

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL FAMILY THERAPY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

STUDENT PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Medical Family Therapy Program has a strong commitment to producing “reflective practitioners in the service of others.” In this regard, the development of ethical and competent family therapists requires attention to the coursework, the development of therapeutic skills, and a commitment to reflection on the student’s interpersonal skills, attitudes, and professional character. Therefore, an integral part of the successful completion of the student’s program of study will include the possession of the dispositions necessary for effective therapy as evaluated by the professional judgment of the faculty. Such judgment is critical as graduates from this program are eligible for socially sanctioned positions as licensed professional counselors, state certified school counselors, and licensed marriage and family therapists. The Personal and Professional Developmental Evaluation (PPDE) will be used to assess the student’s progress in these areas.

Personal and Professional Developmental Evaluation

This evaluation will assess whether the student is demonstrating the professional skills, personal characteristics, and professional disposition commensurate with his/her stage of clinical development. The PPDE will be used in three ways throughout the student’s educational program. First, during the course of the student’s provisional acceptance into her/his program (the first two semesters), the PPDE will be used in all classes taken within the department. The courses included are MFT 522, MFT 530, MFT 540, MFT 541, MFT 577, MFT 532, MFT 650, MFT 672, MFT 674, MFT 676, and MFT 697. The PPDE may be used at any point of the student’s program of study should aspects of a student’s personal and/or professional development become an area of concern.

When a PPDE has been completed about a student, the student will receive a copy of the completed form for her/his records and will be required to sign an additional copy acknowledging that s/he has been given the opportunity to review the evaluation and has been informed about her/his rights and responsibilities in responding to the evaluation. This signature does not signify agreement with the contents of the evaluation. When the PPDE is administered as part of a course, a final grade will not be given until the signed form has been returned to the instructor of the course. All PPDEs will be kept in the student’s permanent program file.

Professional Review Board

A Professional Review Committee (PRC) will be formed to review the personal and professional characteristics of students in the CFT programs. There will be two categories of PRCs:

1. End of Year PRCs: All new students will be evaluated in each of their MFT courses during the first two semesters using the Personal and Professional Development Evaluation (PPDE). At the end of the first two semesters, a PRC will review each student's PPDEs and academic record, and will interview the student concerning the student's progress and future status in the program.

The PRC for each first-year student will consist of her/his advisor and two other faculty members. The PRC will determine the readiness of the student to continue in the degree program. The possible decisions of the PRC will be the following:

- a. Removal of "provisional" status (full entry into the MFT program).
 - b. Developmental/Remedial work to correct any deficiencies.
 - c. Denial of full admission to the MFT program. (The person would no longer be affiliated with the department).
2. Special Professional Review Committees: At any time during a student's work on a degree, a faculty member may request a special PRC to review personal and professional concerns about that student. The Director would assign three faculty members to serve on this committee; the faculty member/s requesting the review would not be members of this committee. This special PRC would meet separately with the concerned faculty member/s and the student to discuss the reasons for the concern. This committee would make a decision based on the choices listed below:
 - a. Remain a Classified Student in the MFT program. The committee, after due consideration, would determine that the concerns were not serious enough to require a change in student status.
 - b. Developmental/remedial work to correct deficiencies.
 - c. Leave of absence with criteria to be met during that leave (e.g., personal counseling, remediation, solving personal issues that interfere, etc.).
 - d. Removal from the MFT program (the person would no longer be affiliated with the department).