State Licensure Statutes, Regulations, Forms, and Policies not only change on a regular basis, but may contain contradictory information. It is the responsibility of any individual who may review this document to check with their licensure board regarding all requirements and policies regarding the licensure process. For more information please refer to your state licensing board, click here to find your state licensing board website aamftrc.org

Does this State require a degree program to include a specific number of credit hours (e.g. 45, 48 or 60 semester credits)? If so, how many credit hours are required?
No, Arizona does not define a specific number of required credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?
Arizona requires a master's or doctorate degree in behavioral science, including, but not limited to, marriage and family therapy, psychology, sociology, counseling and social work, granted by a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education or a degree based on a program of study that the board determines is substantially equivalent.

Does the state require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?
No, Arizona does not require these accreditations.

Does the State accept a COAMFTE accredited degree without requiring the applicant to list specific courses on the license application?
Yes.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to have met this educational requirement for licensure?
The state of Arizona considers a program is substantially equivalent if it includes the following courses for a minimum of three-semester credit hours each:

- **Marriage and Family Studies (3 courses)** – studies of introductory systems theory, family development, family systems, including marital, sibling, and individual subsystems, special family issues, and gender and cultural issues, all with a major focus on a systems theory orientation
- **Marriage and Family Therapy (3 courses)** – studies of advanced systems theory and interventions, major systemic marriage and treatment approaches, structural, strategic, neo-analytic, group therapy, behavioral marriage and family therapy, communications, and sex therapy
- **Human Development (3 courses)** – studies of normal and abnormal human development, personality theory, human sexuality, and psychopathology and abnormal behavior, which may be integrated with systems theory
- **Professional Studies (1 course)** – studies of professional ethics as a therapist, including legal and ethical responsibilities and liabilities, family law
- **Research (1 course)** – studies of research design, methodology, and statistics in marriage and family therapy
• Practicum (2 courses) – studies that are limited to the provision of marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples and families within an educational or professional setting under the direction of a faculty member or supervisor designated by the college or university.

**How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?**

A student is required to obtain 300 client contact hours, and Arizona does not specify if any of these hours needs to be relational hours.

**How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?**

Arizona does not specify a required number of supervision hours.

**What is the required length of practicum in this state?**

Arizona requires practicum students have two (2) courses of practicum.
POST-GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

What are the minimum number of years of clinical experience a graduate needs to obtain a license, the minimum number of client contact hours, and how many of these hours must be relational hours?
After graduating, an individual working toward licensure in Arizona must obtain a minimum of 2 years clinical experience, at least 1600 client contact hours, and of these hours 1000 must be relational hours.

What is the minimum number of experience hours required by this State?
Arizona requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 3200 hours of experience after graduating.

What is the minimum number of post-graduate supervision hours required by this State, and how many of these hours must be individual supervision?
Arizona requires 200 hours of supervision, and state that while clinical supervision may include both individual and group supervision, group clinical supervision hours shall not exceed individual supervision hours.

Additional Notes:
Arizona does not allow more than 25 percent of the clinical supervision hours required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist to be acquired telephonically. In addition, clinical supervision acquired telephonically shall not be accepted for a communication lasting less than 30 minutes.

Arizona requires applicants for licensure to receive a minimum of 10 hours of clinical supervision obtained during direct observation or a review of audiotapes or videotapes by the clinical supervisor of the applicant while the applicant is providing treatment and evaluation services to a client. Arizona defines “Individual clinical supervision” as clinical supervision provided by a clinical supervisor to one supervisee.

What are the State requirements for an individual to be qualified as a supervisor?
Clinical supervision of an applicant for marriage and family therapist licensure shall be provided by a marriage and family therapist licensed in Arizona.

Qualified supervisors in Arizona are required to comply with the state continuing education requirements for supervisors. Specifically, clinical supervisors MUST complete at least 12 clock hours of clinical supervision training BEFORE they begin providing clinical supervision (1st Renewal Period); Clinical supervisors MUST complete at least 6 additional clock hours of clinical supervision training BEFORE the license expiration date of their next renewal period (2nd Renewal Period); and Clinical supervisors MUST complete at least 6 additional clock hours of clinical supervision training BEFORE the license expiration date of all subsequent renewal period.

Additional Note:
The Arizona Board has a substantive policy statement with regard to clinical supervision provided by a supervisor not employed by the same entity as the supervisee. This policy includes ALL of the following: The clinical supervisor and the applicant’s employer have entered into a written agreement setting forth the following: a) The nature of the supervisory relationship; b) The nature of the clinical supervisor’s responsibilities, including compliance with the requirements; c) The clinical supervisor’s ability to have UNRESTRICTED ACCESS to all clinical records maintained by the applicant; d) The informed consent for treatment documentation advises clients of the name and telephone number of the applicant’s clinical supervisor; e) The applicant obtains written authorization from all clients seen during the period of clinical supervision for release of the clients’ CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND RECORDS to the clinical
supervisor; and f) The clinical supervisor’s documentation complies with the requirements and has completed continuing education.

Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?
Yes. However, an applicant cannot take the exam more than twice in a 12 month period.

Does the State have specific training requirements beyond the graduate degree?
None are noted in Arizona.

Can an individual with a criminal history request board review before actually having to apply for licensure?
It is unclear if this option is available in Arizona.

Additional Notes: An applicant for licensure in Arizona who has a criminal history or history of disciplinary action by a state behavioral health regulatory entity is not eligible for a temporary license without prior Board approval.

The Arizona Board considers the following factors to determine whether a felony conviction or prior disciplinary action will result in imposing disciplinary sanctions on a licensee or an applicant, including refusing to renew the license of a licensee or refusing to issue a license to an applicant: 1. The age of the licensee or applicant at the time of the felony conviction when the prior disciplinary action occurred; 2. The seriousness of the conviction or prior disciplinary action; 3. The factors underlying the conduct that led to conviction of the felony or imposition of disciplinary action; 4. The length of time since the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action; 5. The relationship between the practice of the profession and the conduct giving rise to the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action; 6. The licensee’s or applicant’s efforts toward rehabilitation; 7. The assessments and recommendations of qualified professionals regarding the licensee’s or applicant’s rehabilitative efforts; 8. The licensee’s or applicant’s cooperation or non-cooperation with the Board’s background investigation regarding the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action; and 9. Other factors the Board or credentialing committee deems relevant.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?
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Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
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Phoenix, AZ 85012
Phone: 602-542-1896 FAX: 602-364-0890
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ARIZONA Web site: http://azbbhe.us/

Every state has a "definitions" section of their rules and/or statutes. Are there any definitions that might be important for an applicant to pay attention? (Note: this is not a complete list; please review definitions in your state)
Arizona defines “Clinical supervision” as face-to-face, videoconferencing or telephonic direction or oversight provided by a qualified individual to evaluate, guide and direct all behavioral health services provided by a licensee to assist the licensee to develop and improve the necessary knowledge, skills, techniques and abilities to allow the licensee to engage in the practice of behavioral health ethically, safely and competently.