

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the **NIU Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy**. Enclosed you will find a description of our program, application materials, and a variety of other information, all of which have been revised for the current academic year. The *Graduate School Application* can be viewed and submitted on-line at [www.grad.niu.edu](http://www.grad.niu.edu). You may contact the Graduate School at (815)753-0395. The *Graduate Catalog* is available on-line at <http://catalog.niu.edu/>.

I believe that our program is among the finest marriage and family therapy education opportunities in the United States. We offer the opportunity to:

- Receive the highest quality of graduate training in MFT *without paying any tuition* (That's right!). Because MFT students are enrolled in practicum and internship during their entire academic programs, the graduate school waives tuition for their entire program. (Students must still pay university fees);
- Become part of a small team of wonderful people. Our SMFT students and faculty are diverse in ethnicity, gender, values and life experience;
- Learn family therapy by working with clients with a range of problems;
- Complete required client contact on campus in our thriving family therapy training facility and off campus in a community therapy agency selected according to your particular interests;
- Develop expertise in a variety of clinically relevant areas, such as divorce and remarriage, sex therapy, child abuse, and addiction;
- Increase awareness and sensitivity to the dynamics of race, class, gender, sexual orientation and abilities;
- Work with faculty who will give attention to your personal, professional, and academic growth;
- Study with faculty who are dedicated systemic family therapists and nationally recognized teachers, supervisors, theorists, and researchers;
- Meet international leaders of family therapy who occasionally visit with us in DeKalb;
- Develop an approach to therapy that is consistent with the field's collective wisdom and latest theoretical developments, and yet uniquely yours;
- Live in a university community about 90 minutes from downtown Chicago and 30 minutes west of the western suburbs.

Because of the above, and for meeting accreditation standards, our program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, an affiliate of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

*Please note that we review applications only once a year in January. Please see the document Application Instructions for details.*

We recommend that you take the GRE exam in October. Qualified applicants with *complete applications* will be invited in late February to early March to visit the NIU campus, talk with our students, and interview with the faculty. These interviews are a critical part of our selection process.

Graduate students who are eligible for federal financial aid and who desire assistantships should contact NIU's Financial Aid Office at (815)753-1395 in February for a financial aid screening form or logon to <http://www.fa.niu.edu> and [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) . Return forms to the Financial Aid Office by the date noted on the form (generally around March 1). Graduate assistants who qualify under these rules will **be paid at a rate which is up to double** the rate paid to graduate assistants who do not qualify for federal financial aid, and may also be offered an assistantship for summer.

I hope this deluge of information will encourage your interest and answer most of your questions. Our *Questions and Answers* document should be particularly helpful in determining whether NIU is the place for you. Feel free to call me or one of our graduate students if you have any questions.

Once again, thanks for considering our program here at NIU. I remember how difficult it was to choose a graduate program, prepare the application, sweat through the interview process, and wait for a decision. I also remember how exciting it was! Best wishes to you.

Cordially,

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Enclosures