



*Blake Berryhill, PhD, LMFT
Chair*

*Heather Katafiasz, PhD, LMFT
Chair-Elect*

*Aaron Norton, PhD, LMFT
Commissioner*

*Sara Blakeslee Salkil, PhD, LMFT
Commissioner*

*Lee Johnson, PhD, LMFT
Commissioner*

*Kristen Poppa, PhD, LMFT
Commissioner*

*Krista Speicher, DMFT, LMFT
Commissioner*

*Glenda Ballard, EdD
Public Member*

*Janet Smith, PhD
Public Member*

May 1, 2026

Dr. Kristina Brown
Marriage and Family Therapy Program
Northwestern University, The Family Institute (MS) & Online Branch

Dear Dr. Brown:

The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), at its April 13-14, 2026 meeting, reviewed the Response to Stipulations submitted by the Marriage and Family Therapy (MS) and Online Branch programs at Northwestern University, The Family Institute.

The Commission voted to accept the program's **Response to Stipulations** and to **remove** the following Stipulations:

Key Element II-A
Key Element II-B

The Commission's review of the program materials is below:

STANDARD II: PROGRAM LEADERSHIP, PROGRAM FACULTY, AND PROGRAM CLINICAL SUPERVISORS

Key Element II-A: Program Leadership Qualifications and Effectiveness

Direction and oversight of the program occurs continuously throughout the year (12 months). Program leadership is qualified, assigned ultimate responsibility for the administration of the program, and meets the following criteria:

- Is a core faculty member who demonstrates professional identity as a Marriage and Family Therapist.*
- Is responsible for oversight of the outcome-based education framework, assessment activities, curriculum, clinical training program, facilities, services, and the maintenance and enhancement of the program's quality.*
- In master's degree programs, has or shares leadership responsibilities for the foundational curriculum and foundational practice component and is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or AAMFT Supervisor Candidate (Supervisor Candidate who assumes this role must become an AAMFT Approved Supervisor within three years.).*
- Participates in an established effectiveness review that includes input from communities of interest and as needed, plans to support further leadership development and enhanced effectiveness.*

Commission's Response:

The program meets the requirements of this Key Element. The Stipulation is removed.

Key Element II-B: Qualifications of Program Faculty and Program Clinical Supervisors

Program faculty and program clinical supervisors who contribute to the program's curriculum and application components are qualified to fulfill their specific roles. Qualifications and roles are identified in the context of the program's institution and congruent with the program's goals.

- *All program faculty members and program clinical supervisors are academically, professionally, and experientially qualified to fulfill their specific program responsibilities.*
- *Program faculty and program clinical supervisors have expertise in their area(s) of teaching and/or supervisory responsibility and knowledge of their instructional modality (e.g., distance learning) or method of MFT relational/systemic supervision (e.g., teletherapy, live observation).*
- *Program clinical supervisor roles are distinguished from instructional faculty roles and consistent with the program's application component.*
- *All program faculty receive position descriptions describing their responsibilities, required qualifications and institutional and program expectations for scholarship, teaching, research, MFT relational/systemic supervision, practice, and/or service.*
- *Fifty percent or more of core faculty, including the program leader(s) are qualified to provide MFT relational/systemic supervision as a program clinical supervisor.*

Commission's Response:

The program meets the requirements of this Key Element. The Stipulation is removed.

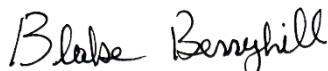
The program is accredited with no stipulations for the cycle of May 1, 2025 - May 1, 2032.

The following document must be submitted in the required format by the noted deadline:

Document	Submission Deadline
Annual Report	January 31, 2027

Please feel free to contact the Accreditation Office by email at coa@aamft.org or by phone at (703) 253-0448 if you have any further questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,


Blake Berryhill, PhD
COAMFTE Chair


Jill Fogolin
Director of Accreditation