

# Doctoral MFC/T FAQs

## How long will the program take?

- The program takes a minimum of three (3) years to complete and you have up to ten (10) years to meet all program requirements.
- The time required to complete your studies will depend on a multitude of factors, including previous training experiences (whether you have a Masters from a COAMFTE-accredited program), clinical aptitude and competence, and pace for completing course requirements, comprehensive exam requirements, residency year requirements, internship requirements, and your dissertation through completion.
- You will work with your advisor to set up an academic plan with a tentative timeline during your first year in the program.

## Is the program accredited?

- Yes, the program has 2 accreditations:
  - COAMFTE: Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education <http://coamfte.org/iMIS15/coamfte/>
  - CACREP: Council on Accreditation for Counseling Related and Education Programs <http://www.cacrep.org/>

## Why should I pursue a doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision: MFC/T Track?

- This program will prepare graduates for diverse career pathways in Counselor Education and Supervision as both a Marriage and Family Therapist and a Professional Counselor. Since the program is dually accredited, core program requirements prepare students to obtain licensure and seek supervision credentials as both a MFT and PC. Further, students are able to work with their advisor to tailor their training experiences to meet their own career pathway needs.

## How do I apply?

- Information for applying to the PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision MFC/T track can be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/soc/doctoral/how-to-apply.dot>

## What is the interview process like?

- Once applications are received, program faculty will review all complete applications and invite selected candidate to campus for an on-campus interview. The interview last 6-8 hours and includes individual and group interviews with faculty, writing exercises, mock therapy demonstrations, and other possible activities incorporated by faculty to assess student eligibility and fit for the program.
- Candidates are notified by the Graduate School regarding the admission decision after the on-campus interviews are completed.

## I have a master's degree in another mental health area. Can I still apply to the program?

- While having a Masters degree in MFT does streamline the students experience in the doctoral program, having a Masters in MFT is not a requirement for the program. Students with a Masters degree in another mental health related discipline will be considered for admission.
- It should be noted that the doctoral program will take a minimum of 2 additional years to complete for those entering without a Masters in MFT from a COMAFTE-approved institution.
- More information about admission requirements for the doctoral program can be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/soc/doctoral/mft-doctoral/program-details.dot>

## Will I receive a graduate assistantship/funding?

- The School of Counseling offers graduate assistantships to the majority of students admitted into a doctoral program. Assistantships are awarded based on need and availability.
- Doctoral students are encouraged to complete a [graduate assistantship application](#) if interested in this possibility. The GA application can be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/677863.pdf>

## Can I attend the program and work?

- It is possible to work in paid employment concurrently while attending the doctoral program. However, we do place a strong emphasis on the trainee producing quality work and developing a strong clinician-scholar skillset. Also, students must complete all program requirements within the Graduate School's time requirements.

## Will do I complete my clinical training?

- Students will complete their clinical training experiences at our on-site clinic and as part of a rotation at a local hospital. It is also possible students will complete additional clinical training off-site at a variety of settings as part of their internship experience.

## I heard there is a medical family therapy cognate – is that true?

- All doctoral students are required to take courses focused on both medical family therapy and psychopharmacology. In addition, all students will complete their advanced practicum experience in collaboration with medical students completing their psychiatry rotation. Students will also complete their own training rotation as a MFT at St. Thomas Hospital.

## Are there opportunities for teaching?

- There are a limited number of teaching graduate assistantships and students should talk to their advisor and the School Director about teaching opportunities.

## What are the expectations for research?

- As a doctoral student, you will be expected to engage in research throughout your course work as a way to prepare you for successfully completing your dissertation. You will also be expected to complete your dissertation to fulfill partial requirements for graduation. Your advisor may have other expectations and opportunities for you to engage in research teams and projects based on your interest, career aspirations, and readiness to complete your dissertation successfully.
- In addition, per educational research outcomes for the doctoral MFC/T program:
  - *“90 percent of students enrolled in their last semester of Dissertation (5600:899) will successfully defend their dissertations.”*
  - *“80 percent of the students will produce at least one publishable manuscript or presentation (including posters).”*

## When do I start the dissertation process?

- Students will officially begin the dissertation process when they begin their internship, with the guidance of their advisor and internship supervisor. Dissertation conceptualization should occur prior to internship with the guidance of the student's advisor.

## What are the hours requirements?

- Information regarding hours requirements can be found in the doctoral handbook at <http://www.uakron.edu/soc/documents/4-1%20MFT%20Doctoral%20R%202016.pdf>. Per the handbook, “The MFC/T doctoral track requires a minimum of 120 semester hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree.
- Although transfer work may be accepted, in order to be admitted into the doctoral program, a student must have completed a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, counseling, or a related field. Students must have completed graduate course work in the following areas prior to enrolling for course work in their doctoral major: (1) introductory courses in marriage and family therapy, systems theory, and marital therapy; (2) assessment; (3) counseling theory; (4) group counseling; (5) multicultural counseling; (6) techniques of counseling; (7) practicum in marriage and family therapy/counseling (8) human sexuality; (9) techniques of research; (10) professional and ethical issues; and (11) DSM. A minimum of 60 semester hours of credit must be taken after admission to the MFT doctoral program.”

## What are the internship options?

- Internship options are outlined in the MFC/T doctoral handbook, which can be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/soc/documents/4-1%20MFT%20Doctoral%20R%202016.pdf>. Students will work with their advisor and the internship instructor to best tailor their internship to fit their educational and career needs.

## What are career opportunities post-graduation like?

- There are an array of career pathways post-graduation. Prior graduates have successfully obtained employment in private practice, hospitals, mental health agencies, higher education (fill-time or part-time), and/or have taken on leadership responsibilities in agencies (e.g. program development, program oversight, supervision, etc). All students should talk to their advisor about their own career trajectory so that their program can be tailored to fit their plan.