

# Diversity Statement

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## PNW MS in CDFS – Marriage & Family Therapy Program

The Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Purdue University Northwest is committed to the promotion of diversity among all human beings. This is more than a statement, but our foundational principle is that not only are all individuals entitled to love, understanding, and equal rights, but that family therapists must learn to understand and support individuals whose sex, gender identity and expression, age, race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, veteran status, marital status, parental status, religion, spirituality, disability, health status, political beliefs, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, immigration status, or language might be different than their own. Further, our experience and commitment to this principle has shown that diversity cannot be achieved solely through the reading of textbooks, but must be accomplished through one-on-one discussions between diverse individuals. This is not always easy, but it is a process that bears the most fruit. To ensure that students receive strong training in diversity, the MFT faculty are committed to discussing diversity issues in all courses, providing readings that address diversity issues, providing a practicum experience in which students are exposed to a diverse client population, including discussion of diversity in clinical supervision, and developing a diverse faculty and student body. We expect students to adhere to our diversity standards and be able to work with all clients whom they may encounter in their clinical training while in the MFT Program. We view clients as being the most vulnerable group in the therapeutic system; therefore, our first consideration is protecting clients and their right to receive non-discriminatory services. The client's right to these non-discriminatory services supersedes students' rights not to treat clients for any discriminatory reason. If our statement on diversity conflicts with a student's or prospective student's beliefs, we advise that student or prospective student to seek training at another program. Our commitment to the promotion of diversity is also consistent with the AAMFT's (2015) Ethical Standard 1: Responsibility to Clients—in particular, Standard 1.1, Nondiscrimination, which provides: "Marriage and family therapists provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status." Accordingly, the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Purdue University Northwest does not condone and will not tolerate any form of discrimination which conflicts with this statement and/or our commitment to the promotion of diversity within the Program.