



LOUISIANA

Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners

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

Summary of Academic Requirements for Provisional Licensure as a PLMFT

The following document is designed to help future Provisional Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (PLMFTs) become familiar with the academic requirements for Board approval. It is not meant to be a comprehensive listing of the rules, but a broad overview. For a comprehensive list of the academic requirements to registers as a PLMFT, you may consult the Board website. The rules regarding requirements for PLMFTs and LMFTs may be found in Chapter 33 of Board Rules.

There are Four (4) Options to meet the academic requirements for provisional licensure as a PLMFT:

OPTION

1. A master's or doctoral degree from a Marriage and Family Therapy Program or certificate from a post-graduate training institute accredited by COAMFTE.

OPTION

2. A master's or doctoral degree from a Marriage and Family Therapy or Marriage and Family Counseling Program accredited by CACREP that includes at least 6 graduate courses in MFT/MFC including coursework on the AAMFT Code of Ethics and a minimum of 500 hours in direct client contact with 250 of the 500 documented as direct services with couples and families. Additionally, degree must include 100 hours of face-to-face supervision. The training of the supervisor must be substantially equivalent to that of an AAMFT approved supervisor.

OPTION

3. A master's degree, doctoral degree, or certificate from a post-graduate training institute in marriage and family therapy or a related mental health field, including a minimum of 60 semester hours that is deemed to be substantially equivalent to a master's degree, doctoral degree or post-graduate certificate from a program accredited by COAMFTE. Please see Board Rules, Chapter 33, Section 3311(B) for information regarding required course content areas to meet the substantially equivalent requirement. Additionally, please note the program must include a minimum of 500 hours in direct client contact with 250 of the 500 documented as direct services with couples and families. The degree or training must also include 100 hours of face-to-face supervision. The training of the supervisor must be substantially equivalent to that of an AAMFT approved supervisor.

OPTION

4. A master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program whose curriculum was approved by the Board through the MFTAC at any time prior to 7/1/2010 and includes a

minimum of 500 hours in direct client contact with 250 of the 500 documented as direct services with couples and families. Additionally, degree must include 100 hours of face-to-face supervision. The training of the supervisor must be substantially equivalent to that of an AAMFT approved supervisor.

Required coursework for **Options 2 and 3** may be completed during the qualifying degree program or may be taken as post-graduate work at a regionally accredited academic institution. For **Option 4**, you may contact the Board office to determine if your university and specific program was previously approved.

Additionally, **up to 220** of the 500 direct client contact hours and **up to 44** of the 100 face-to-face supervision hours required for Options 2, 3, and 4 **NOT** completed during the completion of the qualifying degree may be completed once the applicant is provisional licensed as a PLMFT and is under the supervision of an LMFT Board Approved Supervisor. These hours will be in addition to the required 2000 hours of supervised direct client contact required for LMFT licensure.

EXCERPT FROM BOARD RULES, CHAPTER 33

§3311. Coursework and Academic Supervision Requirements, for Options 2, 3, and 4

A. General Requirements for Qualifying Coursework and Academic Supervision

1. Undergraduate level courses will not meet academic requirements unless the applicant's official transcript clearly shows that the course was given graduate credit.
2. Only coursework taken for credit and receiving a passing grade will be accepted. Coursework taken outside of a program of study for which a degree was granted must receive an "A," "B," or "pass."
3. One course is defined as three semester credits, four quarter credits, or 45 didactic contact hours in a postgraduate training program.
4. An applicant may not use a course for more than one of the seven coursework areas described in Subsection B of this Section.
5. If titles of academic courses are not self explanatory, their content and relevance must be substantiated by the applicant through course descriptions in official school catalogs, bulletins, syllabi, or by other means approved by the advisory committee.
6. The burden is on the applicant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the coursework is equivalent to the requirements in Subsections A and B of this Section.
7. Degrees and coursework obtained at foreign universities shall be acceptable only if determined to be equivalent as defined in Subsections A and B of this Section as determined by the advisory committee.

8. The applicant must document that all required graduate and postgraduate coursework was 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.

9. Up to 220 of the required 500 hours of supervised direct client contact and 44 of the required 100 hours of face-to-face supervision not completed during a practicum and/or internship during the completion of the qualifying degree program or postgraduate training institute may be completed once an applicant is provisionally licensed as a PLMFT and is under the supervision of a LMFT board approved supervisor. These hours shall be added to the required 2000 hours of supervised direct client contact required for licensure.

B. Specific Coursework Requirements—Option 3

1. Academic Course Content. An applicant with a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or a related clinical mental health field from programs not accredited by the COAMFTE or with a certificate from a postgraduate training institute in marriage and family therapy not accredited by the COAMFTE must have the specified coursework in each of the following areas (one course equals three semester hours or its equivalent as defined in Paragraph A.3 of this Section.

a. Theoretical Knowledge of Marriage and Family Therapy—**minimum of two courses.** Courses in this area shall provide academic instruction in the historical development, empirical foundations, and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy. Coursework 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.

b. Clinical Knowledge of Marriage and Family Therapy—**minimum of four courses.** 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.

c. Assessment and Treatment in Marriage and Family Therapy—**minimum of two courses.** One course must be in psychopathology. Courses in this area shall provide academic instruction from a systemic/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.

d. Individual, Couple, and Family Development—**minimum of one course**. Courses in this area shall provide academic instruction in individual, couple, and family development across the lifespan.

e. Professional Identity and Ethics—**minimum of one course**. 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. **Generic courses in ethics do not meet this standard.**

f. Research—**minimum of one course**. Courses in this area shall provide academic 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.

g. Additional Learning—**minimum of one course**. Courses in this area will augment students' specialized interest and background in individual, couple, and family therapy and may be chosen from coursework offered in a variety of disciplines.

2. Academic Supervision. As part of their 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 these hours must be with couples or families present in the therapy room. If a student is simultaneously being supervised and having direct client contact, the time may be counted as both supervision time and direct client contact time.