

MFT Program Policy on Retention

Policy Availability

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

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The MFT Program policy on retention is consistent with the [University and MFT Program mission](#) and [Non-Discrimination policy](#) as well as [MFT program goals, SLOs](#), and non-discrimination policy. Through student support services, academic advising, and safe, respectful, and appreciative person-to-person faculty/student relations, the MFT Program is committed to providing an educational opportunity that culminates in successful graduation while adhering to appropriate, fair, and non-discriminatory limitations imposed by ethics, a rigorous curriculum, clinical competence, and program requirements.

The MFT faculty has a gate-keeping responsibility to assure that graduates of the MFT Program, who move on to work with the public, are ethical and competent practitioners. The delivery of therapeutic services to the public requires that practitioners meet both academic and professional standards of behavior and therapeutic competence. Academic progress is determined by grades and performance on comprehensive examinations. Accordingly, MFT Program maintains the following retention requirements:

1. Students are screened for personal and academic readiness prior to enrollment in clinical work with the public. Students must demonstrate consistent professionally appropriate behavior and can be dismissed for either or both academic and non-academic reasons.
2. No more than 6 semester hours of academic work may be transferred into the MFT program from another program or institution. Credit considered for transfer must be no more than seven years old prior to completion of the MFT degree. Transfer credit will be evaluated by the academic department after the student is admitted.
3. If a student wishes to withdraw from a class with a grade of "WP," it is the candidate's responsibility to initiate and complete the withdrawal process prior to the midterm deadline. "WP" grades do not affect academic deficiency points or grade point average.
4. Students will be dismissed from the program if they accumulate three or more academic deficiency points. A grade of "C" (which is credited toward the degree) equals one deficiency point. A grade of "D" (which is not credited toward the degree) equals two deficiency points. Grades of "F" or "WF" (neither of which are credited toward the M.S. degree) each equal three deficiency points.

5. If dismissed from the program, a student must sit out two semesters before applying for readmission. Readmission is not guaranteed and prior academic performance and/or conduct in the program will be considered. If readmitted, the student must retake only courses with deficiencies until the number of deficiency points is less than or equal to two. A student cannot take a class more than twice or apply for readmission more than once. The academic program reserves the right to place specific conditions and contingencies on any offer of readmission.
 6. A student in good standing who leaves the program on his or her own volition can miss two semesters after which he or she must reapply to the program. Readmission is not guaranteed and prior academic performance, conduct in the program, and the circumstances under which the student left will be considered.
 7. The MFT program is traditionally completed in 2 years of fulltime graduate work. In consultation with an advisor, however, students can work out a Plan of Study that can take up to but no longer than 7 years to complete. No work completed more than seven years prior to degree completion will be accepted toward the degree, except with special permission from the student's major professor, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, and approval from the Dean of the Graduate School.
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