COUPLE & FAMILY THERAPY FACULTY

ANDREA K. WITTENBORN, PH.D.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR & PROFESSOR
Depression; Clinical Research; Personalized Intervention; Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy

KENDAL HOLTROP, PH.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Parenting practices; Adaptation and implementation of evidence-based parenting interventions; Community-based research; Underserved families

ADRIAN BLOW, PH.D.
DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON & PROFESSOR
Military families; Trauma; Common factors in CFT theories; Infidelity in committed relationships

TEMPLE ODOM, PH.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Clinical issues surrounding adoption, foster care, and complex families; Examining developmental norms and grief and loss within these families; Clinical supervision and training

LEKIE DWANYEN, PH.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Traumatic stress and relationships; Immigrant and refugee families; Critical, feminist, and anti-racist research methods

DEBRA MILLER, PH.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & CFT CLINIC DIRECTOR
Evidence-based practice implementation; Community-engaged research; Behavioral health practitioner development; Core therapist skills; Family engagement

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COUPLE & FAMILY THERAPY
DOCTORAL PROGRAM

OUR MISSION

We are committed to advancing systemic interventions that support the well-being of individuals and families through excellence in clinically-relevant research, empirically-informed clinical practice, and education/outreach. Our activities are guided by our values of inclusion and diversity.

ABOUT US

Our COAMFTE-accredited Couple and Family Therapy Ph.D. program was first established in 1985. We have a long history of preparing leaders in couple and family therapy education, research, and practice. Our training focuses on relational processes, empirically-supported interventions, and clinical research methodology. Our work is guided by a commitment to inclusion, diversity, and social justice. Our faculty are prominent scholars in parenting, family dynamics, intimate relationships, mental health disparities, immigrant families, trauma, and clinical research; we also have expertise in numerous empirically-supported couple and family interventions. We view doctoral education as a time of apprenticeship in which students receive intensive mentorship in research, practice, and education. Students are guided through the program by their advisor and doctoral committee.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS

- The CFT Ph.D. program is in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
- Applicants are required to have a master's degree
- Applicants with a master's degree from a COAMFTE-accredited program, or its equivalent, will have met the prerequisites for the program
- Students with a master's degree in another field (e.g., social work, counseling, psychology, family science) may need to complete the necessary coursework and clinical experience equivalent to that of a COAMFTE-accredited master's degree
- Students entering the Ph.D. program with a master's degree in CFT typically finish in 4 years
- Student are required to graduate with 1,000 hours of direct client care, which is consistent with the requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Michigan
- Students complete a 9-month internship that includes research, practice, teaching, supervision, and/or administration.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. CLINICALLY-RELEVANT RESEARCH
   Students will conduct research that is relevant to systemic interventions.

2. EMPIRICALLY-INFORMED CLINICAL PRACTICE
   Students will inform their clinical practice by empirical evidence.

3. EDUCATION/OUTREACH
   Students will share knowledge with students, practitioners, scholars, and/or community members.

4. INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY
   Students will demonstrate a commitment to scholarly and clinical work that recognizes social locations, acknowledges power imbalances, and seeks to reduce disparities.