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?
Florida requires a minimum of 36 credit hours distributed into twelve required areas (see course requirements below). However, the MFT program at NCU requires a minimum of 45 credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?
A master's degree in MFT or a closely related field with major emphasis in marriage and family therapy is required.

Does the state require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?
No, Florida 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?
No.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to have met this educational requirement for licensure?
A minimum of 3 semester hours of graduate-level course credits in each of the following twelve areas:
(1) dynamics of marriage and family systems
(2) marriage therapy and counseling theory and techniques
(3) family therapy and counseling theory and techniques
(4) individual human development theories throughout the life cycle
(5) personality theory or general counseling theory and techniques
(6) psychopathology
(7) human sexuality theory
(8) psychosocial theory
(9) substance abuse theory and counseling techniques
(10) legal, ethical, and professional standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy or a course determined by the board to be equivalent
(11) diagnosis, appraisal, assessment, and testing for individual or interpersonal disorder or dysfunction
(12) behavioral research which focuses on the interpretation and application of research data as it applies to clinical practice.
In addition, completed a minimum of one supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience in a marriage and family counseling setting, during which the student provided 180 direct client contact hours of marriage and family therapy services.

How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?
A student in Florida is required to obtain 180 client contact hours, and Florida does not specify if any of these hours need to be relational hours.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?
Florida does not specify a required number of practicum supervision hours.

What is the required length of practicum in this state?
Florida does not specify a required length for 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 must obtain a minimum of 1500 client contact hours over a minimum of 2 years. The number of relational hours is not specified.

What is the minimum number of experience hours required by this State?
Florida does not specify how many experience hours an applicant must obtain for licensure 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?
Florida requires 100 hours of post-graduate supervision.

What are the State requirements for an individual to be qualified as a supervisor?
Florida requires a supervisor to be “a licensed marriage and family therapist, who is a qualified supervisor.” This is specifically defined as an individual who, during the period for which the applicant claims supervision, meets one of the following:

a. Holds an active license as a marriage and family therapist in the state of Florida
b. Is licensed or certified as a marriage and family therapist in another state, or resides in a state in which licensure for marriage and family therapy is not required, and can document a minimum of six (6) semester or eight (8) quarter hours of graduate coursework in marriage and family systemic theories and techniques, and five (5) years of clinical experience as a marriage and family therapist
c. Is designated an Approved Supervisor by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
d. Is licensed as a clinical social worker or mental health counselor in Florida, or in the state in which the supervision took place, and can document a minimum of six (6) semester or eight (8) quarter hours of graduate coursework in marriage and family systemic theories and techniques, and five (5) years of clinical experience in marriage and family therapy, two (2) years of which can be earned during a post-masters clinical internship.

**Additional Notes:** Supervision provided by the applicant’s therapist, parents, spouse, former spouses, siblings, children, employees, or anyone sharing the same household or any romantic, domestic or familial relationship shall not be acceptable toward fulfillment of licensure requirements. For the purposes of this section, a supervisor shall not be considered an employee of the applicant if the only compensation received by the supervisor consists of payment for actual supervisory hours.

**Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?**

Yes.

**Does the State have specific training requirements beyond the graduate degree?**

Yes, Florida requires the following:

- An approved laws and rules course consisting of a minimum of eight (8) hours which shall include the following subject areas:
  a. Chapter 456, Part II, F.S., (Regulation of Professions and Occupations, General Provisions)
  b. Chapter 90.503, (Psychotherapist Patient Privilege)
  c. Chapter 394, F.S., (Part I Florida Mental Health Act)
  d. Chapter 397, F.S.
  e. Chapters 415 and 39, F.S., (Protection from Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation)
  f. Chapter 491, F.S., (Clinical, Counseling and Psychotherapy Services)
  g. Chapter 64B4, F.A.C., (Rules of the Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling)

- A two-hour prevention of medical errors course from a board approved provider.
- An approved three hour HIV/AIDS course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.
- An approved two hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.

**Additional Notes:** The laws and rules course must provide integration of the listed subject areas into the competencies required for clinical practice and interactive discussion of clinical case examples applying the laws and rules that govern the appropriate clinical practice. Upon completion of the course, the applicant shall receive a certificate of completion and submit the original certificate of completion to the Board.

**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 Florida.
How can someone contact the Board in this state?
Sue Foster, Executive Director/ 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-O8/ Tallahassee, FL 32399-3258
Phone: 850-245-4474   FAX: 850-921-5389
FLORIDA Board Web site: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/491/
FLORIDA Department Web site: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/
Email: MQA_491@doh.state.fl.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)
None noted.