

**Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy
On-Campus Branch**

**Program Specific Application
Fall 2026**

**Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies
618 Library Place
Evanston, IL 60201**

[MSMFT Program Website](#)

Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy

Program Specific Application

Application Deadline and Options

Applications for admission are accepted beginning September 10, 2024, for admission for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. You may apply *Early Decision or Regular Decision. Program slots tend to fill quickly so we encourage you to submit your application as early as possible.

Application Deadline
December 2, 2025

Early Decision

If you are certain that Northwestern is where you want to study, we encourage you to apply under our Early Decision plan. As with all traditional Early Decision plans, if admitted, you agree to withdraw all applications at other colleges and enroll at Northwestern in the Fall.

Applicants who choose Early Decision send a strong, positive message to Northwestern. Given their high level of interest and overall academic and personal strength, Early Decision applicants enjoy a higher rate of admission.

Applicants who apply for *Early Decision admission may be invited to attend the exclusive Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Program Early Admission Interview. During the interview, applicants will meet the MSMFT Program core faculty and some of the current students, participate in a group interview, and learn more about the program. We admit qualified applicants in the Early Decision applicant pool first. Early admission decisions are typically made within 2 weeks after the interview.

Those applicants who apply for Early Decision but are not admitted are placed in the Regular Decision applicant pool upon request by the applicant.

Regular Decision

Applicants who apply for Regular Decision may be invited to attend the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Regular Admission Interview. During the interview, applicants will meet the MSMFT Program core faculty and some of the current students, participate in a group interview, and learn more about the program. Admission decisions for regular decision applicants are made on a rolling basis.

Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Program Specific Application and Checklist

The items that follow are required by the relevant deadlines to complete an application to the Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy on-campus. Applications will not be reviewed until all required materials have been received.

1. Complete this **Program Specific Application** for the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Program.
2. Complete [TGS on-line application](#) through [CollegeNet](#) accessed through TGS Website, providing information requested of all applicants to The Graduate School as well as program-specific information
3. **Curriculum vitae or professional resume** accounting for all time periods from the start of your undergraduate studies to the present, beginning with your most recent activities. Include schooling, part-time, summer, and full-time work experience, travel, job search, etc. Specify dates, employer/school, job title, the average number of hours per week, and primary responsibilities. Pay particular attention to describing activities in the field of mental health.
4. Upload scanned versions of **unofficial transcripts**. We require a transcript for every institution attended since secondary school and a transcript must be submitted for every institution listed in CollegeNet.
5. Request **letters of recommendation** through CollegeNet. We require two letters of recommendation addressing the applicant's ability to do scholarly work. Recommendations should be from individuals with whom you have had an academic or professional relationship. **Recommenders must complete and upload by the application deadline (December 2, 2025).**
6. **TGS Personal Statement** (125-250 word maximum)
7. **MSMFT Program Academic Statement** (1,000 word maximum)

The Admissions Committee is most interested in you and why you want to be a Clinical Mental Health Counselor. Your Academic Statement should be written so that we may "get to know you" better.

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What personal and family experiences have influenced your interest in a career as a marriage and family therapist?
 2. Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree while balancing multiple, competing responsibilities.
 3. What attracts you to the field of marriage and family therapy (as opposed to social work, counseling, or clinical psychology)?
 4. What attracts you to the MSMFT Program here at Northwestern University?
 5. Given that this is a clinical program where you will be asked to help people overcome challenging life circumstances, please describe a time in your life when things didn't go well for you. Describe the circumstances of this time and how you handled the challenges associated with it.
8. **International students Only:** Official English Language Test Scores (TOEFL or IELTS) Submit official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores directly from Educational Testing Service to Northwestern University using institution code #1565 and object code 01. Applicants must submit official scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) taken within the last two years. [See instructions here](#)
9. Upload all the above items to the online application in [CollegeNet](#).
10. Pay the Apply Yourself **application fee** of \$95.00 by credit card at application submission.

If you have any questions about the MSFT application process, please contact MSFT Admissions, (847) 733-4300, extension 120 or MSFTAdmissions@family-institute.org

Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy Program Specific Application

Applicant Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle	Other	
Address		City	State	Postal Code
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address		

Admissions Deadline & Options

Please check if you are applying Early Decision or Regular Decision

<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Decision

Other Mental Health Degree Programs Applied

Please **check** the number of programs you are applying to in each of the following disciplines:

Marriage & Family Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3+
Social Work	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3+
Clinical Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3+
Counseling Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3+
Clinical Mental Health Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3+

Additional Career Information

Are you changing careers to enter this field?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Would you have interest in obtaining a doctoral degree after completing this program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Possibly
Do you have interest in the community program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Possibly
Do you have past research experience? If yes, please explain below.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Employment and School History

Please upload your **transcripts** and a **detailed resume or curriculum vitae** through CollegeNet accounting for all time periods from the start of your undergraduate studies to the present, beginning with your most recent activities. Please include schooling, part-time, summer, and full-time work experience, travel, job search, etc. Specify dates, employer/school, job title, average number of hours per week, and primary responsibilities. Pay particular attention to describing activities in the field of mental health.

References

Applicants for degree programs are required to submit two (2) letters of reference. References should include, if possible, at least one letter addressing the applicant's academic background. Reference Letters must be submitted through The Graduate School's CollegeNet Application system.

TGS Personal Statement

Write a statement that includes any relevant information on one or more of the following topics (**the length of this statement should range from 125 to 250 words maximum**):

- **Pivotal experiences, opportunities, and/or challenges that have influenced your educational and professional development.**
- **Leadership experiences, community outreach, service initiatives, or research projects you have participated in or plan to pursue that aim to positively impact others or the broader community.**
- **Anything you would like to share with the admissions committee that you have yet to discuss in other areas of the application can be addressed here. This may include any gaps in your academic and professional experience, or additional context if you believe your academic record does not demonstrate your true capabilities. If needed, you may also use this space to expand upon the topics discussed in the above essays.**

Academic Statement

Please respond to the following question in your Academic Statement **within 1,000 words or less**.

The Admissions Committee is most interested in you, the person who seeks to be a marriage and family therapist. Your Academic Statement should be written so that we may better know you. Please respond to the following questions and upload to CollegeNet.

1. **What personal and family experiences have influenced your interest in a career as a marriage and family therapist?**
2. **Describe your capacity and readiness to complete your degree while balancing multiple, competing responsibilities.**
3. **What attracts you to the field of marriage and family therapy (as opposed to social work, counseling, or clinical psychology)?**
4. **What attracts you to the MSMFT Program here at Northwestern University?**
5. **Given that this is a clinical program where you will be asked to help people overcome challenging life circumstances, please describe a time in your life when things didn't go well for you. Describe the circumstances of this time and how you handled the challenges associated with it.**

Disclosures

If your answer to either of the following questions is yes, explain fully on an attached sheet:

(Please see University Policy statement below regarding non-discrimination)

Have you ever been suspended or required to withdraw from any school or college?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have you ever pled "guilty" or "no contest" to, or been convicted of a crime?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Answering "yes" to these questions does not constitute an automatic bar from admissions. Factors such as date of offense, seriousness and nature of the violation and rehabilitation will be considered.

The Family Institute at Northwestern University requires all applicants who have received conditional admission to either the Master of Arts Program in Counseling or the Master of Science Program in Marriage and Family Therapy to complete an online background check to determine criminal history. Having an adverse criminal history finding does not necessarily preclude admission. Determinations are considered on a case-by-case basis. In the event that information from the background report is utilized in whole or in part in making an adverse decision with regard to an applicant's admission, before making the adverse decision, the Institute will provide the student with a copy of the consumer report and a written description of his or her rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Northwestern University Admission Policy

The Graduate School adheres to Northwestern's Non-Discrimination Statement as stated by the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance. You can read the statement in full [here](#). Any alleged violations of this policy or questions regarding the law with respect to nondiscrimination should be addressed to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4500, Evanston, Illinois 60201; phone 847-467-6165.

Applicants seeking disability accommodations should contact AccessibleNU at 847-467-5530. See the AccessibleNU website for more information.

Northwestern University does not find it possible to admit all applicants who meet its admission requirements. The University, therefore, reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant. The University also reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any student whose condition endangers his or her own health or the health of other students or precludes him or her from doing the required work.

I certify that all statements made in this application for admission to the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy Program in The Graduate School of Northwestern University are correct, and I realize that all documents submitted in support of this application become the property of Northwestern University.

Signature	Date

Northwestern University
Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy
Applicant Acknowledgement of Regulatory Alignment

Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) is a profession that leads to licensure in all 50 states; however, each state has its own law and regulations about what is needed to become licensed as an MFT in that state.

Not every state will accept a degree and supervised hours earned in another state. Review license requirements in the state you intend to practice as soon as possible so that you understand what may and may not be accepted across state lines. Here is the link to information about each state's licensure resources: [MFT State/Provincial Resources](#) (AAMFT.org)

The coursework for the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy (MSMFT) program at Northwestern University was designed to meet MFT licensure requirements in the state of Illinois. You may read more about the state requirements for MFT licensure in Illinois by clicking this link: [Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation - MFT Licensing Information](#)

If you have questions about the program's alignment with professional licensure you may contact the Department Chair: Dr. Kristina Brown.

Please sign this form and return with your program admissions application.

It is recommended that you keep a copy of this form in your files.

I acknowledge that I have been informed and am aware that licensing regulations differ across states and provinces. I understand that Northwestern University's MSMFT program is designed to meet the licensure requirements in the state of Illinois, and that an MFT degree from this program may not meet MFT licensing requirements in a different state.

Printed name as shown in application	
Signature	Date