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November 7, 2025

Dr. Ben Jones
Marriage and Family Therapy Program
University of Southern Mississippi (MS)

Dear Dr. Jones:

The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), at its October 13-14, 2025 meeting, reviewed the Response to Stipulations submitted by the Marriage and Family Therapy (MS) program at the University of Southern Mississippi.

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

Key Element II-A
Key Element II-D
Key Element IV-D

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-D: Program Faculty Evaluation and Effectiveness

Program faculty which includes core faculty and non-core faculty members, meet the expectations of their institutional and program roles. The program reviews program faculty effectiveness and contributions to program quality.

- *The program must have an established process for evaluation of the contributions and effectiveness of program faculty as appropriate to each individual faculty member's role.*
- *The evaluation process must identify who directs the process, the evaluation methods and data used, timeline, and as needed, include a plan to support further development and enhanced effectiveness.*
- *The program must demonstrate that it completes its program faculty evaluation and effectiveness review process and assures that the results of the evaluation are provided to each program faculty member.*

Commission's Response:

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

STANDARD IV: PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Key Element IV-D: Communication with Communities of Interest

The program demonstrates that it communicates results of assessment data compiled according to the program's assessment plan (outlined in Standard I) and any resulting program changes to relevant communities of interest.

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 November 1, 2024 – November 1, 2031.

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

Document	Submission Deadline
Annual Report	January 31, 2026

University of Southern Mississippi (MS)

Dr. Ben Jones

November 7, 2025

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

Sincerely,



Aaron Norton, PhD
COAMFTE Chair



Jill Fogolin
Director of Accreditation