

MFT Program Policy on Faculty and Staff Sufficiency

Policy Availability

This policy is available to the public via the link to [Program Handbook and Policies](#) on the [MFT website](#).

Definition of Core Faculty

The MFT Program defines core faculty as any staff or faculty member employed by VSU and having full-time (40 hours) responsibility for any teaching, supervision, program or clinic management, or training activities.

Core faculty members should be trained as Marriage and Family Therapists and professional educators and have graduated from COAMFTE accredited doctoral programs. All should have been trained in systems theory and practice. All must be licensed or on track to become licensed in the state of Georgia. All faculty teaching clinical practicum courses must be or be on track to become AAMFT Approved Supervisors.

The current MFT faculty can deem itself sufficient when it is able to meet both short-term challenges and long-term sustainability while allowing faculty members to maintain a work-life balance, avoid faculty, and ensure that faculty members maintain teaching, clinical, and supervision loads that are approximately equivalent with faculty from comparable programs. Specifically, the faculty is sufficient in the context of the following:

1. **Accessibility of faculty** – The current faculty member-to-student ratio of approximately 1:12 ensures that every student can have access to faculty for supervision and mentorship and faculty can still have time to assign labor intensive assignments (for example, essay exams and papers) and read narrative Comprehensive Exams I and II as well as pursue faculty responsibilities for teaching, service, and professional scholarship.
2. **Classroom adequacy** - The program classroom is designed to accommodate 35 people. With classes between 28 and 35 people, the classroom is adequate, allowing space for everyone to hear and see without strain, while providing seating that is comfortable for classes lasting approximately 3 hours in length.
3. **Practica size** - A faculty consisting of 5 or 6 people allows practica size to remain at 6 students per faculty member. Seven people (six students and one faculty member) in the current observation rooms allows for adequate seating and personal space, ability to see monitors and through the one-way window without strain, and space remaining for prospective student visitors, consultants, and observing first year students.
4. **Faculty teaching load** - The MFT graduate teaching load is consistent with the [wider VSU graduate teaching load](#).