APPLICATION PROCESS

We are excited about your decision to apply to the Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy Program. You will submit your application to the Graduate School website at [https://www.niu.edu/grad/academics/masters/marriage-family-therapy.shtml](https://www.niu.edu/grad/academics/masters/marriage-family-therapy.shtml)

The application is comprised of the following components:

- Graduate School application
- GRE Scores
- Unofficial Transcripts
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Statement of Purpose
- Current Resume

With your letters of recommendation, select individuals that will provide strong support for your decision to become a marriage and family therapist. One or more letters from professors are helpful in supporting your ability to do graduate work. If you have worked or volunteered in a setting that provides care for people, then a recommendation letter from your supervisor is valuable in communicating your passion for helping others and your ability to relate well with clients.

The Statement of Purpose is an important component of the decision-making process for the faculty of the Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy Program. It serves as a forum to express your ideas, self-awareness and professional goals. The sample provides the opportunity for us to get to know you as a person and to understand your interest in and commitment to becoming a marriage and family therapist. The Writing Sample also illustrates your ability to think clearly and to communicate effectively, which are essential skills for graduate work as well as for the professional marriage and family therapist. It is important to demonstrate your written communication skills by effectively organizing your thoughts and by attending to grammar, spelling, sentence structure and composition.

Using the following questions as a framework, write a three-section paper which is typed, doublespaced, and a maximum of eight (8) pages in length. When you are done, staple it to the Writing Sample Cover Sheet. Please address each of the following questions in your writing sample:

**Section I: Personal Philosophy**

- Discuss your personal philosophy of life. What ideas, values, and preferences guide you?
- What people and/or experiences have been major influences in your life? Section II: Marriage and Family Therapy

**Section II: Marriage and Family Therapy**
• What are the factors and experiences that motivate you to become a marriage and family therapist FT).
• What are the most important qualities of a successful MFT?
• Describe your professional goals. How do you envision using your skills as an MFT? What will you be doing in 5 years and 15 years?

Section III: Education
• What attracted you to the SMFT Program at NIU?
• How do you personally learn most effectively? Describe your ideal learning context.
• Describe why this is good time in your life to pursue MFT education.

The Priority Deadline for application to the Fall 2019 Cohort of the SMFT Program is January 15, 2019.

ADMISSION PROCESS

1) The SMFT faculty will review all applications from January 16 to January 23, 2019.

2) No later than January 25th, qualified candidates will be invited to an interview day at Northern Illinois on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday in late February.

3) Applicants will be notified of our admission decision in early March.