Family Studies — M.A., Ph.D.

Program director
Curtis A. Fox

Family studies refers to the academic study of marriage and family living and focuses on the whole body of scholarship on the social institution of the family. The family is studied from the perspectives of psychology, sociology, anthropology, biology, history, politics, religion, and law. This field of study is often associated with acquiring knowledge and skills to understand families and be able to serve them better; thus promoting greater stability and well-being. The Ph.D. degree is the highest level of academic preparation in the field.

Financial aid
Students who are accepted into the program may apply for financial aid through the University's Student Financial Aid Office. In some cases when funds are available, students may qualify for graduate research or teaching assistantships. The Student Financial Aid Office may be contacted by mail or telephone at:

Student Financial Aid Office
Student Services
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA 92350
909/558-4509

Programs

Courses

FMST 504. Advanced Family Studies. 4 Units.
A critical survey of the research and theory growing out of the fields of family studies and family sociology. Provides students with a background on the social and historical factors that form the contexts within which families are defined and function. Students make application of course material to the practice of marriage and family therapy.

FMST 505. Social Research Methods: Quantitative. 3 Units.
Analyzes current social research methods. Practice in the use of techniques. Scientific method. Prerequisite: Introductory course in statistics as an undergraduate research-methods course.

FMST 506. Advanced Social Research Methods. 3 Units.
Qualitative methodology. Prepares students to undertake research projects using the intensive interview method of qualitative research. Practical and epistemological issues and problems in qualitative research explored in a workshop format.

FMST 514. Cross-cultural Counseling and Family Values. 2 Units.
Structure and function, changing patterns, future in urban society. Relationship of changes in society to widespread family problems. Student becomes familiar with a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds—including but not limited to people of color, Asians, Native Americans, and Hispanics.

FMST 515. Professional Issues in Family Life Education. 3 Units.
Surveys the professional practice of family life education, examines the legal and ethical issues that govern the practice of family life education, investigates the major policies and legal codes that govern family behavior in the United States and other countries, evaluates strategies for professional development in the field, and delineates boundaries regarding the scope of practice in this field and in family therapy.

FMST 517. Hispanic Family: Theory and Research. 3 Units.
Covers three areas pertaining to Hispanic family issues. Covers a psycho-sociocultural theoretical framework; explores an array of issues (e.g., acculturation, biculturalism, values development, crisis and conflict); develops a model for understanding the multicultural family in the U.S.A. based on Hispanic family experiences.

FMST 518. Advanced Theories in Child Development. 3 Units.
Examines child development from the perspectives of family systems, symbolic interactionism, structural functionalism, family development, social construction, and others. Investigates theories and stages of development—from birth through adolescence—from classical and contemporary literature in the physical, cognitive, language, social, emotional, and moral development domains.

FMST 519. Teaching in Higher Education. 2 Units.
Discusses theory, techniques, and processes in the teaching of MFT, including an examination of didactic and experiential techniques.

FMST 524. Family Resource Management. 2 Units.
Challenges of health-care costs, child care, reorganizing and downsizing organizations, managing cultural diversity, and equal employment opportunity. Responding to needs of families and employees through consistent and effective planning so that people become more productive and more satisfied with their lives at work and at home.

FMST 525. Sociology of the Family. 2 Units.
Studies the structure, function, and changing patterns of families in society; the relationships between family problems and changes in society, and their impact on children.

FMST 526. Marriage and the Family. 3 Units.
Studies the family from perspectives of psychology, anthropology, biology, history, politics, and religion. Investigates the major movements or moving forces in society that have influenced families living in the United States and elsewhere. Evaluates the important contemporary issues in families and presents theories of family functioning that inform therapeutic and educational interventions by professionals.

FMST 528. Parenting. 2 Units.
Principles and practices relating to parent-child relationships. Emphasizes family roles, communication, conflict resolution, values development, and parenting-skill development.

FMST 529. Family Life Education. 3 Units.
Systematic comparative analysis of the historical development, theoretical perspectives, types of programs, and research in family-life studies.

FMST 577. Family Life Workshop. 2 Units.

FMST 601. Statistics I. 4 Units.
Introduces regression analysis and analysis of variance (ANOVA), with emphasis on hypothesis-testing and the development of general models that partition overall variability. Topics covered include simple and multiple regression, one-way and factorial, repeated-measures of ANOVA, and analysis of covariance. Evaluation and assumptions of nonparametric alternatives.
FMST 602. Statistics II. 4 Units.
Broad introduction using linear (matrix) algebra to maximize likelihood estimation generally, using several important multivariate statistical techniques, including but not limited to multivariate analysis of variance, multivariate regression, path analysis, and structural equations causal modeling, log-linear models, and time series analysis; also evaluates alternatives to maximum likelihood estimation. Prerequisite: MFTH 601 or FMST 601.

FMST 603. Statistics III. 4 Units.
An advanced course in multivariate statistics that includes topics such as multidimensional scaling, cluster analysis, factor analysis, path analysis, structural equations modeling, log-linear modeling, time-series analysis, and hierarchical linear models. Focuses on understanding these advanced techniques and their application to data analysis. Prerequisite: MFTH 602 or FMST 602.

FMST 604. Advanced Qualitative Methods. 4 Units.
An overview of qualitative methods and their application to research of marriage and family therapy. Includes an examination of ethnographies, naturalistic inquiry, phenomenological research, the grounded theory approach, and narrative inquiry.

FMST 605. Advanced Quantitative Methods. 4 Units.
An advanced overview of quantitative research methods in marriage and family therapy, including experiments and quasi-experiments, survey methodology, and outcome studies.

FMST 608. Analysis and Presentation Issues in Research. 3 Units.
Brings together and integrates material from the previous research classes. Deals with the ethics of research, and with questions of reliability and validity in both quantitative and qualitative methods. Emphasizes problems of coherently and succinctly presenting research results in proposals, posters, brief reports, and articles.

FMST 635. Single Adult in Family and Society. 3 Units.
Perceptions, needs, challenges, and opportunities during the periods of adult singleness in the life cycle.

FMST 668. Qualitative Research Practicum. 2 Units.
Provides students with practical experience in conducting and evaluating qualitative research. Emphasizes methods of analysis and presentation of the research. Students review a manuscript that is ready for submission to an academic journal and critically analyze the work of others.

FMST 684. Doctoral Seminar. 1 Unit.
Students develop and refine their dissertation proposals through presentation and discussion with faculty and other students in a workshop format. Dissertation proposal is an expected outcome of this series of courses.

FMST 694. Directed Study: Family Studies. 1-3 Units.
FMST 695. Internship in Family Studies. 1-4 Units.
FMST 696A. Advanced Topics in Family Studies: Parenting. 3 Units.
Directed study in parenting.
FMST 696B. Advanced Topics in Family Studies: Family Resource Management. 3 Units.
Directed study in family resource management.
FMST 696C. Advanced Topics in Family Studies: Family Life Education. 3 Units.
Directed study in family life education.
FMST 696D. Advanced Topics in Family Studies: Child Development in Family Context. 3 Units.
Directed study in child development in family context.

FMST 696E. Advanced Topics in Family Studies: Divorce and Remarriage. 3 Units.
Directed study in divorce and remarriage.

FMST 696F. Advanced Topics in Family Studies: Marriage and the Family. 3 Units.
Directed study in marriage and the family.

FMST 697. Research. 1-6 Units.
Independent research relating to marital and family therapy, under the direction of a faculty advisor.

FMST 698. Project or Thesis. 3 Units.
FMST 699. Dissertation Research. 1-20 Units.
Completes independent research contributing to the field of family studies. Prerequisite: Advancement to doctoral candidacy.