



UNIVERSITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

School of Education

**Academic Program Review University of San  
Francisco Marriage and Family Therapy and  
Professional Clinical Counselor Program School of  
Education  
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The review team read the self-study written by the faculty in the department; reviewed the curriculum, course syllabi and evaluations; conducted class visits; interviewed faculty, students and staff; and met with the Dean, Associate Deans and other relevant members of the campus community. Prior to their visit, the reviewers were provided with USF's Vision, Mission, Values Statement, the department's self-study and other university materials.

- 1. How did the external review committee rate the quality of the program – excellent, very good, good, adequate, or poor? How does the program compare with benchmark top-tier programs nationally? Please provide a brief rationale for the external review committee's rating.**

Overall, the program reviewers rate the MFT/PCC Program as "Very Good – Excellent." The program has a very clear vision that "...prepares students to be socially and culturally responsive relationship and family therapists and mental health counselors." They also commended the program in the following areas:

- **Faculty and Administrative Quality:** Both the faculty and administration maintain high academic standards and commitment to their students learning. This conclusion is based on student evaluations as well as the faculty's community service, and demonstrated scholarly achievements. In addition, the USF administration provides ongoing opportunities for faculty through trainings and support to continue their research which enhances their teaching and visibility for the USF MFT/PCC program. The diversity of the faculty, administration and staff is in alignment with the USF mission statement and is a strength of the program.
- **Curriculum:** The content of the course curriculum is well-developed and as the last external reviewers described the curriculum as "cutting edge" especially as it relates to the faculty's focus on offering courses related to multiculturalism, equity, social justice, and inclusion. The curriculum fulfills the academic requirements for the State of California

Marriage and Family Therapy licensure. Course requirements are clearly outlined clearly which facilitates their knowing when each course is being offered for them to take. The faculty made changes to the curriculum that reflected the recommendations from the previous external reviewers, strengthening their curriculum.

## 2. What are the most important general issues that emerged from the external review process?

- **Key Issue:** Developing a cohesive strategy for marketing and branding the MFT/PCC program at USF.
  - **Recommendations.** In their formal report, the reviewers gave the MFT/PCC program the following recommendations:
    - Clarify the brand of the program. Address “Why choose the USF MFT/PCC program” despite its relatively high tuition.
    - Market the program through social media
    - Develop “expertise” as an educational institution that is known by its clinical work and research as foremost in the field of social justice and diversity-based models of mental health services. Provide education and training to national audiences reflecting this expertise.
  
- **Key Issue:** Enhancing the MFT/PCC curriculum to be in line with current trends of the field and is relevant to the MFT/PCC mission statement.
  - **Recommendations:** In their formal report, the reviewers gave the MFT/PCC program the following recommendations:
    - Refine the existing curriculum and continue to operationalize the vision of the program
    - The program is transitioning from an individualistic theoretical orientation towards a more contextualized rendition of mental health problems, it will be necessary to refine the congruence between theory, assessment, clinical practice and appropriate course content.
    - Increase standardization of course syllabi across campuses, more clearly reflect program learning objectives. Enhance the assessment process of the program learning objectives and implement the information from the assessments.
    - Maintain a reliable schedule of advisement for students. This will hopefully improve the retention of students in the program.
  
- **Key Issue:** Offering specialized clinical training opportunities for our students and other practitioners.
  - **Recommendations:** In their formal report, the reviewers gave the MFT/PCC program the following recommendations:
    - Develop specialized education and training “tracks” of bilingual, bicultural therapists. This effort will attract more prospective students and will certainly enhance employment opportunities for program graduates.
    - Develop specialized education and training of bilingual, bicultural clinical supervisors
    - Provide continuing education to clinical supervisors, both at the fieldwork sites and elsewhere, reflecting the values and principles of social justice and contextualized models of mental health counseling, thus enhancing the quality of fieldwork sites and promoting the quality of the MFT/PCC program.

**3. What specific recommendations for improving the program's quality has the external review committee made to the Dean?**

See question number 2, above.

**4. In the opinion of the external review committee, is the program aligned with the strategic initiatives of the University and the School of Education?**

The Marriage and Family Therapy Program (MFT/PCC) in the Counseling Psychology Department at the University of San Francisco is well aligned with both USF and the School of Education's mission and values related to social justice, multiculturalism, equity, inclusion, and community service. The external reviewers described the USF Master's degree program in Marriage and Family Therapy as having a "well-developed, cutting edge curriculum" that fulfills the academic requirements for the State of California Marriage and Family Therapy license. There is a high alignment between the PLOs and school's mission.

The feedback from the previous external reviewers in 2006, indicate that the program has continued to make changes to the curriculum to integrate more multiculturalism and social justice in the courses.

**5. What is the timetable for the response to the external review committee's recommendations for program improvement? What can the Office of the Provost do to appropriately respond to the review?**

The Department has completed a Program Review Action Plan which details the proposed actions needed to address the recommendations of the report. The Dean's office is currently assessing resources and developing a response to the Action Plan. This response will identify if anything needs to be brought to the attention of the Office of the Provost.

