Therapy ..... (2)
- CNS 521 Substance Abuse ..... (2)
- CNS 522 Child, Spouse, and Elder Abuse ..... (2)
- CNS 523 Human Sexuality ..... (2)
- CNS 526 Psychopharmacology ..... (2)
- CNS 530 Counseling Practicum I ..... (2)
- CNS 531 Counseling Practicum II ..... (2)
- CNS 532 Counseling Practicum III ..... (2)

**Total: 72 credits**

# Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy

Spiritual Formation [4] Theological Studies [8]  
Biblical Studies [10] Counseling Studies [50]

**DEGREE TOTAL  
= 72 CREDITS**

### M.A.– MFT & M.DIV. (DUAL DEGREE)

Additional Spiritual Formation [4]  
Additional Biblical Studies [6]  
Biblical Language Studies [12]  
Additional Theological Studies [8]  
Ministerial Studies [18]

**DUAL DEGREE TOTAL = 120 CREDITS**

(see page 88 for detail)

### M.A.– MFT & M.A. (BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES) (DUAL DEGREE)

Additional Spiritual Formation [4]  
Additional Biblical Studies [6]  
Additional Theological Studies [8]  
Exegetical Theological Electives [18]

**DUAL DEGREE TOTAL = 108 CREDITS**

(see page 88 for detail)

### M.A.– MFT & ADDICTION STUDIES CERTIFICATE (DUAL TRACK)

Required Courses [9]

**DUAL TRACK TOTAL = 81 CREDITS**

(see page 88 for detail)

**M.A.-MFT/M.DIV. DUAL DEGREE**

The M.A./M.Div. dual degree program requires 48 credits in addition to the 72 credits of the M.A. listed above.

**Spiritual and personal formation studies: 4 credits**

- SFS 502 Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines.....(2)  
SFS 504 Growing into Ethical Maturity.....(2)

**Biblical literature studies: 6 credits**

Choose three of the following:

- BLS 501X Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel.....(2)  
BLS 501Y Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon (2)  
BLS 502X Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi.....(2)  
BLS 502Y Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels .....(2)

**Biblical language studies: 12 credits**

- NTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Greek Exegesis.....(3)  
NTS 509 Greek Reading and Syntax .....(3)  
OTS 508 Introducing Foundation for Hebrew Exegesis .....(3)  
OTS 509 Hebrew Reading and Syntax .....(3)

**Theological studies: 8 credits**

- CHS 505 Wisdom from Church History .....(4)  
THS503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III .....(2)  
THS 508 Integrating Ministry and Theology.....(2)

**Ministerial studies: 18 credits**

- DIS 501 Communicating Christ in Culture .....(2)  
DMS 501 Thinking Theologically about Ministry.....(2)  
DMS 502 Introducing Theology and Practice of Worship .....(2)  
DMS 506 Developing Godly Leadership for the 21st Century.....(2)  
EMS 505 Growing Disciples Intentionally.....(2)  
PTS 503 Practicing Evangelism and Apologetics .....(2)  
PTS 504 Maximizing the Church's Redemptive Influence .....(2)  
PTS 508 Developing Strong Families .....(2)  
PTS 510 Preparing and Preaching Expository Sermons .....(2)

**Total: 72 + 48 = 120 credits**

**M.A.-MFT/M.A. (BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES) DUAL DEGREE**

The M.A.-MFT/M.A. (Biblical and Theological Studies) dual degree program requires 36 hours in addition to the 72 hours of the M.A. listed above.

**Spiritual and personal formation studies: 4 credits**

- SFS 502 Practicing Prayer and Other Key Disciplines.....(2)  
SFS 504 Growing into Ethical Maturity.....(2)

**Biblical literature studies: 6 credits**

Choose three of the following:

- BLS 501X Interpreting Old Testament I: Genesis - 2 Samuel.....(2)  
BLS 501Y Interpreting Old Testament II: 1 Kings - Song of Solomon (2)  
BLS 502X Interpreting Old Testament III: Isaiah to Malachi.....(2)  
BLS 502Y Interpreting New Testament I: Gospels .....(2)

**Theological studies: 8 credits**

- CHS 505X Wisdom from Ancient Church History .....(2)  
CHS 505Y Wisdom from Advancing Church History .....(2)  
THS 503 Living as the Community of the Spirit: Theology III .....(2)  
THS 508 Integrating Ministry and Theology.....(2)

**Exegetical theological electives: 18 credits**

**Total: 72 + 36 = 108 credits**

**M.A.-MFT/ADDICTION STUDIES CERTIFICATE DUAL TRACK**

The Addiction Studies Certificate program provides the specialized knowledge and professional skills for a wide range of addiction counseling professions and ministries. This curriculum is specifically designed to prepare individuals to test for certification under the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors and its affiliated state organizations (CADAAC). (Since requirements for certification or licensure differ between agencies and organizations, individuals are advised to seek additional information on certification and/or licensing with the agency or organization they wish to pursue.)

The Addiction Studies Certificate may be completed as a track within the M.A.-MFT program or separately for students who do not bring the M.A.-MFT course work. For students who are concurrently enrolled in the M.A.-MFT and the Addiction Studies track, they may complete the Certificate with 9 credits of additional courses:

- CNS 551 Advanced Substance Abuse.....(2)  
CNS 552 Treatment of Addictive Behavior and Counseling Addictive Behavior .....(2)  
CNS 553 Human Services for Addiction Treatment.....(4)  
CNS 554 Addiction Group Dynamics.....(1)  
(Note: CNS 527 replaces CNS 526. Please consult with the Counseling Department for program advising.)

For graduates of a previous M.A.-MFT or equivalent program, please consult the Counseling Department for guidance.

Students who are not concurrently enrolled in the M.A.-MFT program will complete 26 credits. The Addiction Studies Certificate requires:

- CNS 501 Clinical Foundations: Basic Counseling Skills/Intervntns..(2)  
CNS 506 Legal and Ethical Issues .....(2)  
CNS 512 Group Counseling .....(3)  
CNS 513 Social & Cultural Foundations .....(2)  
CNS 521 Substance Abuse .....(2)  
CNS 527 Physiology and Pharmacology of Addiction .....(2)  
CNS 53x Counseling Practicum (addiction focus).....(4)  
CNS 551 Advanced Substance Abuse.....(2)  
CNS 552 Treatment of Addictive Behavior and Counseling Addictive Behavior .....(2)  
CNS 553 Human Services for Addiction Treatment.....(4)  
CNS 554 Addiction Group Dynamics.....(1)

**Total: 26 credits**

For students who wish to complete the Addiction Studies Certificate separately from the M.A.-MFT program will follow the admission and graduation requirements of the Graduate Studies Certificate program, on page 88. Questions on admission or program advising may be directed to the Counseling Department or the Registrar's Office.