MFT Program - How Students Acquire 500 Client Contact Hours

Students in the MFT program will gain the required 500 hours of clinical experience through practicum and internship by working in the following programs located on campus:

CFCT (website to CFCT)
Students in the MFT program work as therapists in the Center for Family and Couple Therapy seeing individuals, couples, and families. Students also facilitate group therapy such as the weekly Teen Group.

The first four semesters of the MFT program students will take practicum courses (520, 521, 620, 621) during which they will see clients in the CFCT while receiving live supervision using one-way mirrors. Each student will have one or two nights of practicum each week consisting of case planning with supervisor(s) and 5-6 other student therapists from 3-4 p.m. Student therapists will then see clients from 4-8 p.m. Every student therapist takes a break to consult with the supervisor(s) halfway through each therapy session. When students are not seeing a client, s/he will watch other students from behind the one-way mirror. In the last two semesters of the MFT program, students will schedule clients in the CFCT as a part of their internship (687) and will meet with a supervisor to do video supervision and case consultation weekly. Students will gain approximately 350 clinical hours from working in the Center for Family and Couple Therapy.

Campus Connections (website)
Each MFT student has the opportunity to work in Campus Connections as a family therapist interacting with at-risk youth and their families. Students conduct clinical interventions with the youth and their families. Youth attending Campus Connections may be involved in Probation, Diversion, Restorative Justice Services, Department of Human Services, Senate Bill 94, or other community therapy services. Each student is able to acquire between 50-100 clinical hours for participating in this program.

Trauma Assessment Center
Each MFT student will have the opportunity to be a part of CTRAC (Child Trauma and Resilience Assessment Team). Students will learn about trauma-informed care and assist with assessment activities such as calling collaterals and writing social histories during their first and second semesters. During one other semester during their MFT program, students will conduct 2 assessments per month while receiving live supervision from behind the one-way mirror. Assessments are held every Friday beginning with a planning meeting from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Assessment with the child occurs between 9 a.m. and approximately 3 p.m. A debriefing meeting follows every assessment. Students will also participate in caregiver interviews, family report reviews and Family Unity Meetings at the Larimer County Department of Human Services. Approx. 50-100 will be in this setting.
Prevention Research Center, Research Intervention for Clinical Hours (RICH) program, and Early Childhood Center

By special arrangement, some students will work as therapists in the Prevention Research Center, Research Intervention for Clinical Hours (RICH) program, and the Early Childhood Center with faculty members in the department. Some students may gain approximately 20-50 hours in this setting.

Our students complete practicum and internship hours conveniently on campus and serve the Northern Colorado community. The community and referring agencies come to our centers for services, so it is not necessary to place students out in the community. On any given evening the Gifford Building, which houses most of these programs, may have up to 100 clients involved in family therapy, the Campus Connections program, Teen Group, and Trauma Assessments. It is an active vibrant place that serves the community, offers meaningful training to the therapists, and is integrated with research.