

Grading and Assessment

Grading

Academic performance is evaluated by the faculty and is based upon the student's performance in his/her coursework. It is the responsibility of the faculty to inform students of assignments and corresponding due dates. Penalties for the failure to complete the assignment adequately or on time should be made known to the student at the beginning of the course or project. The faculty should discuss (via syllabus/discussion) with the students the criteria for success or failure.

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average ("B" Average) at all times while enrolled as graduate students in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Grades below "C" count in computing the GPA but do not carry credit toward a degree. Academic standards are set forth by the UA Graduate School <https://catalog.ua.edu/graduate/about/academic-policies/scholastic-requirements/>.

The faculty considers the student's satisfactory progress toward the completion of his or her degree to be an issue of competence. Students who do not meet the minimum academic requirements will be placed on academic probation and/or dismissed from the program.

Clinical Skills Assessment

In a clinical program, academic performance includes more than grades on specific assignments; it also includes the student's performance in meeting clinical obligations. Students are expected to be able to meet clinical competencies throughout the program, including engaging clients in the therapeutic process, assessing existing problems, and designing and implementing intervention strategies for improving outcomes.

The MFT faculty and supervisors evaluates students' clinical competency throughout their time in the program. These judgements are subjective in nature and based on live clinical supervision, observation of video tapes, and case discussion within supervision. Every effort is made to corroborate these judgments among all clinical faculty. To facilitate this, grades for clinical performance (e.g., HD 667 & HD 668) are based upon the discussion among all supervision faculty involved in each grading period. Feedback from that discussion is made available to each student in both written and verbal form at the completion of each semester in which the student is enrolled in either a clinical or supervisory practicum.

Supervisors will also complete quantitative evaluation via the Practicum Evaluation at the end of each semester. One meeting per month is dedicated to the review of students' clinical progress. When an area of concern is identified regarding a student's clinical performance, specific strategies will be implemented in clinical supervision to help the student develop the necessary skills. This is a normal part of the supervision experience. However, if the MFT faculty/clinical supervisor believes that the problem is not alleviated through clinical supervision, the faculty member/clinical supervisor will discuss the concern with the MFT Program Director. The "Minor Deficiency Procedures" will be initiated (see below). If the problem is not alleviated through the improvement process, the problems will be considered a "severe deficiency," and the "severe deficiency" procedure will be enacted.