The School of Marriage and Family Sciences

About Northcentral University

Founded in 1996, Northcentral University (NCU) is a regionally accredited, private, online and graduate-focused university serving professionals globally. Northcentral University offers doctoral, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in business and technology management, education, psychology as well as marriage and family therapy. Courses are taught one-to-one by a member of NCU’s 100 percent doctoral faculty, and there are no physical residency requirements. Northcentral University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

Northcentral University educates professionals throughout the world by providing an opportunity to earn a U.S. regionally accredited degree online. We are committed to helping our students achieve academically and become valuable contributors in their communities and within their professions.

About The School of Marriage and Family Sciences

Northcentral University’s School of Behavioral and Health Sciences offered Marriage and Family Therapy degrees until the end of 2012. On January 1, 2013 the School of Behavioral and Health Sciences split into two separate schools: the School of Marriage and Family Sciences and the School of Psychology.

The School of Marriage and Family Sciences - Accreditation

- Northcentral University is the first and only school to offer a primarily distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).
- Northcentral University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

The School of Marriage and Family Sciences - Academic Leadership

Branden Henline, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Marriage and Family Sciences

Dr. Branden Henline is the dean of Northcentral University’s School of Marriage and Family Sciences. The School of Marriage and Family Sciences was created in 2013, when Northcentral University’s School of Behavioral and Health Sciences separated into two schools: the School of Psychology and the School of Marriage and Family Sciences. Prior to being named dean, Dr. Henline was the chair of Marriage and Family Therapy Programs in the School of Behavioral and Health Sciences. Dr. Henline joined Northcentral University in 2005 as a fulltime administrator and associate professor.

Dr. Henline has been published in Family Therapy Magazine, Personal Relationships, the Journal of
Marital and Family Therapy as well as Contemporary Family Therapy. He has given 16 professional and community presentations for a variety of organizations, including the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (2011, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006), St. Louis University (2010), the Texas Tech University Teaching Academy (2006), the National Conference on Family Relations (2004), the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - East Alabama Chapter (2001), the Southeastern Symposium on Child and Family Development (2001), and at Auburn University (2000).

Dr. Henline has four areas of research interest: the impact of technology on personal interpersonal relationships; intimacy development; marriage and family therapy program development and evaluation in non-U.S. cultures (primarily populations from Thailand and other areas of southeast Asia); and the efficacy of marriage and family therapy.

Dr. Henline completed his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University in 2006. His dissertation addressed Technology Use and Intimacy Development in Committed Relationships: Exploring the Influence of Differentiation of Self. He graduated from Auburn University in 2002 with a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy (MSMFT), and completed his thesis on The Experience of Sexual and Emotional Online Infidelity. Dr. Henline is also a graduate of Brigham Young University where he completed his Bachelor of Science in Marriage, Family and Human Development, in 2000.

Furthermore, Dr. Henline is a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (LAMFT) in the state of Arizona, and is currently providing individual, couples and family therapy in Prescott Valley and Scottsdale, Ariz.

The School of Marriage and Family Sciences - Programs Offered

- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy (Ph.D.)
  o Specializations include: child and adolescent therapy, couples therapy, general family therapy, medical family therapy, and therapy with military families

The School of Marriage and Family Sciences - Key Dates

2009 – Northcentral University receives approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to offer master’s and Ph.D. degree programs in marriage and family therapy.

2011 – Northcentral University’s Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) becomes an approved degree program for the State of California.

2013 – The School of Behavioral and Health Sciences splits into the School of Psychology and the School of Marriage and Family Sciences.
2013 – Northcentral University becomes the first and only school to offer a primarily distance-based Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).