



AAMFT Mixed-Reality Simulation Grant Request for Proposal

Deadlines:

Final proposals are due to AAMFT by 5:00 p.m. eastern on **April 8, 2019**.

Responses should be sent to:

Questions and proposals should be submitted to simulation@aamft.org.

BACKGROUND

Association: The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) is the professional association for the field of marriage and family therapy. We have over 25,000 members and represent the interests of over 60,000 marriage and family therapists in the United States, Canada, and abroad. Since our founding in 1942, AAMFT has been involved with the problems, needs and changing patterns of couples and family relationships. The association leads the way to increasing understanding, research and education in the field of marriage and family therapy, and ensuring that the public's needs are met by trained practitioners.

Simulation Program: AAMFT intends to position itself as a leader among behavioral healthcare associations in the use of mixed reality simulation training. In 2019, AAMFT will be piloting a simulation training program that we believe will open doors for our MFTs and MFTs-in-training to develop and hone advanced systemic therapy skills. By removing the risk associated with real clients, and introducing realistic avatars and embedded learning events, mixed-reality simulation therapy allows our members at all levels to acquire and test new skills in an environment that is solely focused on their learning and competencies. For more information, including a video demonstrating mixed reality simulation, visit aamft.org/simulation.

GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Objective: The objective is to provide COAMFTE-accredited education programs the opportunity to pilot mixed reality simulation in their academic programs. Through this pilot project AAMFT anticipates learning how simulation might best be integrated into COAMFTE-accredited programs.

Proposal Selection: AAMFT will be selecting up to 15 COAMFTE-accredited MFT training programs to be recipients of our mixed-reality simulation training grants. Each grant recipient will receive facilitator training for their instructor and 5-hours of mixed-reality simulation (to be scheduled at the instructor's discretion between September 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019), and access to a selection of pre-designed vignettes/scenarios.

Grant Funding: This grant is made possible through funding from the ASAE Foundation and the AAMFT. Funding for the grant will be used to provide mixed-reality simulation hours gratis to selected programs. No monetary funding will be provided directly to recipients.

Timeline:

- March 1, 2019: Grant is announced and opened to all COAMFTE-accredited programs.
- March 24, 2019: Any questions regarding the grant, simulation or selection process should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. eastern to simulation@aamft.org. Questions regarding the grant, simulation or selection process will not be answered if submitted after March 24, 2019.
- April 1, 2019: Responses to questions submitted will be provided to all potential grant applicants.
- April 8, 2019: Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. eastern to simulation@aamft.org.
- May 2019: Grant recipients will be notified.

- June – August 2019: Facilitator training opportunities will be held both online and in-person at the AAMFT Annual Conference. Each grant recipient must have the participating professor(s) take a facilitator training. During this time, online scheduling for fall simulation hours will be available. Simulation hours will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- September 1 – December 31, 2019: All grant-provided simulation hours must be completed.
- January 31, 2020: All final reports are due to AAMFT via simulation@aamft.org.

Applicant Requirements: The following criteria are requirements for each applicant:

- All applicant programs must be currently COAMFTE accredited.
- While universities may submit applications for both its master's and PhD programs, only one application per university will be selected. If there is a preference for one program over the other, that should be made clear in the application submissions. Hours may not be split between programs.
- Grant recipients agree to:
 - Attend a required facilitator training during one of the times offered in summer 2019.
 - Complete the use of all 5 hours of the mixed reality simulation between September 1 and December 31, 2019.
 - Utilize AAMFT's pre-designed vignettes/scenarios for the grant hours.
 - Submit the completed final report to AAMFT by January 31, 2020.

PROPOSAL/APPLICATION

Proposal Components: Each proposal should address the following components. For ease of review, in your proposal please identify each section with a header matching the specific component listed below:

- University and program applying (specify master's or PhD) including description and size of the cohort that will use the simulation grant hours.
- Applicant contact information including name, title, email, and phone.
- Statement of interest outlining specific interest in mixed-reality simulation training.
- Description of how your program will plan to integrate these hours into your fall 2019 curriculum. Please specify if you plan to use this as a pre-screening tool, a teaching tool, an evaluation tool or a mix.
- Description of the primary training modalities you use currently (for example, role play, videos, etc.).
- Description of how you currently measure student outcomes.
- Description of the current use of technology in both your program and in your larger university.
- Indication of if you have used mixed-reality simulation or a similar type of software previously. If so, please describe your prior experience.
- Statement of potential integration indicating the ability and likelihood of your program to utilize mixed reality simulation beyond the grant.
- Any other factors you believe the reviewers should know about your program as it relates to this grant.

SELECTION

AAMFT anticipates in the future simulation will become essential in education and training in behavioral health skills – as it has become already in other professions (human resources, hospitality management, nursing, etc.). Therefore, AAMFT has a great interest in the

development of a program to address long-term simulation needs in MFT training programs. As such, preference will be given to programs that demonstrate university and program environments that demonstrate a long-term interest in simulation and are likely to be supportive of integration beyond the grant lifespan.

AAMFT seeks diversity among the grant recipients to ensure a wide variety of MFT-programs are providing feedback and data to support this effort. Grant applications will be reviewed and selected with this consideration.

While no preference will be given between master's and PhD programs, and a university having both may submit two applications, only one application per university will be selected.

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. eastern on April 8, 2019 will not be eligible for a grant.