



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE

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USM MFT Program
Spring Data and Reaccreditation Report
June 26, 2026

Prepared by:
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MFT Program Director

Dear Communities of Interest:

This report is being disseminated to update you on the MFT program's 2025-2026 success at achieving benchmarks on our outcome-based educational framework. Additionally, we are including some narrative updates of things that are happening in our program right now that may be of interest to you. After you have reviewed our data and information, we ask that you click on the link at the end of this report to provide feedback.

Sincerely,
Ben Jones, PhD, LMFT

1. Program Updates from 2025-2026 Year
 - a. New Faculty Hire – Benjamin Wood
 - i. Finishing Ph.D. at University of Louisiana – Monroe
 - ii. AAMFT Approved Supervisor, CSAT Credential
 - b. Increase in Cohort Size – 16 Incoming for Fall 2026
 - c. 100% Pass Rate on National Exam
 - i. Having dipped a bit on this measure in the previous cycle (86% initial pass rate), we made some changes to the rigor of our Theories courses, which included bringing in Dr. Chelsey Holden (Human Development and Family Science, LMFT, LPC) to teach Theories II. We saw a direct relationship between Dr. Holden teaching this course and an increase in accurate responses on theory-based items on the national exam.
 - d. Expanded Placement Site Relationships
 - i. Alchemy Addiction (Slidell, LA)
 - ii. Connections (Hattiesburg, MS)
 - e. Transition in Dean's Office
 - i. Dr. Gould transitioning to another institution. Dr. Jeff Hinton (Former MFT Program Director, Associate Dean, and Associate Provost) is stepping in to the role for the next year on an interim basis.
 - f. Rebranding of the School to Human Development and Family Science (Complete)
2. Outcome Based Education Framework Assessment Results
 - i. All targets for the previous year as defined by our outcome based educational framework have been met by the program. For additional details on an item level, please refer to the table at the end of this report.
3. Outcome Based Education Framework – Target Timing Clarification
 - a. We are not changing any of the items that are measured at this time, but we are clarifying the timing of when certain ones are measured to clear up confusion about the “final semester practicum eval” language. This is not the student's final semester in the program, but rather the final semester that they have a practicum evaluation done that includes these items, which is in the fall semester prior to their spring graduation. The reason we measure this then is because students finish their final semester with their clinical comprehensive paper/presentation and either the national licensure exam or our in-house written comprehensive exams, both of which cover similar assessment areas to the practicum

evaluation, making the completion of both redundant since a student has to pass each of these items (presentation and examination) before being able to graduate from the program. As such, the language is being updated to “Level 3 evaluations”, which are the evaluations completed in a student’s third (of four) practicums. If there are any questions or concerns about this, please provide feedback in the form linked at the end.

- b. The targets that we track for our outcome-based framework will be reviewed again in the coming academic year to ensure that we are measuring student progress in the most reliable way possible.

4. Reaccreditation Process

a. Stipulations Previously Given

- i. **Stipulation 1:** Program needs to provide evidence of program director’s evaluation data being reviewed with plans to support continued effectiveness.
- ii. **Stipulation 2:** Program needs to provide overview of faculty evaluation methods and data from Communities of Interest that are used to determine contributions and effectiveness and any plans to support further development and effectiveness for faculty.
- iii. **Stipulation 3:** Program needs to provide evidence that assessment results were sent to Communities of Interest.

b. Stipulations Update

- i. All stipulations were successfully addressed by either integrating new practices or clarifying existing ones for the accrediting body.
- ii. New items introduced included the following:
 - 1. Introduction of a dedicated peer level program director evaluation completed by the other faculty who teach in the MFT program.

c. Next Cycle – 2031

If you would like to provide any feedback to the program, please remember to use the link at the end of this document to do so.

USM MFT Program Outcome Based Education Data Report

2025-2026 Academic Year

Covers data from Summer 2025, Fall 2025, and Spring 2026.

Data Provided	Met	Not Met	Action Taken	Evaluation of Action Taken
Program Goal 1: Graduates of the USM MFT program will have demonstrated the necessary knowledge of theory and models, and the clinical skills to competently provide effective systemic mental health services.				
SLO1: Students will demonstrate entry-level competency of knowledge of systemic/relational theory and models.				
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better) on FAM 656 Final Exam 93% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
**Target: 80% passing score (C or better) on FAM 610 Final Paper/Video Project 100% earned a passing score, N=11	X			
**Target: 100% passing scores on the comprehensive clinical comps final project 100% earned a passing score, N=10	X			
SLO2: Students will effectively assess, conceptualize, and document treatment plans for clients through the lens of systemic/relational theories and models.				
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better) on FAM 661 Treatment Plan assignment 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
**Target: 80% will achieve average score of 2.5 on Level 3 FAM 790 Practicum Evaluation Form – systemic/relational items 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			
SLO3: Students will effectively utilize systemic/relational theory and models in clinical practice.				
**Target: 80% will achieve average score of 2.5 on Level 3 FAM 790 Practicum Evaluation Form – systemic/relational items 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			
Program Goal 2: Graduates will have demonstrated the integrity and knowledge necessary to practice ethical, systemic/relational therapy.				
SLO4: Students will demonstrate knowledge of laws, regulations, the AAMFT Code of Ethics, and professional conduct required for entry level systemic/relational practice.				
*80% of students will receive a passing score (C or better) on FAM 659 Final Exam 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better) on FAM 659 State Licensure Requirement Project 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
**Target: 70% of students will pass AMFTRB Practice Exam Domain 6 (defined as 70% of items answered correctly in this domain) 91% passed domain 6, N= 11	X			
SLO5: Students will provide ethical systemic/relational services in their clinical practice.				
**Target: 80% will achieve average score of 3 on Level 3 FAM 790 Practicum Evaluation Form – ethics items 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			

**Target: 80% of students will be rated as “acceptable”, “excellent”, or “superior” on the ethics questions of site supervisor evaluations. 100% achieved this ranking, N=11	X			
**100% of students will earn passing score on ethics section of clinical comps final project 100% earned a passing score, N=10	X			
Program Goal 3: Graduates will have demonstrated the requisite skills and knowledge to competently provide systemic/relational services to diverse communities.				
SLO6: Students will exhibit appropriate knowledge of the issues, challenges, and strengths of diverse communities and the skills necessary for effective clinical practice.				
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better) on FAM 615 Gender and Culture Paper 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
***Target: 100% of students will submit evidence of attendance to MFTSO approved diversity events 100% completed this, N=25	X			
**Target: 80% will achieve an average score of 3 on Level 3 790 Practicum Evaluation Form – diversity items 11, 44, and 45) 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			
SLO7: Students will provide clinical services to diverse communities.				
***Target: 80% of students will receive a mean score of 4 or higher on Item 9 of the Client Satisfaction Survey 100% achieved this, N=25	X			
Program Goal 4: Graduates will have demonstrated the requisite skills and knowledge to effectively utilize research to inform the practice of systemic/relational therapy.				
SLO8: Students will become informed consumers of current systemic/relational research.				
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better) on research project in FAM 675 or REF 602 (grade on paper) 100% earned a passing score, N =11	X			
SLO9: Students will apply current systemic/relational research to the assessment and treatment in clinical practice				
**Target: 80% passing score (C or better), clinical research project, FAM 790 100% earned a passing score, N=11	X			
**Target: 80% passing score (C or better), couples paper/video, FAM 610 100% earned a passing score, N=11	X			
***Target: 80% of students will achieve average score of 3 on Level 3 FAM 790 Practicum Evaluation Form – research items 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			
Program Goal 5: Graduates will have demonstrated personal awareness and an understanding of the influence of self-of-the-therapist in the provision of therapeutic services.				
SLO10: Students will increase self-awareness through active participation in self-of-the-therapist work.				
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better), FAM 602 Genogram grades 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
SLO11: Students will demonstrate self-awareness to enhance clinical practice.				

***Target: 80% of students will achieve a passing score (C or better) in FAM 790 journal assignments 100% earned a passing score, N = 25	X			
**Target: 80% will achieve average score of 3 on Level 3 FAM 790 Practicum Evaluation Form – self-awareness items 37, 58, 70, 76 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			
Program Goal 6: Graduates will have demonstrated the ability to successfully practice relational/systemic technology assisted therapy.				
SLO12: Students will demonstrate entry-level knowledge needed to effectively and ethically provide systemic/relational teletherapy.				
*Target: 80% passing score, Telehealth legal and ethical training 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
*Target: 80% passing score (C or better), Telehealth Quiz in FAM 790 100% earned a passing score, N=15	X			
SLO13: Students will effectively provide teletherapy services.				
**Target: 80% will achieve average score of 3 on Level 3 FAM 790 Practicum Evaluation Form 100% achieved this average, N=11	X			
***Target: 80% of students will be evaluated as agree or strongly agree on client satisfaction form – teletherapy section 100% achieved this, N=25	X			
***Target: 80% of students will be evaluated as agree or strongly agree on first session feedback form – teletherapy section 100% achieved this, N=25	X			

* 1st year student assessment

** 2nd year student assessment

*** both year assessment

N = total size of enrolled cohort for that measure (number fluctuation related to students withdrawing from or being counseled out of the program between semesters)

Note: While passing scores on the clinical comprehensive project are listed under SLO 1, these scores are also seen as an assessment measure for additional SLOs (1, 2, 10, 11 given the comprehensive knowledge demonstration passing this project requires. It is only listed in one spot of this table to avoid repeating duplicated data.

[USM MFT Program Feedback](#)