

MFT Program Policy on Clinical Readiness

Policy Availability

The **Policy on Clinical Readiness** is available to the public via the [MFT Homepage > Accreditation > Policies and Handbook](#).

Purpose

The MFT Program faculty has a systemically ethical gatekeeping responsibility to ensure, to the extent possible, that therapists who are beginning to work with live clients can do so with the public at a basic level of competency. This policy presents the specific requirements each student must meet to be considered ready to begin clinical practice.

Policy on Student Readiness for Clinical Work

Master's students are determined to be ready to begin seeing clients on their own at FamilyWorks when the following have been successfully completed or currently enrolled:

1. Successful completion of these academic courses:
 - a. *MFTH 6800 Relational Theory, Practice, & Ethics*
 - b. *MFTH 6900 Foundations in MFT*
 - c. *MFTH 7101 Family Systems Theories*
 - d. *MFTH 7102 Interventions in MFT*
 - e. *MFTH 7050 Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice*
 - f. *MFTH 7500 Development in the Family System*.
 - g. *MFTH 7350 Legal Issues* (this course can be taken synchronously with practicum)
2. Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam I
3. Successful completion of Service Learning
 - a. Proof of valid liability insurance
 - b. Student membership in AAMFT
 - c. An established pattern of appropriate responsibility, decision-making, and professional behaviors throughout the duration of the program.

Faculty Discernment of Student Readiness for Clinical Work

Faculty members are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that students entering clinical practicum are prepared to engage in ethical, competent, and professional therapeutic work with members of the public. If a student comes to the attention of any faculty member due to concerns related to academic performance, professional behavior, interpersonal conduct, organizational skills, or social appropriateness in dress or behavior—or if there are doubts about the student's ability or willingness to practice respectful, ethical, and systemic therapy—the faculty member will bring the matter forward for review.

Concerns will be discussed during a full faculty meeting, where the student's readiness to begin

This policy addresses Standards V12.5, Eligibility Criterion E: Accuracy and Program Transparency in Policies and Publications and Standard I: Outcome-Based Education Framework and Environmental Support, KE I-C: Plan for Assessing Environmental Supports. Updated Fall 2025. Scheduled for update Fall 2029 or sooner as necessary

practicum will be evaluated. This discussion will take into account the potential impact on the student, the public, faculty, and peers. The goal of this process is to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and client care, while supporting student development and maintaining the integrity of the clinical training program.

If faculty determine that a student is not yet ready to begin clinical practica, the student's faculty advisor, the Clinical Coordinator, or both will meet with the student to discuss the concerns identified by the faculty. Together, they will develop a Professional Development Plan outlining specific goal, expectations, and steps the student must complete in order to become eligible for practicum. This plan is intended to support the student's growth and ensure readiness to begin clinical work as soon as possible, while maintaining the standards of the program and safeguarding client welfare.