



LOUISIANA

Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners

State of Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee

Summary of Board Requirements for Licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

The following document is designed to help future Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists become familiar with the requirements for licensure. It is not meant to be a comprehensive listing of the rules, but a broad overview. For a comprehensive list of the requirements to become licensed in Louisiana as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, please consult the Board website (www.lpcboard.org).

- Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Board by:
 1. Phone: (225) 765-2515
 2. Fax: (225) 765-2514
 3. Email: lpcboard@eatel.net
- Please note that when making inquiries to the Board, staff members are unable to pre-approve any applications. Please consult the Board's website to obtain any applicable laws/rules in answering your inquiries. Official inquiries to the Board may be made in writing via Email or regular mail.

General Licensing Requirements

To become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Louisiana, an applicant must:

- Be of good moral character;
- Never have engaged in any practice or conduct that would be grounds for refusing to issue a license;
- Be qualified for licensure pursuant to the requirements provided for in Title 46, Part LX, Subpart 2: Professional Standards for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists;
- File an application form accompanied by the required fee. Forms may be found on the Board website;
- Have official transcripts of all qualifying academic requirements sent directly to the Board from the educational institution(s) where the coursework was completed;
- Provide a statement of practice for review and approval by the MFTAC. A sample statement of practice may be found on the Board website. Applicants also licensed by one

or more other allied mental health professions may integrate the statement of practice requirements specific to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists into any similar informed consent document required for licensure by other allied mental health professions.

Academic Requirements

There are four options by which an applicant may meet the academic requirements for licensure in Louisiana as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. These are:

1. A master's or doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from a regionally accredited educational institution, also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).
Or
A Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from a post-graduate training institute accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).
2. A master's or doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy or Marriage and Family Counseling from a regionally accredited educational institution, also accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The qualifying degree must have a minimum of 6 graduate courses in Marriage and Family Therapy including coursework on the AAMFT Code of Ethics. The academic training must include a minimum of 500 supervised direct clinical contact hours, with a minimum of 250 of these 500 hours with couples and families. Additionally, the supervised experience must include a minimum of 100 hours of face-to-face supervision with a supervisor whose training is equivalent to an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or AAMFT Approved Supervisor Candidate.
3. A master's or doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy or a related clinical mental health field from a regionally accredited educational institution that includes a practicum and internship in Marriage and Family Therapy that is determined by the MFTAC to be substantially equivalent to a graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from a program accredited by COAMFTE. The qualifying degree must include a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework. Please see below for a listing of course requirements.

OR

A certificate from a post-graduate training institute in Marriage and Family Therapy with coursework that includes practicum and internship in Marriage and Family Therapy determined by the MFTAC to be substantially equivalent to a certificate from a post-graduate training institute accredited by COAMFTE. The certificate must include the equivalent of 60 semester hours of coursework.
4. A master's or doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from a regionally accredited academic institution whose program and curriculum was approved by the

Board through the MFTAC at anytime prior to July 10, 2010. The academic training must include a minimum of 500 supervised direct clinical contact hours, including a minimum of 250 of these 500 hours with couples and families. Additionally, the supervised experience must include a minimum of 100 hours of face-to-face supervision with a supervisor whose training is equivalent to an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or AAMFT Approved Supervisor Candidate. In order for an academic institution's program and curriculum to meet this provision, there must not be any substantial changes in the curriculum from the time the curriculum was originally approved. Please contact the Board to determine if your academic institution meets this provision.

Course Requirements and Descriptions for Degrees to be Considered Substantially Equivalent

For required coursework to be considered substantially equivalent to a program of study accredited by COAMFTE, it must be presented from a family systems perspective. Coursework will specify how marriage and family therapists apply psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in the delivery of professional psychotherapeutic services to individuals, couples, families, and groups for the purpose of assessment, treatment planning, and treatment of mental, intellectual, emotional, or behavioral disorders and apply family systems theories, assessment and techniques in their professional consultation work with organizations. The required coursework is as follows:

- 1. Theoretical Knowledge of Marriage and Family Therapy (2 course minimum).** Courses in this area shall provide instruction in the historical development, empirical foundations, and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy. Courses shall provide a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of the systems paradigm, family therapy theory, and the major models of marriage, couple, and family therapy practice. Overview courses in which systems theory is surveyed equally as one of several theories do not qualify for this area.
- 2. Clinical Knowledge of Marriage and Family Therapy (4 course minimum).** Courses in this area shall provide academic instruction in clinical intervention as it relates to family systems theory. Coursework shall highlight clinical practice in couples and family therapy in relation to cultural and racial diversity, gender, sexual functioning/orientation, violence, addiction, abuse, and other relevant issues. Coursework shall focus on the treatment of individuals, couples, and families from a systemic/relational perspective and in response to a wide variety of presenting problems.
- 3. Assessment and Treatment in Marriage and Family Therapy (2 course minimum with one course in Psychopathology).** Courses in this area shall provide instruction from a systems/relational perspective in psychopharmacology, physical health and illness, traditional psycho-diagnostic categories including the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and the assessment and treatment planning for the treatment of mental, intellectual, emotional, or behavioral disorders within the context of marriage and family systems.

4. **Individual, Couple, and Family Development (1 course minimum).** Courses in this area shall provide instruction in individual, couple, and family development across the lifespan.
5. **Professional Identity and Ethics (1 course minimum).** Courses in this area shall provide academic instruction in the development of professional identity, ethical and legal issues, scope of practice, professional membership, certification, and licensure. Coursework shall focus on ethical and legal issues related to the practice of marriage and family therapy, including, but not limited to, the AAMFT Code of Ethics, confidentiality, legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, family law, record keeping, reimbursement, the business aspects of practice, and familiarity with regional and federal laws as they relate to the practice of individual, couple, and family therapy. General courses in ethics do not meet this standard.
6. **Research (1 course minimum).** Courses in this area shall provide instruction in the understanding and performance of research. Coursework shall focus on content such as research methodology, data analysis, research evaluation, and quantitative and qualitative research.
7. **Additional Learning (1 course minimum).** Courses in this area will augment a student's specialized interest and background in individual, couple, and family therapy and may be chosen from coursework offered in a variety of disciplines.
8. **Practicum and Internship.** As part of a degree program, an applicant must have completed 500 supervised face-to-face direct client contact hours with individuals, couples, families, and/or groups from a systemic/relational perspective with 100 hours of face-to-face supervision. At least 250 of the required 500 direct client contact hours must be with couples or families present in the therapy room. If a student is simultaneously being supervised and having direct client contact (i.e. live supervision), the time may be counted as both supervision time and direct client contact time.

Examination Requirements

- All applicants for licensure must pass the National Marriage and Family Therapy Examination developed by the Association for Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB). No other exam will be accepted.
- Applicants for licensure are not eligible for examination until approved as an MFT Intern by the Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee.
- Eligible applicants may contact the Board to receive information on exam registration.
- Passing scores on the examination are determined by the testing agency.
- Any person who fails an examination shall not be admitted to a subsequent examination for at least 6 months.

Supervision Requirements

- Prior to licensure, applicants must register with the Board as a MFT Intern and complete a minimum of two years of supervised work experience, including 3000 hours of clinical services in marriage and family therapy with a LMFT Board Approved Supervisor or an LMFT Registered Supervisor Candidate after completion of a

qualifying degree. Of these 3000 hours, 2000 must be direct client contact hours and 1000 may come from such activities as writing case notes, attending workshops, consulting with referral sources, public relations, etc.

- MFT Interns must accrue 200 hours of supervision, of which 100 of these hours must be individual supervision. Up to 100 hours of supervision that can be documented as systemic received during a graduate program may be counted toward the 200 hours.
- Supervisees should apply systemic theories and treatment with all clients and make every effort to work with as many couples and families as possible.
- MFT Interns must file a “Plan of Supervision” (Section 3 of the MFT Intern Registration of Supervision Form found on the Board website) that establishes the supervisory framework for postgraduate MFT clinical experience and describes the expectations and responsibilities of the supervisor and the supervisee. The MFTAC must approve this plan prior to the start of the supervised experience.
- MFT Interns must meet face-to-face with their supervisor for sustained and intense learning, customarily for 1 hour per 10 hours of client contact. Supervision shall not be done via video-conferencing, online, or any other electronic method.
- Acceptable forms of supervision include:
 1. *Individual Supervision*: Face-to-face supervision of 1 or 2 individuals by one supervisor
 2. *Group Supervision*: Face-to-face supervision of more than 2 but no more than six individuals per group regardless of the number of supervisors present.
 3. *Co-Therapy Supervision*: supervision outside the session in which the supervisor serves as a co-therapist.
 4. *Live Supervision (individual or group)*: supervision in which the supervisor directly observes the case while the therapy is being conducted and has the opportunity to provide supervisory input during the session. The MFT Intern receiving the live supervision may count the time as both direct client contact hours and individual or group supervision.
- The following are not considered acceptable forms of supervision:
 1. *Peer Supervision*: Supervision by a person of equivalent qualifications, status, and experience.
 2. *Administrative Supervision*: Supervision by an institutional director or executive conducted to evaluate job performance or for case management rather than the clinical supervision of the quality of therapy given to clients.
 3. *Didactic Processes*: Experiences that are primarily didactic wherein techniques or procedures are taught in a group setting, classroom, workshop, or seminar.
 4. *Consultation, staff development, orientation to a field program or institution’s policy and procedure, or role playing of family interrelationships as a substitute for current clinical practice in an appropriate clinical setting.*
 5. *Supervision by current or former family members, anyone sharing the same household, employees, or any other person where the nature of the personal relationship prevents or makes difficult the establishment of a professional relationship.*
- If you are working toward dual licensure, your supervision hours for licensure in other disciplines may count toward licensure as a LMFT provided the supervisor is an LMFT

Board Approved Supervisor or LMFT Registered Supervisor Candidate and the plan of supervision was approved by the MFTAC.

- A list of LMFT Board Approved Supervisors and LMFT Registered Supervisor Candidates is available through Board website or by calling the Board office.
- **You may not practice as an MFT Intern or begin to count supervised experience/supervision hours until all three sections of the MFT Intern Registration of Supervision Form have been submitted to the Board and you have received notification of approval.**