COUPLE & FAMILY THERAPY FACULTY

ANDREA K. WITTENBORN, PH.D.  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR & ASSOCIATE 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; HIV/AIDS in South Africa; Breast cancer & spirituality/quality of life; 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

MARSHA CAROLAN, PH.D.  
CFT CLINIC DIRECTOR  
Collaborative healthcare; Diverse families; Qualitative research; Feminist and multi-cultural approaches to the family; Violence against women; Family health perspective; Family theory

SAILA SUBRAMANIAM, PH.D.  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
Immigrant families; Aging and health; Trauma, grief & loss; Family resilience; Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy; Culturally sensitive interventions

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MICHI.GAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Advancing Knowledge Transforming Lives
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
• Students 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 the Michigan
• Students complete a 9-month internship that includes research, practice, teaching, supervision, and/or administration.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COUPLE & FAMILY THERAPY CLINIC
Our on-campus CFT Clinic offers students opportunities for practice, research, and community outreach.

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.