

Guidelines for Master's Early Start Practicum Hours

- Before beginning Practicum I, while concurrently enrolled in Ethics and Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy, and during Practicum I, students may not earn client contact hours on their own. They may assist second year students or doctoral students at an NSU DFT approved internship site, in order to gain experience, with live supervision from a AAMFT Approved Supervisor at all times. Hours earned in this way will be "banked" for consideration by the program director, and may be added to the student's total with satisfactory reports from the second year or doctoral students and the onsite AAMFT Approved Supervisor. The primary purpose of this experience is to observe and gain familiarity with the therapy process.
- Once Practicum I is completed, and once the student is enrolled in Practicum II, students may petition to be allowed to earn external practicum hours early, before Practicum III. If the student obtains this Early Start privilege, the hours earned will be counted like any other client contact hours earned. The student will be functioning as a regular master's level intern.
- To obtain this Early Start privilege, the student must sign up with an NSU DFT approved internship site with live supervision from a AAMFT Approved Supervisor. The student will be able to function independently, not just as an assistant, if the Approved Supervisor gives such permission. Internship sites without live supervision from a AAMFT Approved Supervisor are not open to students until Practicum III.
- In addition, to obtain this Early Start privilege, the student must have earned a grade of B or better in his or her Internal Practicum I. The student should request his or her Internal Practicum I supervisor to email the MS in MFT program director with a report of the student's grade and overall satisfactory progress. The student should also obtain clearance from the Internship Coordinator, verifying that all fingerprinting, HIPAA and other requirements have been satisfied. The Program Director will then give permission for this Early Start privilege as indicated. This will commence after the student's Internal Practicum I and continue through Internal Practicum II.
- No more than 250 of the required 500 client contact hours may be earned while the student is in his or her first two practicums; at least 250 must be earned in Practicums III and IV.
- Once the student begins Practicum III, all NSU DFT approved internship sites are potentially open to the student. The need for permission from the Program Director and clearance from the Internship Coordinator will still apply. The student should ask his or her Internal Practicum II supervisor to email the Program Director with the information that the student is in satisfactory standing and ready to begin Practicum III..
- Early Start privilege applies to active, full term internship sites. Camps, short-term and one-day events are excluded.