I. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

**GOAL A:** Understand basic concepts and themes in marital and couples counseling.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

A-1. Demonstrate knowledge of the theories and concepts of traditional approaches (structural/strategic); integrative approaches (emotionally focused) and psycho-educational and preventive approaches to couple therapy.

A-2. Compare and contrast the three approaches to therapy, identifying underlying similarities in couple therapy, and articulating the primary theoretical and conceptual differences.

A-3. Demonstrate competencies in determining which models are most effective for presenting problems.

**GOAL B:** Understand the contextual and systemic dynamics related to couple functioning and the impact on intervention.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

B-1. Demonstrate the ability to identify contextual dynamics in assessing and intervening with couples.

B-2. Demonstrate competency in assessing the interaction of various contextual and systemic dynamics when developing interventions with couples.

B-3. Demonstrate competency in integrating contextual information with theoretical models in developing intervention plans.

B-4. Develop hypotheses regarding relationship patterns, their bearing on the presenting problem, and the influence of contextual factors on client systems.
GOAL C: Apply three models of couple therapy to special populations and problems effectively.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1. Demonstrate knowledge of the clinical needs and implications of persons with co-morbid disorders on couple functioning.

C-2. Demonstrate knowledge of primary presenting problems in couple therapy and appropriate assessment and intervention of those problems.

C-3. Evaluate case for appropriateness for treatment within the professional scope of practice and competence.

C-4. Recognize issues that might suggest referral for specialized evaluation, assessment or care.

C-5. Understand the risks and benefits of individual, couple, family and group therapy.