DOCTOR of MARRIAGE and FAMILY THERAPY
For more than 65 years, our Marianist tradition has guided us as we’ve inspired students to see themselves as transformational leaders, ready to think globally and use all they’ve learned to act locally. We’re proud to say our Chaminade graduates aren’t just leaders in their fields, but leaders in their communities—using talent, expertise and heart to build a better tomorrow for everyone.

At Chaminade, we boast innovative programs designed to meet community needs, an inclusive academic environment that values diversity and mutual understanding and an individualized approach to learning that ensures you’ll get support and mentorship every step of the way. As a private Catholic university with a public service mission, we’re proud to say we’ve built a strong family of doers who share a vision of a more just, equitable world. It’s a future we can reach—together.
Educating for positive change isn’t a catchphrase for us. It’s a way of life. Chaminade’s School of Education and Behavioral Sciences is interdisciplinary and forward-looking, designed to prepare you for success in the workplace and for service to your community.

We’re proud to offer a wide range of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs—from Criminal Justice to Psychology to Education—that meet high national standards for quality and stress innovation, excellence and a commitment to preparing tomorrow’s leaders today.
DOCTOR of MARRIAGE and FAMILY THERAPY

Healthier Communities, One Relationship at a Time

Relationships are at the center of our Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy program (DMFT)—and for good reason. Helping people build stronger, healthier relationships leads to happier, more resilient communities—equipped to tackle challenges, embrace new opportunities and adapt to change.

At Chaminade, we’re proud to offer the only Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy program in Hawaii. The program follows a practitioner-scholar model which focuses on applied skill development for use in clinical practice, supervision, academia, and administration. The DMFT program is delivered fully online and is aimed at preparing clinicians to expand their roles—and their positive impact—as they develop their skills as transformative leaders in the ever-evolving practice of clinical mental healthcare.

The DMFT is cohort-based, allowing students to progress through the program together with both synchronous and asynchronous classes online. With 10-week terms, students complete the program in as few as 36 months—constructing a dissertation along the way designed to integrate theory, practice, leadership, and passion.

The Chaminade DMFT not only helps to meet a strong demand for marriage and family clinicians practicing at the highest levels, but prepares students to take the next step in their own careers—as leaders who can advocate for stronger relationships, stronger families and stronger communities.
Our Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy curriculum is research-informed, theory-driven and practice-based.

That means courses in the program—from seminars to dissertation research—seek to build on participants’ professional development skills with evidence-based, client-centered, and self-of-the-therapist learning. Courses include advanced supervision, family assessment and systemic diagnosis, program development, holistic approaches to prevention, and family healthcare advocacy. The curriculum also includes a strong emphasis on culturally-informed practice with instruction on centering indigenous healing and considerations for decolonizing therapeutic care.

### CURRICULUM

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<td>DMFT 8012</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods &amp; Statistical Analyses</td>
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BLENDINE HAWKINS, PHD, LMFT
Director, Doctor of Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Dr. Hawkins joined Chaminade University in 2018 as an Assistant Professor. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Clinical Fellow, and an AAMFT-Approved Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). With the support of Chaminade University, she constructed the DMFT program to meet the need for more MFT leaders within Hawaii and across the nation. Dr. Hawkins earned her Ph.D. in Family Social Science with a specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy and her Masters of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy, and has been working within the field for over 15 years. Dr. Hawkins conducts research on intercultural couple dynamics, transnational and families of color experiences, parent-child attachment, and culturally safe and socially just factors in therapeutic client care. Within her clinical practice, Dr. Hawkins specializes in couples therapy. Dr. Hawkins has published a chapter within the Encyclopedia of Couple and Family Therapy, and a number of journal articles on the topics of cultural awareness in therapeutic care, conflicts in couple relationship, and transnational families. Her current research centers on Relational Literacy in Hawai‘i and she hopes to build culturally relevant and community resilient understandings of relationship health.
FACULTY

JANET BRITO, PHD, LCSW
Dr. Janet Brito is a nationally certified Latinx sex therapist, supervisor, speaker, trainer, and author with over 20 years of experience in the field. Dr. Brito is a graduate of the Fellowship Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota Medical School, one of only a few university programs in the world dedicated to sexuality training. Dr. Brito is the founder and owner of the Hawaii Center for Sexual and Relationship Health, a group practice that specializes in relationship and sex therapy, sexual behavior, and gender and sexually diverse populations. Dr. Brito brings her expertise to the DMFT program and will teach the Sex Therapy course.

DIANE GEHART, PHD, LMFT
Dr. Diane Gehart is an internationally known author, speaker, therapist, and leader within the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Gehart has published over 14 books including essential MFT Theory texts used by MFT graduate students and clinicians worldwide. Dr. Gehart is an internationally sought-after speaker, giving keynotes and workshops on a range of professional topics of interest including evidence-informed treatment, collaborative and postmodern therapy practices, collaborative play and family therapy, couple and gender issues in therapy among others. Dr. Gehart brings her expertise to the DMFT program and will teach courses related to Family Therapy Theory and Practice and more.

ABBY HALSTON, EDD, LMFT
Dr. Abby Halston is an accomplished marriage and family therapist who teaches, supervises, and conducts research on social media usage, relationship satisfaction, and dating practices. Dr. Halston’s research has been published in the International Journal of Psychological Studies, the International Journal of Social Science Invention, and the Journal of Education, Teaching and Social Studies. Dr. Halston is an active professional member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy as well as serving on the board in the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Halston brings her expertise to the DMFT program and will teach the Quantitative Research and Statistical Methods courses.
KIRSTEN LIND SEAL, PHD, LMFT
Dr. Kirsten Lind Seal is a highly experienced marriage and family therapist who teaches, trains, speaks, writes, and consults locally, nationally, and internationally on ethical and legal issues in the MFT profession.

Dr. Lind-Seal’s research has been published in the Journal of Marriage and Family Therapy, the Journal of Couple and Family Relationships, and she publishes regularly in the Psychotherapy Networker. Dr. Lind-Seal appears biweekly on WCCO (CBS) TV’s midmorning show in Relationship Reboot providing information to the public about healthy families and relationships. Dr. Lind-Seal brings her expertise to the DMFT program and will teach the Ethical & Legal Issues in MFT.

DEANNA LINVILLE, PHD, LMFT
Dr. Deanna Linville is an Executive and Clinical Research Director and Co-Founder of the Center for Transformative Healing. Dr. Linville has led the development and testing of multiple community-based clinical intervention studies across the last 12 years. She is the co-principal investigator for a multi-year grant funded study using community-based participatory action research methods to understand the access barriers and mental health needs of current and former foster youth. Dr. Linville is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in two states (Oregon & Washington) and an AAMFT approved supervisor. Dr. Linville brings her expertise to the DMFT program and will teach research methods and Medical Family Therapy courses.

JOHN SOUZA, DMFT, LMFT
Dr. John Souza is the president of the Hawaii Islands Association for Marriage and Family Therapists. Dr. Souza is a highly experienced marriage and family therapist, he is a Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Dr. Souza specializes in working with young adults and their families. Dr. Souza trains, speaks, and consults on leadership within the MFT profession. Dr. Souza brings his expertise to the DMFT program and will teach the Clinical Practice and Leadership in MFT courses.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Possess a master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy* and/or completed coursework sufficient for MFT licensure in your state
- Must actively be working towards or have already obtained your Licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFT) and are clinically active
- Complete program application and submit application fee
- Submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- Submit a current professional resume
- Submit a personal statement that outlines your theoretical approach and professional goals
- Submit an academic writing sample (e.g. graduate school essay, published article)
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendations
- Submit proof of clinical activity
- Participate in an online admissions interview with members of the faculty

*There is a pathway for students who possess a masters degree in another clinical, counseling or related discipline.

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READY TO GET STARTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

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ENROLLMENT ADVISOR

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