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, Georgia does not define a specific number of required credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?
The applicant for licensure in Georgia must have earned a master’s degree from a program in marriage and family therapy, from a program equivalent to a marriage and family therapy degree program, or from any program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. Such program shall be in an educational institution which, at the time the degree was awarded, was accredited by a regional body recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

Additional Notes: From the Application Form: ALL APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE MUST HAVE EARNED A MASTER’S DEGREE IN MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, COUNSELING, SOCIAL WORK, MEDICINE, APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRIC NURSING, PASTORAL COUNSELING, APPLIED CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, APPLIED SOCIOLOGY, OR FROM ANY PROGRAM ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EDUCATION. SUCH DEGREE SHALL BE FROM AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY A REGIONAL BODY RECOGNIZED BY THE COUNCIL ON POST SECONDARY ACCREDITATION.

Does the state require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?
No, Georgia 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?
Georgia requires the following course work:

THREE (3) COURSES IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY STUDIES
A —Marriage and Family Studies Course includes the study of the theory and practice of the principles, concepts, or history of marriage and family life, family systems, family relations and family development. Board Rule 135-5-.05(a)(6).

THREE (3) GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
A —Marriage and Family Therapy Course includes the study of the theory and practice of various treatment modalities in marriage and family therapy. Board Rule 135-5-.05(a)(7).

THREE (3) COURSES IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
A —Human development courses encompass the study of all aspects of individual development across the life span. Such courses include, but are not limited to, theories of individual development, theories of learning, theories of personality development, theories of normal and abnormal behavior, human sexuality, and psychopathology. Board Rule 135-5-.05(a)(8).

ONE (1) COURSE IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY ETHICS
A course in —Marriage and Family Ethics includes, but is not limited to: state and federal laws, Rules of the Georgia Composite Board of PC, SW & MFT, professional ethics, legal responsibilities and liabilities, professional socialization, professional organization, inter-professional cooperation, licensure legislation and independent practice. Board Rule 135-5-.05(a)(9).

ONE (1) COURSE IN RESEARCH
A course in —Research includes, but is not limited to, research design, methods, and statistics, but not credit received for thesis or dissertation. Board Rule 135-5-.05(a)(10).

A ONE-YEAR PRACTICUM/INTERNSHIP UNDER SUPERVISION IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?
Georgia requires a student engaged in practicum to obtain 500 client contact hours. Georgia does not specify if any of these hours needs to be relational hours.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?
Georgia requires 100 practicum supervision hours.

Additional Notes: 100 hours of supervision provided by a licensed marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, psychiatrist or psychologist, who was also an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor, a Georgia Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor, or a person who was receiving supervision-of-supervision in order to qualify for either designation.

What is the required length of practicum in this state?
Students in Georgia are required to take One (1) year (12 consecutive months) or 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?

1. An applicant for licensure in Georgia who holds a Master’s Degree and does not have an active Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT) license is required to obtain a minimum of 3 years post graduate experience and 2500 direct Client contact hours; One year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum before or after the granting of the master’s degree, which shall include a minimum of 500 hours of direct clinical experience in the practice of professional counseling, clinical social work or marriage and family therapy. At least two years of such experience shall have been in the practice of marriage and family therapy, which shall include a minimum of 2,000 hours of direct clinical experience. For applicants who have worked less than full-time, equivalent experience may be accrued over a total of not less than three years and not more than five years.

2. An applicant for licensure in Georgia who holds a doctoral degree must obtain 2 years of supervision and 1,500 hours of direct client contact. 1 year of experience may have been in an approved internship program before or after the granting of the doctoral degree which included a minimum of 500 hours of Client Contact; 1 year shall have been post-master or post-doctorate and have included a minimum of 1,000 hours of client contact.

What is the minimum number of experience hours required by this State?
Georgia does not specify a number of experience hours required 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?

1. An applicant for licensure in Georgia who holds a Master’s Degree and does not have an active Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT) license must obtain 200 hours of supervision. This supervision must be provided by a LMFT, LPC, LCSW, or Licensed Psychologist/ Psychiatrist. 100 of these hours may be obtained from an approved practicum before or after the granting of a Master’s degree. 100 of these hours must be provided by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or a Board Approved MFT Supervisor, or a person who was receiving supervision of supervision in order to qualify for either designation. Finally, at least 50 must be individual and no more than 50 may be group.

2. An applicant holding a doctoral degree must obtain 100 hours of supervision concurrent with documented experience. 50 of these hours may come from doctoral degree or internship, 50 of these hours must be individual, and up to 50 of these hours may be group supervision. This supervision must be provided by an LMFT, LPC, LCSW, or Licensed Psychologist/Psychiatrist; An
AAMFT Approved Supervisor; A Board Approved Supervisor; or a person receiving supervision of supervision in order to qualify for either of the aforementioned designations.

What are the State requirements for an individual to be qualified as a supervisor?
A qualified supervisor in Georgia must be licensed as an MFT in Georgia and be Board Approved to provide supervision. The requirements for a supervisor to gain Board approval include:

- 5 years post-licensure experience in the practice of MFT
- 180 hours of experience providing marriage and family supervision for at least two supervisees during a period of no less than two years and no more than five years
- 36 hours of supervision specifically in the skill of providing marriage and family therapy supervision, provided by an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Approved Supervisor or a Board Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor
- A minimum of 24 hours of individual supervision-of-supervision
- A recommendation from each of the supervisors who provided supervision-of-supervision attesting to the applicant’s competence as a supervisor.

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?
None are noted in Georgia.

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 Georgia.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?
Georgia Professional Licensing Boards Division/ 237 Coliseum Drive/ Macon, Georgia 31217-3858
Phone Number: (478) 207-2440  Fax Number: 866-888-7127
Web Address: www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/counselors
Email: jzimmerman@sos.ga.gov

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.