To: College Curriculum Committee

From: Corine Fitzpatrick

Date: January 7, 2012

Re: Introduction to the proposal for new program - Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) – M.S. Graduate Counseling - SOE

I am requesting approval to submit a proposal for a new program to New York State. This request includes required information as per the “New Program Proposal” format from the Provost dated July 2012 and it has been approved by the Provost for your review.

Attached in an email are the following:

1. Introduction to the proposal – Email attachment

2) Provost’s Cost Sheet – Email Attachment

3) Application for the Registration of a New Program available from the State Education

Department (<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/aipr/register.html>). Please note the application is somewhat different from the one you indicated in your guidelines for SOE. The Program is in the Office of Professions (licensure areas such as medicine, nursing, psychology, mental health). Email Attachment

4) Memorandum discussing a) whether the proposed new program duplicates aspects of any

existing program at Manhattan College (including the School of Continuing and

Professional Studies); b) the anticipated impact of the new program on enrollment in

other departments, especially in other schools; c) detailed learning goals for the program; d) a full curriculum map; e) a schedule for the assessment of the learning goals articulated in Item c; f) the explicit designation of either a person or position responsible for assessment; and g) the specific types of assessment tools to be used. Email attachment

Introduction To Proposal

Marriage and family therapy is the assessment and treatment of affective, cognitive or behavioral disorders that disrupt interpersonal family relationships, including marital/couple, parent-child, pre-marital and other relationships. Practitioners, called marriage and family therapists, are trained in individual psychotherapy and family systems to assess and treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, and address an array of relationship issues within the context of marital/couple, family and various relational systems.

1. Registration of Program. The program, Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) would be registered in the Office of Professions, similar to Mental Health Counselors, medical doctors, psychologists, etc. Someone who graduates will be license eligible to practice in New York State. This license makes the program, like Mental Health Counseling (MHC) attractive. This program is a “subspecialty” of Mental Health Counseling so many of the courses overlap.
2. Credits = 60. Though currently we could register the program with 48 credits, the trend in licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy Programs (MFT) is to require 60 credits. Syracuse University, which has one of the most recognized of these programs, has just moved to a 60 credit program. I would apply for a 60 credit program initially as we did in the MHC proposal.
3. Competition. There are only 9 registered programs in New York.
4. Data on Employment. The Occupational Outlook Handbook has estimated the need for Marriage and Family Therapists will grow 41% vs. a 4% increase for all occupations from 2010 – 2020. Please see chart below.
5. Need for an Outside Evaluator. Since the program is “license qualifying” in New York State, the proposal will need an outside evaluator to review the proposal and comment on the curriculum. This individual will need to be provided a stipend, similar to the one from MHC.

Below are the National and NYSTATE projections for employment.

**Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists**

Percent change in employment, projected 2010-20

**Marriage and Family Therapists**

41%

**Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists**

37%

**Mental Health Counselors**

36%

**Total, All Occupations**

14%

[http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/mental-health-counselors-and-marriage-and-family-therapists.htm#tab-6](#tab-6)

In New York State, projections for employment of Marriage and Family Therapists are listed as “very favorable” on a scale of unfavorable, favorable, and very favorable.

(Please see NYS data on attached excel workbook labeled “MFT Proposal”, sheet labeled “NYSEMPLOYDATA” – obtained from <http://labor.ny.gov/stats/lsproj.shtm>).

1. Accreditation. Right now, our registration with the State does not require accreditation by an outside organization (other than the State). I anticipate that within the next few years we will be required to gain outside accreditation for all 4 currently existing counseling programs and in order to do that, I would need at least 3 professors in my department.

The course work will follow New York State Guidelines which have been provided below – both the educational requirements and the requirements for licensure. Please refer to Curriculum Mapping section (d) of Memorandum for more detail.

§52.33, Marriage and Family Therapy.

To be registered as a program recognized as leading to licensure in marriage and family therapy, which meets the requirements of section 79-10.1 of this Title, the program shall:

1. be a program in marriage and family therapy leading to a master's or doctoral degree, which includes at least 48 semester hours, or the equivalent, of study;
2. contain curricular content that includes but is not limited to each of the following content areas:
   1. the study of human development, including individual, child and family development, at least three semester hours;
   2. marriage and family therapy clinical knowledge, including but not limited to psychopathology, at least twelve semester hours;
   3. marriage and family therapy theoretical knowledge, at least six semester hours;
   4. family law;
   5. research, at least three semester hours; and
   6. professional ethics, at least three semester hours; and
3. Include a supervised practicum in marriage and family therapy of at least 300 client contact hours.

Requirements for a professional license in NYS. (Please note that these requirements are post degree, similar to a residency (M.D.’s) or post doc experience (licensed psychologists) for other licensed professionals. It is important for us to confirm that our curriculum follows section “b.”

To qualify for a license as a "licensed marriage and family therapist", an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

* 1. Application: File an application with the department;
  2. Education: Have received a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program registered by the department, or determined by the department to be the substantial equivalent, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations or a graduate degree in an allied field from a program registered by the department and graduate level coursework determined to be equivalent to that required in a program registered by the department. This coursework shall include, but not be limited to:
     1. the study of human development, including individual, child and family development;
     2. psychopathology;
     3. marital and family therapy;
     4. family law;
     5. research;
     6. professional ethics; and
     7. a practicum of at least three hundred client contact hours;
  3. Experience: The completion of at least one thousand five hundred client contact hours of supervised clinical experience, by persons holding a degree from a master's or doctoral program, or the substantial equivalent, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations or the completion of at least one thousand five hundred client hours of supervised post-master's clinical experience in marriage and family therapy satisfactory to the department in accordance with the commissioner's regulations. Satisfactory experience obtained in an entity operating under a waiver issued by the department pursuant to section sixty-five hundred three-a of this title may be accepted by the department, notwithstanding that such experience may have been obtained prior to the effective date of such section sixty-five hundred three-a and/or prior to the entity having obtained a waiver. The department may, for good cause shown, accept satisfactory experience that was obtained in a setting that would have been eligible for a waiver but which has not obtained a waiver from the department or experience that was obtained in good faith by the applicant under the belief that appropriate authorization had been obtained for the experience, provided that such experience meets all other requirements for acceptable experience;
  4. Examination: Pass an examination satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

Thank you for consideration of this proposal. The other attachments are: the application, the provost’s cost sheet, and the memorandum.

Corine Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.