

MASTER OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

2024-2025 HANDBOOK



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Message from the Director:

As we embark on this academic journey together, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the growth and transformation that lies ahead. Your decision to pursue the field of Marriage and Family Therapy is not just a career choice but a calling to serve others with compassion and dedication.

In Philippians 2:3-4, we are reminded, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Let this verse guide our actions and inspire us to approach our work with humility and a genuine desire to uplift and support those in need.

As you navigate through the challenges and triumphs of this program, know that you are not alone. Our faculty and staff are here to support and guide you every step of the way. Embrace the opportunities for learning and growth, and remember that each interaction, each session, is an opportunity to make a positive impact on someone's life.

I am confident that with dedication, perseverance, and a heart dedicated to serving others, you will thrive in this program and go on to become compassionate and skilled Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Professional Counselors, making a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

Wishing you all the best on this journey of service and self-discovery.

Warm regards,

Dr. Mary Dainty, LPC-S, NCC
MMFT Program Director

Mission Statement:

The Counseling Program at The King's University is dedicated to fostering human development through a holistic approach encompassing education, research, and service. Our mission is to advance the profession of counseling and promote scholarship while emphasizing spiritual development and service. We are committed to preparing highly competent counseling professionals, including counseling associates, entry and advanced level counselors, counselor educators, counselor supervisors, counseling researchers, marriage and family therapists, and counseling administrators. Emphasizing spiritual development, we strive to instill a sense of purpose and compassion in our counseling professionals.

Vision:

The vision of the TKU MMFT Program is to be a student-centered, relationship-focused, and spiritually driven program. By fostering diversity, transparency, integrity, and community engagement, we aim to cultivate leaders who positively impact clients, students, and the counseling profession, contributing to the well-being of humanity.

Who we are:

The MMFT program at TKU is designed to prepare individuals for positions in private, public, and faith-based organizations, with a focus on addressing the mental health needs of clients through a Christian perspective. Rooted in biblical principles, our program affirms the inherent value and dignity of every person, highlighting their individuality and worth in the eyes of God. Understanding that people are created for community, our program recognizes the common desire to find meaning, fulfillment, and connection in various aspects of life, including work, relationships, and community engagement. Through an integration of faith and learning, we seek to empower students to serve others with compassion, wisdom, and grace, reflecting the love and compassion of Christ in their professional practice.

Objectives for MMFT candidates align with professional and national standards, ensuring comprehensive preparation:

1. Demonstrate mastery of core counseling knowledge for licensure in Texas.
2. Identify a guiding theory of counseling through personal and professional reflection.
3. Cultivate effective, culturally responsive counseling relationships across the lifespan.
4. Acknowledge and grow from personal strengths and limitations through supervision and professional development.
5. Develop, manage, and evaluate mental health services and programs for vulnerable populations.
6. Provide mental health counseling and interdisciplinary advocacy for clients at risk.
7. Perform administrative and professional responsibilities essential for success as a professional counselor.

Accreditation and Affiliations

The King's University is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) (15935 Forest Road, Forest, Virginia, 24551, 804.525.9539) at the Category IV level (through the first professional doctorate level) and by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) (5850 T.G. Lee Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32822, 407.207.0808). Both the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools and the Association of Biblical Higher Education are members of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

The Institution is listed in the current edition of both The American Council on Education's Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education and in the Higher Education directory. The Institution is acknowledged on the United States Department of Education website as an accredited postsecondary institution and participates in the United States Department of Education Title IV Program, which offers students access to Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grants, and the Stafford Education loan programs. The King's University has been authorized to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill Veteran's Benefits program and the Southlake, TX, and Van Nuys, CA, campuses are approved to enroll international students.



The King's Seminary

The King's Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (www.ats.edu) and is approved to offer the following degrees: Master of Divinity, Master of Practical Theology, Master of Organizational Leadership, and Doctor of Ministry. Additionally, The King's Seminary has received approval for its comprehensive distance (online) education.



Objectives, Outcomes, and General Information

The Master of Marriage and Family Therapy (MMFT) is an intensive 60-hour degree program designed to provide students with the necessary courses to ready them for the national licensure exam by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists and the Texas State Board of Examiners Licensed Professional Counseling. Typically, a full-time student can complete this degree within a span of 2.5-3 years, with full-time status defined as enrollment in 9 semester hours for graduate students. GPA requirement: 3.0 minimum

Please note: The Master of Marriage and Family Therapy degree is only offered at the Southlake, TX campus. While there are a number of courses offered online and live via Zoom, the program is written to be completed in residence through the Southlake, TX campus.

Master of Marriage and Family Therapy Program Objectives

This degree seeks to enrich students in the following areas:

Ethical Counseling Skills: Prepare students to ethically counsel individuals, couples, groups, and families from a systemic perspective.

Holistic Awareness: Equip students with self-awareness, global-awareness, cultural and diversity, and spiritual-awareness to prepare them to become effective clinicians.

Research Competence: Prepare students to read, interpret, and conduct empirically based research.

Comprehensive Mental Health Understanding: Provide students with an adequate understanding of various aspects of the mental health field, including various levels of care.

Master of Marriage and Family Therapy Program Outcomes

At the completion of this degree students will be able to:

1. Demonstrates understanding of professional codes of ethics and legal standards in the field of marriage and family therapy and counseling
2. Conducts thorough intake assessments, including comprehensive family histories and systemic assessments, including DSM diagnosis requirements
3. Demonstrates expertise in specific areas of clinical focus (e.g., couples, family, relationship, individual, group)
4. Develops comprehensive and evidence-based treatment plans addressing client needs and goals
5. Demonstrates proficiency in a wide range of counseling skills and interventions
6. Exhibits core counseling attributes such as empathy, genuineness, respect, and cultural competence

Overview of Coursework and Practicums

Students must complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework, including all required courses in the degree plan, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 to graduate. Of these required courses, the student must complete a minimum of nine (9) credit hours of practicum. Students must make a grade "B-" all MMFT courses or retake the course. There are two licensure tracks (LMFT and LPC) both of which require 300 total practicum hours. The LMFT consists of 150 direct hours including a minimum of 75 systemic hours involving meeting with a couple or family. The LPC student must earn 100 direct hours. Practicum classes are offered near the end of your course work. In the final semester, the student may apply for graduation.

Grading System and Satisfactory Progress

All courses are 3 credit hours within the MMFT program. The MMFT student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, which is the minimum GPA required for graduation. Failing to maintain the minimum GPA jeopardizes the student's ability to graduate.

Students are permitted to bring in no more than 12 hours from another institution, the remainder of the degree must be completed at TKU.

General Information

Students in the MMFT program are encouraged to join at least one professional organization during their time at TKU. The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), The American Counseling Association (ACA), American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC), Texas Counseling Association (TCA), or an equivalent professional organization.

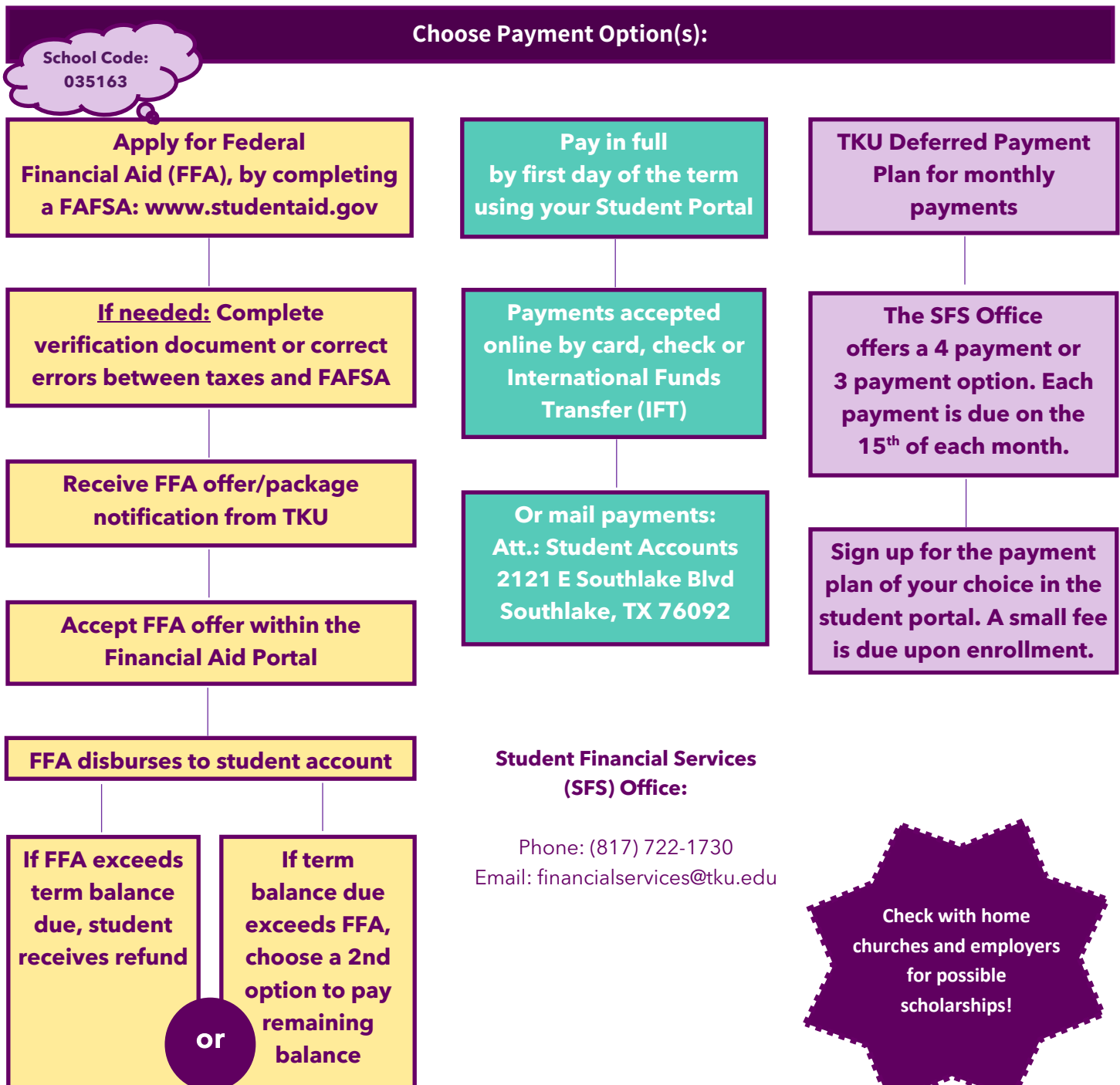
Students will be required to use the American Psychological Association (APA) format for writing in all course work and submitted materials.

Social Media Policy

Students who use social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, X, etc.,) should be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, supervisors, and other mental health professionals. For this reason, we suggest that students avoid posting material that may be deemed inappropriate for a professional counselor. We urge students to set all security settings to "private" and not to post information and/or photos nor use language that could jeopardize their professional image or reflect poorly on them as an individual and/or a student representative of The King's University. Students should consider limiting the amount of personal information they post on these sites and should carefully consider whom they include as part of their social network. Students must never include clients in such social networks as this is a breach of the client's right to confidentiality. Engaging in such unethical behavior is cause for corrective action procedures with the student; one potential outcome could be dismissal from the program.

Pathway to Payment

Upon admittance at TKU, register for classes and follow the Pathway to Payment below:



MMFT Course Rotation Example

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

Fall 2025

BIBC	5308	Advanced Systemic Counseling Skills
BIBC	5303	Advanced Counseling Theories
BIBC	5306	Ethical and Legal Counseling Issues

Spring 2026

BIBC	5317	Personal and Professional Self-Awareness
BIBC	5314	Advanced Group Counseling
BIBC	5313	Counseling Diverse Populations (online only)

Summer 2026

BIBC	5316	Healthy Family Systems (online only)
BIBC	5309	Career Counseling (online only)

2027-2028 ACADEMIC YEAR

Fall 2027

BIBC	7303	Counseling Practicum II
BIBC	6306	Addictions Counseling

Spring 2028

BIBC	7304	Counseling Practicum III
BIBC	6304	Research Methods in Counseling

2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Fall 2026

BIBC	5304	Marriage and Family Therapy I
BIBC	5315	Advanced Human Development (online only)
BIBC	6307	Psychopathology and DSM

Spring 2027

BIBC	6303	Marriage and Family Therapy II
BIBC	6302	Abnormal Behavior: Effects of Trauma & Crisis Intervention
BIBC	7300	Professional Orientation

Summer 2027

BIBC	7302	Counseling Practicum I
BIBC	6305	Assessment and Treatment

The following courses are offered each Fall and Spring semester:

BIBC	5308	Advanced Systemic Counseling Skills
BIBC	5303	Advanced Counseling Theories
BIBC	5306	Ethical and Legal Counseling Issues

Course Descriptions and Information

BIBC5303 Advanced Counseling Theories

An analysis of major counseling theories, psychotherapy, and integrative techniques that equip an individual to apply them in a counseling environment. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC5304 Marriage and Family Therapy I

An analysis of the underlying assumptions, theories, foundations, and intervention strategies that make up the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.

3 Semester Hours

BIBC5306 Ethical and Legal Counseling Issues

An introduction to the ethical codes in all main counseling associations active in the state of Texas that highlights the requirements of the Texas State Licensing Boards for LPC and LMFT. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC5308 Advanced Systemic Counseling Skills

An analysis of advanced counseling theories and skills essential for developing treatment plans for diverse populations in diverse counseling settings. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC5309 Career Counseling

An analysis of representative theories and approaches for advising clients regarding vocation and career choices. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC6304 Research Methods in Counseling

An evaluation of scholarly and consumer-based research in the field of marriage and family therapy and professional counseling that includes qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods of research. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC6305 Assessment and Treatment

Equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary for comprehensive clinical assessments, standardized, and non-standardized instruments in counseling practice. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC6307 Psychopathology and DSM-V

Exploration of psychopathological conditions, abnormal psychology, disorders related to gender, race, and sexuality, and the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Students gain knowledge and skills in assessing, diagnosing, and understanding mental health disorders, preparing them for ethical and effective clinical practice. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC6302 Abnormal Behavior: Effects of Trauma and Crisis

The study of abnormal psychology with a specific emphasis on the impact of trauma. Students learn evidence-based theories and approaches to crisis intervention, equipping them to assess, understand, and intervene with individuals, couples, and families experiencing psychological distress resulting from traumatic events. *3 Semester Hours*

BIBC7300 Professional Orientation

This pre-practicum and professional orientation provides students with foundational knowledge and skills essential for successful engagement in future counseling practicum experiences. Students gain an understanding of professional ethics, client confidentiality, and the development of core counseling competencies, setting the stage for their journey towards clinical practice. *3 Semester Hours*

Prerequisite: BIBC5303, BIBC5306, BIBC5308

BIBC 7302 Practicum I

Counseling Practicum I course offers students a supervised, hands-on experience in applying counseling theories and techniques in real-world settings. Through direct client interactions, students develop foundational counseling skills, enhance self-awareness, and receive constructive feedback to cultivate professional competence.

3 Semester Hours

Prerequisite: BIBC5303, BIBC5306, BIBC5308, BIBC7301

BIBC 7303 Practicum II

Counseling Practicum II course builds upon the foundational experiences of Practicum I, providing students with advanced opportunities for supervised clinical practice. Emphasizing the application of diverse counseling modalities, students further refine their skills, deepen their self-reflective capacities, and integrate ethical considerations for competent and compassionate client care.

3 Semester Hours

Prerequisite: BIBC5303, BIBC5306, BIBC5308, BIBC7301, BIBC7302

BIBC 7304 Practicum III

Counseling Practicum III course represents the culmination of supervised clinical training, offering students advanced opportunities for intensive and diverse clinical experiences. Building upon prior practicum courses, students refine their therapeutic skills, deepen self-awareness, and engage in comprehensive ethical decision-making, preparing for the transition to professional practice.

3 Semester Hours

Prerequisite: BIBC5303, BIBC5306, BIBC5308, BIBC7301, BIBC7302, BIBC7303

BIBC6303 Marriage and Family Therapy II

An analysis of systemic counseling skills, techniques, theory, and best practices that may be used when working with individuals, couples, and families.

3 Semester Hours

Prerequisite: BIBC5304

BIBC5313 Counseling Diverse Populations

A comprehensive analysis of culturally applicable and socially acceptable counseling practices.

3 Semester Hours

BIBC5314 Advanced Group Counseling

An analysis and development of the skills necessary for leading group therapy in different settings, including agencies, treatment centers, and therapeutic environments.

3 Semester Hours

BIBC5315 Advanced Human Development

An analysis of the stages of human life and development from birth to old age.

3 Semester Hours

BIBC5316 Healthy Family Systems

An analysis of biblical concepts and teachings that contribute to healthy individual and family life.

3 Semester Hours

BIBC5317 Personal and Professional Self-Awareness

An introduction to various concepts that facilitate self-awareness in the counseling profession

Semester Hours

BIBC6106 Addictions Counseling

Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of addiction theories, evidence-based interventions, and ethical considerations. Emphasizing practical skills, the course prepares students to address substance use disorders, addictions, and related issues in diverse clinical settings.

3 Semester Hours

Practicum

Practicum students will receive a separate handbook specifically for practicum upon entering their first practicum course.

Students will complete three consecutive semesters of practicum in the final three semesters of their MMFT program. Students will be required to have completed Advanced Systemic Skills (BIBC 5308), Advanced Counseling Theories (BIBC 5303), Ethical and Legal Issues (BIBC 5306), and Professional Orientation (BIBC 7300) prior to enrollment in practicum.

Students will have access to a list of potential practicum sites, choose their site supervisor, and will also be assigned a practicum supervisor to staff any cases and provide support in their therapeutic practice.

Students will also be required to obtain personal liability insurance prior to the commencement of their first practicum course and create an account with Time2Track. The student will be provided with this information prior to enrollment in the course to ensure the proper coverage is in place prior to seeing clients.

Counseling Practicum Information

Prerequisite: BIBC 7301 Professional Orientation
300 hrs total in last 3 consecutive semesters

Time2Track subscription
Certificate of insurance

LPC requirements

- Min. 100 direct client hours
 - *Direct = time with the client*
 - *Can be any combination of hours with individuals, couples, families, groups*
- Remainder as indirect hours
 - *Includes class time, trainings, research, case notes, supervision, session prep, etc.*
 - *Supervision needs to be tracked separately*

LMFT requirements

- 150 direct client hours
 - *Direct = time with the client*
 - *75 hrs. – individuals, groups*
 - *75 hrs. – couples, families*
- 150 indirect hours
 - *Includes class time, trainings, research, case notes, supervision, session prep, etc.*
 - *Supervision needs to be tracked separately*

Core Program Faculty

LINDA HOOVER (2018), Director of Bachelor of Biblical Counseling

Psy.D., Antioch University

M.A., B.A., Chapman University

MARY DAINTY (2020), Director of MMFT

Ph.D., Grand Canyon University

M.A.M.F.C., Southwestern Theological Seminary

M.A.C.E., Southwestern Theological Seminary

B.S., Auburn University

Acknowledgment of Student Responsibilities Form

I, _____(insert name), hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed The King's University Marriage and Family Therapy Student Handbook. I understand that my enrollment status in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy is contingent upon my continued fulfillment of all academic program requirements, which include maintaining satisfactory grades, engaging in professional and personal development, background check, and demonstrating adequate counseling skill development throughout my graduate studies.

I am aware that failure to meet these requirements and comply with the outlined policies, as well as those set forth by the university, may result in my dismissal from the program at any time.

I understand that my suitability for the field of marriage and family therapy will be continuously assessed, and I acknowledge that the University reserves the right to amend the policies outlined in the Marriage and Family Therapy Student Handbook and the Academic Catalog as necessary. Should any modifications occur, I will be promptly informed via my TKU email.

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

Please detach this page from the handbook and turn completed acknowledgement in to Dr. Mary Dainty or Counseling Department Admin.



THE KING'S  UNIVERSITY