Guidelines for Statement of Purpose and Autobiography

Thank you for your interest in the University of La Verne Marriage and Family Therapy masters program. As a part of your application, the Department requires a written Statement of Purpose and Autobiography which must include the following sections:

1. **Statement of Purpose:** In this section you should describe the reasons for selecting a career in marriage and family therapy; relevant professional and personal experiences that contribute to your selection of this field; what you would like to be doing professionally when you complete your La Verne degree; and why you are interested in pursuing this degree at La Verne.

2. **Autobiography:** In this section you should describe your own life experiences in the context of how these have influenced your decision to pursue a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. You may wish to include information on your family-of-origin or current family situation; a description of two or three significant personal experiences that have influenced your personal development; any of your own personal experiences in psychotherapy; or any other personal experiences or values that have influenced your interest in the Marriage and Family Therapy program.

The Statement and Autobiography should be between five to seven typed, double-spaced pages.

In reviewing your Statement and Autobiography, the department will be assessing

- your preparation for graduate education (including your writing ability, the ability to write a coherent, organized statement; content in the document regarding your academic skills and preparation, as relevant)
- your preparation for work in the Marriage and Family Therapy field

There are no "right" or "wrong" answers for the Statement and Autobiography.