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.

**Does the 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?**

Yes, Louisiana requires 60 credit hours for non-COAMFTE approved programs.

**What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?**

Louisiana requires a degree that meets one of the following standards:

1. a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) in a regionally accredited educational institution or a certificate in marriage and family therapy from a post-graduate training institute accredited by COAMFTE; or

2. a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling from a program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in a regionally accredited educational institution with a minimum of 6 graduate courses in marriage and family therapy including coursework on the AAMFT Code of Ethics and a minimum of 500 supervised direct client contact hours, with a minimum of 250 hours of these 100 hours with couples and families, and a minimum of 100 hours of face-to-face supervision. The training of the supervisor must be equivalent to that of an AAMFT approved supervisor or AAMFT 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 institution of higher education with coursework that includes practicum and internship in marriage and family therapy determined by the advisory committee to be substantially equivalent to a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by COAMFTE. To be considered substantially equivalent, qualifying degrees must include a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework; or

4. a certificate from a postgraduate training institute in marriage and family therapy with coursework that includes practicum and internship in marriage and family therapy determined by the advisory committee to be substantially equivalent to a graduate certificate from a program accredited by COAMFTE. To be considered substantially equivalent, qualifying certificates must include the equivalent of 60 semester hours of coursework.
Does the State require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?

While Louisiana does encourage these accreditations, they do 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 be have met this educational requirement for licensure?

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):

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.

h. 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.

**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 complete 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. The supervisor’s training must be equivalent to an AAMFT approved supervisor or AAMFT approved supervisor candidate.

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

Louisiana requires 100 hours of face-to-face supervision.

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

Louisiana does not specify a required length of practicum.
Post-Graduation 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 Louisiana must obtain a minimum of 2 years of post-graduate work experience in marriage and family therapy that includes at least 3,000 hours of clinical services to individuals, couples, or families. At least 2,000 hours of these hours must be direct clinical services. The remaining 1,000 hours may come from related experiences that may include but are not limited to workshops, public relations, writing case notes, consulting with referral sources, etc.

What are the minimum number of experience hours required by this State?

Louisiana requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 3000 hours of experience after graduating.

What are the minimum number of post-graduate supervision hours required by this State, and how many of these hours must be individual supervision?

Louisiana requires at least 200 hours of supervision, of which at least 100 hours must be individual supervision. Up to 100 hours of supervision received during a graduate program that can be documented as systemic may be counted toward the 200 hours. Supervision must cover work experience of not less than two years and can only begin after the supervision plan is submitted, approved, and fees are paid.

Additional Notes:

To meet the requirements of the supervised clinical experience in Louisiana, the supervisee must: a. meet face-to-face with the supervisor for sustained and intense learning customarily for 1 hour per 10 hours of client contact, with once every other week, the minimum; and three times a week ordinarily the maximum; and b. file with the advisory committee a supervised experience plan.

Group Supervision is defined as face-to-face supervision of more than two MFT Interns and no more than six MFT Interns per group regardless of the number of supervisors. Group supervision provides the opportunity for the supervisees to interact with other supervisees and offers a different learning experience than that obtained from individual supervision. Individual Supervision is defined as face-to-face supervision of one or two individuals by one supervisor.

Louisiana recommends that the supervisory experience include sequentially at least two supervisors with diverse family therapy orientations, such as, but not limited to, narrative, MRI, Bowenian, structural, strategic, behavioral, or solution focused." 

What are the State requirements for an individual to be qualified as a supervisor?

Qualifications of an LMFT-Approved Supervisor and an LMFT-Registered Supervisor Candidate in Louisiana include the following:
1. An LMFT-approved supervisor must be a licensed marriage and family therapist and must submit a completed application that documents that he or she meets the following coursework, experience, and supervision of supervision requirements:

   i. Coursework requirements:

      (a). a one-semester graduate course in marriage and family therapy supervision from a regionally accredited institution; or

      (b). an equivalent course of study consisting of a 15-hour didactic component and a 15-hour interactive component in the study of marriage and family therapy supervision approved by the advisory committee. The interactive component must include a minimum of four persons.

   ii. Experience requirements:

      (a). has a minimum of two years’ experience as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

   iii. Supervision of Supervision requirements:

      (a). Thirty-six (36) hours of supervision of supervision for marriage and family therapy must be taken from an LMFT-approved supervisor.

      NOTE: Designation as an AAMFT approved supervisor qualifies a person to become an LMFT approved supervisor. Documentation must be submitted and recommended by the advisory committee for board approval.

2. A person who wishes to become an LMFT-registered supervisor candidate must submit an application provided by the board upon recommendation of the advisory committee that:

   i. Includes documentation of a minimum of two years’ experience as a licensed marriage and family therapist;

   ii. Either documents that he or she has met the coursework and interactional requirement specified in Louisiana rules and regulations, or proposes how this requirement shall be met;

   iii. Includes the name of the LMFT-approved supervisor who will be supervising his or her supervision of MFT interns and the approximate dates such supervision will begin and end.

   The advisory committee will review the application and inform the individual in writing that the proposed supervision of supervision arrangement either has been approved or rejected. Any rejection letter will outline the reasons for rejection. An advisory committee member cannot participate in deliberations or votes on any applicant who has been supervised by that advisory committee member.

   Upon completion of the required hours of supervision of supervision, the registered supervisor candidate must submit an application to become an LMFT approved supervisor.
**Additional Notes:**

1. Supervision not provided by an LMFT-approved supervisor or an LMFT-registered supervisor candidate as determined by the advisory committee will not be counted toward licensure.

2. A supervisor may not have more than a combined total of 10 supervisees, including MFT interns and interns in other disciplines and/or registered supervisor candidates at the same time.

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

Yes. However, any person who fails an examination shall not be admitted to a subsequent examination for at least six months.

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

None are noted in Louisiana.

**Can an individual with a criminal history request board review before actually having to apply for licensure?**

Louisiana does not have a process to pre-approve applications.

**How can someone contact the Board in this state?**

Mary Alice Olsan, Executive Director

8631 Summa Ave.

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Phone: 225-765-2515

FAX: 225-765-2514

LOUISIANA Board Web site: http://www.lpcboard.org/

Email board office: lpcboard@eatel.net

**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)**

Louisiana defines supervision as the professional relationship between a supervisor and supervisee that promotes the development of responsibility, skill, knowledge, and ethical standards in the practice of licensed marriage and family therapy. In addition to monitoring the MFT intern's supervised interaction with clients, the supervisor provides regular, face-to-face guidance and instruction. Supervision may include, without being limited to, the review of case presentations, audiotapes, videotapes, and direct observation.