


## School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department of Marriage and Family Sciences

*Clinical Placement and Training*



Northcentral University (NCU) was founded in 1996 to provide working professionals around the world with unprecedented access to richly engaging, professionally relevant and academically rigorous education from a U.S. university. As a regionally accredited online graduate-focused university, NCU offers doctoral and master's degrees in marriage and family therapy, as well as doctoral, master's and bachelor's degrees in business and technology management, education and psychology.



NCU's unique approach to graduate education is ideal for self-starters and independent thinkers who want a premier education with unprecedented flexibility. We use a unique one-to-one learning model that pairs one student with one doctoral professor for each course. Throughout their academic journey, students are mentored by professors who are experienced in their field of study. NCU professors hold doctoral degrees, and none of our programs have residency requirements, allowing flexible access to students no matter where they live.

Since launching in 2005 with just 15 students, NCU's Department of Marriage and Family Sciences has grown to serve more than 1,400 current students and alumni, who hail from 48 U.S. states, Puerto Rico and more than 10 nations.

NCU offers the first distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) program to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). In addition, NCU's PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy is the first, and currently only, distance-based program to gain COAMFTE accreditation. This coveted programmatic accreditation ensures that the University's

programs align with national accreditation standards and licensure requirements in most states.\*

We're very proud of the positive impact we have had on our students. Under the guidance of mentoring professors who are experienced, licensed therapy practitioners, our students acquire the knowledge, skills, practical application and values that help shape them into competent, ethical and culturally sensitive marriage and family therapists. In fact, according to the 2014 NCU Alumni Survey, 89 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their NCU program content aligned with their career objectives.

The success of our graduates tells us that our coursework is relevant and that our approach truly prepares them for the next step in their busy professional lives. I hope you enjoy learning more about what makes NCU's marriage and family therapy programs different and, quite frankly, remarkable.

Thank you,

James Billings, PhD  
Dean, School of Social and Behavioral  
Sciences  
Northcentral University

*\*Exceptions include Kansas, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.*





IMAGINE YOURSELF AT A HIGHER DEGREE

# **NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY**

---

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

---

DEPARTMENT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SCIENCES



## **COAMFTE ACCREDITED**

Northcentral University created the first distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) program to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). COAMFTE is the accrediting body affiliated with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Our MAMFT program provides rigorous training to help students develop into competent, ethical, culturally sensitive and licensable\* marriage and family therapists, who will make a difference in the communities where they live and work.

In addition, NCU's PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy is the first, and currently only, distance-based program to gain COAMFTE accreditation.

NCU strives to provide students with a quality education and training experience that will help raise their critical thinking and research skills to a higher degree.

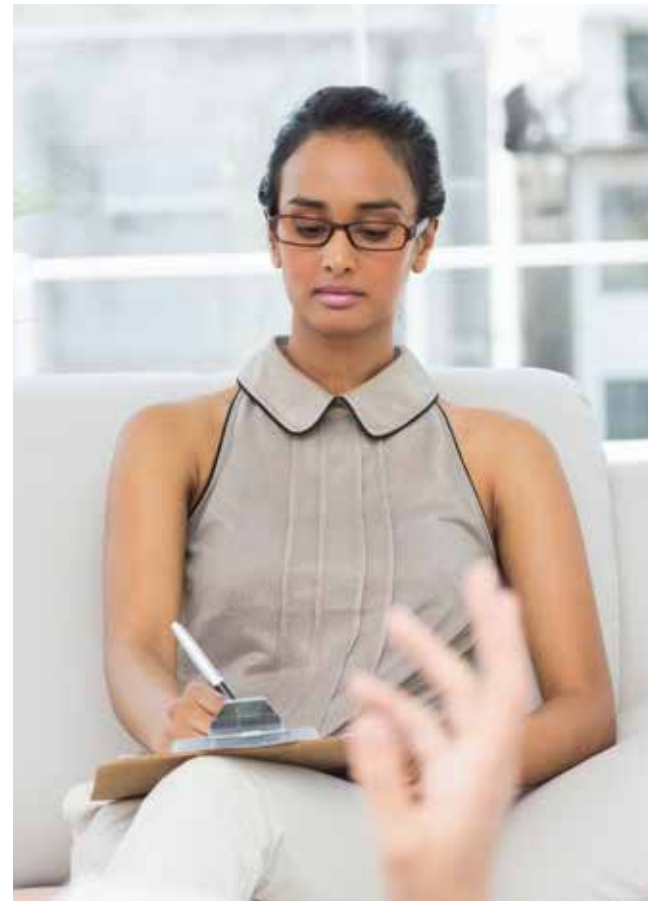


**COAMFTE**

Commission on Accreditation for  
Marriage and Family Therapy Education

*\*Exceptions include Kansas, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.*

# Growth & Reach



**2005**

15 STUDENTS

4 PROFESSORS

.....

**2016**

1400+ STUDENTS

55 PROFESSORS

**97% PASS RATE\***  
BY NCU GRADS FOR LICENSURE

\*Based on a 2016 NCU survey of the University's 145 MAMFT alumni who graduated on or before April 21, 2016.



STUDENTS IN  
48 STATES  
AND 10+  
NATIONS



“When I saw that Northcentral University was an accredited university, I was very excited. I’d looked at the PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy program, and all that was involved with it, and I was really impressed.”

– **Laurie Ferguson**, PhD-MFT, 2012



# ONLY

Northcentral University created the first distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) program to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family (COAMFTE), and the first and **only** distance-based PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy to gain COAMFTE accreditation.

“Marriage and family therapy is something I am passionate about. I believe NCU offers an excellent program for students who have the desire to become marriage and family therapists.... [But] this required perseverance on my part.”

– **Gary Sytsma**, MAMFT, 2015





# REGIONALLY ACCREDITED


Northcentral University is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

WSCUC is the regional accrediting agency that serves a diverse membership of public and private higher education institutions throughout California, Hawaii and the Pacific (<http://www.wascsenior.org/about>).

Accreditation – a seal of approval by professional peers – indicates that NCU meets the quality standards set by WSCUC and expected by all its members. For a complete list of colleges and universities accredited by WSCUC, go to <http://www.wascsenior.org/institutions>.







SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

# THE NCU DIFFERENCE

---

DEPARTMENT OF  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SCIENCES

---

- ✓ Premier Education
- ✓ One-to-One Learning Model
- ✓ All Professors Hold Doctoral Degrees
- ✓ Unparalleled Flexibility
  - Weekly Course Starts
  - Distance-Based Degree Programs
  - No Physical Residency Requirements

## **NCU's MFT Professors...**

- Hold doctoral degrees
- Are experienced, licensed therapy practitioners
- Are published and active in their fields
- Have previous teaching experience
- Are caring, motivated professionals

## **Arizona Board of Private Post-Secondary Vocational Education**

In 2009, both NCU's Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy and Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy were approved by the Arizona State Board as stand-alone programs in family therapy.

## **California Board of Behavioral Sciences**

The distinguished body for recognizing marriage and family therapy education in the state of California pre-approved NCU's MAMFT program as meeting the educational requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists in California.

# DUPLEX MODEL

When an NCU marriage and family therapy student begins his or her local community practicums, they do so with the unparalleled support of NCU's Duplex Model of supervision.

In keeping with our mentoring approach to education, each NCU student receives primary support from qualified supervisors in their local clinical placement. Additionally, each student receives weekly secondary support via two-hour secure video conferencing sessions with NCU professors who are licensed family therapists and AAMFT Approved Supervisors or supervisor candidates. Groups of six students participate in these weekly sessions through a secure link to share questions, issues and cases to gain valuable knowledge and insights from one another and their experienced NCU clinical professor.



A photograph of two young women with blonde hair sitting at a wooden table in a library. They are looking down at papers on the table. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored cardigan over a grey top. The woman on the right is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

## **SUPERVISION QUALIFICATIONS**

MFT students have both NCU professors and local supervisors who meet the following criteria:

- All professors have earned doctoral degrees
- All professors have clinical experience and are licensed therapists
- All local supervisors meet state requirements for supervision of MFT students
- All NCU supervisors are Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) and Approved Supervisors or supervisor candidates with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).





# 5:1

## **5:1 SUPERVISION RATIO**

All students receive a minimum of one hour of supervision for every five hours of client contact. Students receive one hour of supervision each week with their local supervisors and participate weekly in a two-hour synchronous practicum/internship course with an NCU professor who is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or supervisor candidate. All students will receive a minimum of 100 hours of supervision and 500 hours of client contact over a 12-month period.

# **BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION**

---

**DEPARTMENT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SCIENCES**

Northcentral University

Northcentral University's marriage and family therapy programs have more than 300 clinical affiliates. The University has received feedback that affiliates appreciate the benefits of being associated with NCU and have had positive experiences with our students.

**Affiliate institutions gain:**

- 500 hours of volunteer time from each NCU student
- Access to previous clinical trainings developed by NCU faculty and other experts within the field
- Access to guest lectures which are open to all affiliate employees and students

---

**PARTIAL LIST OF AFFILIATES AS OF MARCH 2016\***

- Aegis Medical Systems
- Alzheimer's Network of Oregon
- Aurora Behavioral Health Care
- COPE Community Services Organization
- Gracepoint Wellness
- Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center
- New Horizons Healthcare
- Psychiatric Consultants of Tennessee
- Red Rock Behavioral Health Services
- Rice County Social Services Riverside Center for Behavioral Medicine
- Salvation Army: Homeless Veterans Program
- Samaritan Behavioral Health
- St. Elizabeth's Health Center
- Sunrise Counseling Center
- VITAS Healthcare

*\*With more than 300 affiliates, this list is a representative sample.*

# **DEGREES AND SPECIALIZATIONS**

---

**DEPARTMENT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SCIENCES**

Northcentral University



### **Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT)**

- Child and Adolescent Family Therapy
  - Couple Therapy
  - Customized Curriculum for California Licensure
  - General Family Therapy
  - LGBTQ Couple and Family Therapy
  - Medical Family Therapy
  - Military Family Therapy
- 

### **Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy (PhD-MFT)**

- Child and Adolescent Therapy
  - Couple Therapy
  - General Family Therapy
  - Medical Family Therapy
  - Therapy with Military Families
- 

### **Doctorate of Marriage and Family Therapy (DMFT)**

- Child and Adolescent Therapy
  - Couple Therapy
  - General Family Therapy
  - Medical Family Therapy
  - Mental Health Administration
  - Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship
  - Therapy with Military Families
- 

### **Post-Baccalaureate Certificates in Marriage and Family Therapy**

- General Family Therapy
- 

### **Post-Master's Certificates in Marriage and Family Therapy**

- Child and Adolescent Therapy
- Couple Therapy
- General Marriage and Family Therapy
- Therapy with Military Families

# MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROFESSORS\*

## DEPARTMENT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SCIENCES NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY



**Darren Adamson, PhD**  
*Professor*  
*Chair*



**Vanieca Kraus, PhD**  
*Professor*



**Elizabeth Fawcett, PhD**  
*Professor*  
*Director of Clinical Training*



**Asha Sutton, PhD**  
*Professor*



**Kristi Harrison, PhD**  
*Professor*



**Shay Thomas, DMFT**  
*Professor*



**Branden Henline, PhD**  
*Professor*  
*Director of Clinical Field Placements*



**Yulia Watters, PhD**  
*Professor*  
*Director of Curriculum Development*



**Lisa Kelledey, PhD**  
*Professor*  
*Program Director*



**Charles West, PhD**  
*Professor*



**Michael Knerr, PhD**  
*Professor*

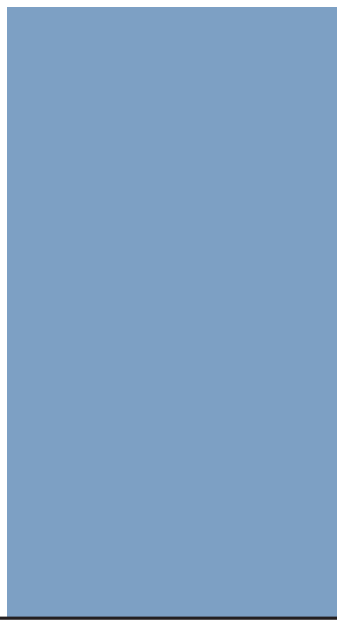


**Rachel Butterfras**  
*Internship Coordinator*

\* This represents a sample of NCU's Department of Marriage and Family Sciences faculty who work directly with practicum and internship students.







For further information about clinical placements with Northcentral University's Marriage and Family Therapy programs, please contact:

**Director of Field Placements**

Department of Marriage and Family Sciences  
[clinical@ncu.edu](mailto:clinical@ncu.edu) | 844.628.7270

**NCU Headquarters**

2488 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92106

**NCU Service Center**

8667 East Hartford Drive, Suite 100, Scottsdale, AZ 85255