

MFT Program Policy on Supervisor Sufficiency

Policy Availability

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

MFT Program Required MFT Supervisor Qualifications

The MFT program requires fulltime, clinical supervisors to have the following qualifications:

1. a post-graduate degree in MFT from a COAMFTE accredited program
2. Georgia state MFT license (LMFT) (or on track to achieving same)
3. AAMFT Clinical Fellow membership
4. AAMFT Approved Supervisor designation (preferred) or on track toward earning the designation by having completed or enrolled in a pre-approved 30-hour AAMFT Supervision Fundamentals course through AAMFT.
5. conducts clinical practice according to the AAMFT code of ethics
6. self-identifies as an MFT by profession and academic training
7. submit annual proof of continuous liability insurance (see Faculty & Staff Liability Insurance binder)

When a supervisor has the above required qualifications, this means that he or she has conducted or is in the process of conducting the following:

1. a minimum of 1500 hours of face-to-face systemically-informed therapy (required for Georgia state licensure)
2. a minimum of 180 hours of face-to-face systemically-informed supervision (required for Approved Supervisor credential)

Therefore, the program can be assured that such a supervisor is qualified to supervise students.

Process for Review of Supervisory Sufficiency

The process of evaluation of supervisor sufficiency occurs once a year in the Spring. At this time, a faculty course scheduler calculates the number of seats that will be required for the upcoming Fall, Spring, and Summer practica. This calculation is based on

- 1.) the faculty preferred 1:6 supervisor-to-student ratio
- 2.) the number of students needing practica seats
- 3.) the number of available supervisors

These numbers inform the program of the quantitative sufficiency of supervisors in advance of any given semester.

The program will routinely maintain practica of less than eight (usually around six) students. However, when projections of supervisory sufficiency show that one or two practica need to accommodate a seventh student, the scheduler will bring this to a faculty meeting where the full faculty can look at the numbers, discuss the need, and reach a decision about how to proceed.

This policy addresses Standards V12.5, Eligibility Criterion E: Accuracy and Program Transparency in Policies and Publications and Standard II: Program Leadership, Program Faculty, and Program Clinical Supervisors, KE II-C: Core Faculty and Program Clinical Supervisor Sufficiency. Updated Fall 2025. Scheduled for update Fall 2029 or sooner as necessary.

1. A supervisor may need to accommodate seven or eight students.
2. Should projections show that the supervisor-to-student ratio will exceed the COAMFTE maximum of 1:8 and one or more of the core faculty is unable to teach (due to faculty illness, family leave, etc.), an additional adjunct supervisor should be hired.
3. Should a qualified supervisor be unavailable for hire, a current faculty member would teach an overload. Alternatively, the Clinical Coordinator, a AAMFT Approved supervisor, would teach the practicum, depending on availability.

Quantity and Quality Determine Supervisory Sufficiency

Quantity

Since its formation, the MFT program has conducted practica with a 6:1 student/supervisor ratio. By policy, the program will continue this practice for the following reasons:

1. **Empirical evidence of small class learning:** It is the view of the MFT faculty that students learn best in small classes where direct, face-to-face contact with the instructor is assured, a view confirmed by a large body of research concluding that smaller class size translates to increased student achievement.
2. **Consultation room size:** Our consultation rooms vary in size. Only the largest ones are able to accommodate up to 10 people. The smaller room can accommodate 8 or 9, at best. However, students and faculty are more comfortable for the long duration of 7-hour practica with six students. Again, the empirical evidence is clear that for the best learning to occur, it must be in an environment that is comfortable and safe, both of which are best assured with fewer learners. Furthermore, with only six students, there remains room for one or two observing 1st year students, especially in the larger consultation rooms.
3. **Faculty size:** The VSU MFT program has a dedicated faculty for MFT students. MFT faculty members do not teach in other programs. Given this, our team of 5 faculty supervisors remains stable from year to year.
4. **Student Advantage:** The COAMFTE standard for practica is a maximum of 8 students. For the above listed reasons, we prefer to have practica of six students. Additionally, faculty and students feel that faculty-to-student ratio of 1 to 6 permits optimizes the possibility that each student is assured of the following:
 - a. maximum possible amount of individual supervisor-to-student time
 - b. seeing at least one or two clients each semester

Quality

All MFT supervisors, whether core or adjunct, are evaluated on a continuous and ongoing basis using multiple evaluative methods:

1. *Student Evaluation of Supervisor* questionnaire, which speaks directly to the achievement of MFT supervision and program PGs and SLOs – each semester

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2. *Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI)* – each semester
3. peer review – ad hoc, when needed for assistant, and associate rank promotion and tenure
4. annual Department Head review of scholarship, service, teaching, program contributions, which includes supervisor self-assessment.
5. informal, unsolicited in-person, written student statements of appreciation and gratitude
6. Additionally, core faculty are reviewed through the university promotion and tenure process – per COEHS tenure track policy.

The results of the above evaluations become public through the P & T process. As long as evaluation results remain satisfactory, the program can be assured of supervisory instruction. If evaluation results are not satisfactory, the Department Head institutes university faculty performance review procedures.

Adjunct Supervisors

Whenever it is necessary to hire a non-core supervisor because one or more of the core faculty is unable to teach due to prolonged absence (sabbatical, family leave, emergency, illness, etc.), it may be necessary to hire a qualified adjunct supervisor.

1. The best, most immediate, least disruptive, and therefore most expedient, choice, however, will be to internally hire the Clinical Coordinator, assuming he or she holds the below qualifications:
2. Outside supervisors must have the following qualifications:
 - a. MS or PhD degree in MFT
 - b. AAMFT Clinical Fellow
 - c. On track toward or currently hold a full Georgia state license (LMFT)
 - d. AAMFT Approved Supervisor designation or have completed or be enrolled in a pre-approved 30-hour AAMFT Supervision Fundamentals course through AAMFT
 - e. clinical practice that accords with the AAMFT code of ethics
 - f. self-identifies as an MFT by profession and academic training
 - g. Able to submit annual proof of liability insurance (see Faculty & Staff Liability Insurance binder)