

MFT Program Policy on Degree Portability

Policy Availability

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

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide accessibility to all incoming and current students with information about degree portability: what it is, how it may affect a given student, and resources for students to address portability matters.

Degree Portability Defined

The VSU standard MFT curriculum, taken in its entirety, without transferred classes or substitutions of any kind, aligns with and meets State of Georgia educational requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Deviations from the established MFT program curriculum may not meet requirements for clinical licensure in the State of Georgia, even though such deviations may meet program graduation requirements.

State licensure laws are governed by individual states and can change frequently. Some state regulatory/licensing boards have unique course/credit or practice requirements that exceed a standard degree plan, and that can hinder clinical practice by unlicensed graduates. This means that students can graduate from an accredited program in any given state, then discover that they lack educational requirements needed for licensure in another state. For example, an MFT degree earned in Georgia may not meet the degree requirements for licensure in California.

All students must study the educational requirements of the state where they intend to seek licensure. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that he or she has met all requirements for any state from which he or she seeks licensure.

Resources for Learning About Degree Portability

Students should familiarize themselves with the licensing laws of the state in which they intend to seek licensure.

1. Visit the [Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards \(AMFTRRB\) website](#). They have several charts, including a [state licensure comparison chart](#).
2. [MFT-License.com](#) is another website that also provides licensure requirements by state.
3. Students are encouraged to talk to their advisor about licensing matters.
4. Refer to the Information Letter that all students receive once admitted to the Program (see next section)

When Does the MFT Program Inform Students About Degree Portability?

Once a prospective student is accepted by faculty for admission into the Program, the faculty sends two letters: The first is a short letter of welcome, which includes a description of degree portability and offers links to learn more about degree portability.

State licensure laws are governed by individual states, so licensing requirements vary from state to state. Degree portability refers to whether the MFT degree you earn in Georgia is sufficient or “portable” to other states. While the curriculum and supervision hours of the VSU MFT program meets the educational, training, and experiential requirements for entry-level practice and licensure in the state of Georgia, they may or may not meet these requirements in other states. Other states regulatory boards may have unique course, credit, or practice requirements that differ from those of Georgia. Additionally, state laws are subject to change. This means that if you read, say, Missouri’s MFT licensing laws when you first begin the VSU MFT Program, those laws could have changed by the time you graduate two years later. ([Click here to read the full MFT Program Degree Portability policy.](#)) Read the AAMFT description of [Degree Portability here](#). Read [Georgia State MFT licensure requirements here](#).

What does the issue of degree portability mean for you? It means that each student is responsible for reviewing the course and practice requirements for the state(s) in which he or she intends to seek licensure and ensuring that the preferred state licensing requirements have been met prior to graduating from VSU. We strongly suggest that you begin now, even at this early stage, or during your first year of study, familiarizing yourself with the educational, training, and experiential requirements of the state in which you intend to seek licensure. Some places to do that are these:

- the [MFT State/Provincial Resources](#) on the [AAMFT website](#).
- the [Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards \(AMFTRB\) website](#). This is an informative website that you may want to view at different times throughout your time in the program and your career. The site has a number of excellent charts, including a [state licensure comparison chart](#).
- [MFT-License.com](#) is another website that provides state-by-state licensure requirements.

This short welcome letter requires the prospective student to send the Program Director and the Clinical Coordinator an email acknowledging that they have read and understand degree portability

1. Once received, this email is saved in the student’s permanent admission folder.
2. Only after receipt of this email are further admission documents sent, and the student is eligible to move toward registration.

Once the above email is received from the student, attesting to their understanding, the Program sends a second, longer information letter.

This policy addresses Eligibility Criterion E: Accuracy and Program Transparency in Policies and Publications and Standard V12.5, Standard II: Curriculum, KE III-C: Foundational and Advanced Application Components. Updated Fall 2025. Scheduled for update Fall 2029 or sooner as necessary.