

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 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?

No, New Jersey does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

An applicant for licensure in New Jersey shall have a minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, a master's degree in social work or a graduate degree in a related field. All applicants shall have obtained their degrees from regionally accredited institutions, so recognized at the time of the granting of the degrees. If the applicant has a graduate degree in a related field, the applicant shall demonstrate to the Board that he or she has completed substantial equivalents to the course work at the required levels. An applicant with a graduate degree in a related field which does not provide the training and course work substantially equivalent in content to those set out in (b) below shall be deemed to meet the educational requirements upon satisfactory completion of either a post graduate degree recognized by the Board, which includes the course work at the required levels or a program of training and course work at an institute or training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

Does the State require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?

New Jersey does not require these accreditations. In fact, New Jersey law states that no educational institution shall be denied recognition as a recognized educational institution solely because its program is not accredited by any professional organization of marriage and family therapists, and nothing in this law or in the administration of this law shall require the registration with the board of educational institutions of departments of sociology, psychology, social work, marriage and family life or any other specialty or doctoral programs in any of these professional fields.

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 be have met this educational requirement for licensure?

New Jersey requires eight courses from Areas I, II and III; One course from Area IV; One course from Area V; and One course taken in one semester from Area VI:

Area I: Theoretical Foundations (a minimum of two, three semester hour or equivalent quarter hour, courses.) Course work in this area shall include topics which deal with the historical development, theoretical foundations and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy. Course work in this area shall enable students to conceptualize and distinguish the critical epistemological issues in marriage and family therapy. Course work shall be related conceptually to clinical concerns.

2. Area II: Clinical Practice (a minimum of four, three semester hour or equivalent quarter hour, courses.) Course work in this area shall provide a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of the major models of marriage and family therapy. Courses shall address marriage and family therapy practice and be related conceptually to theory. Course work in this area shall address a wide variety of presenting clinical problems and include assessment, marriage and family therapy methods and major mental health assessment methods and instruments.

3. Area III: Individual Development and Family Relations (a minimum of two, three semester hour or equivalent quarter hour, courses.) Course work in this area shall include: i. Material on individual development, family development and family relationships; ii. Material on issues of sexuality as they relate to marriage and family therapy theory and practice, including sexual dysfunctions and difficulties; iii. Issues of gender and sexual orientation as they relate to marriage and family therapy theory and practice; and

iv. Material on issues of ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status and culture as they relate to marriage and family therapy theory and practice.

4. Area IV: Professional Identity and Ethics (a minimum of one, three semester hour or equivalent quarter hour, course.) Course work in this area shall include material on professional identity, including professional socialization, professional organizations, licensure, certification and ethical issues related to the practice and profession of marriage and family therapy. Generic courses in ethics shall not meet this requirement. Such course work shall inform applicants about legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, family law, confidentiality issues, ethics and the interface between therapist responsibility and the professional, social and political context of treatment.

5. Area V: Research (a minimum of one, three semester hour or equivalent quarter hour, course.) Course work in this area shall include significant material on quantitative and qualitative research in marriage and family therapy. Course work in this area shall focus on research methodology, data analysis and the evaluation of research.

6. Area VI: Additional Learning (a minimum of one, three semester hour or equivalent quarter hour, course.) Course work in this area shall be elective and chosen from a variety of disciplines. This area shall seek to augment an applicant's individual interest and background in marriage and family therapy. The applicant may choose courses from a variety of disciplines."

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?

New Jersey does not specify the number of required hours of supervision during practicum.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

New Jersey 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?

An applicant for licensure in New Jersey with a master's degree shall complete two of the three required calendar years of marriage and family therapy experience after the applicant has earned the master's degree, while an applicant for licensure with a post-master's or doctoral degree shall complete one calendar year of marriage and family therapy experience after the applicant has earned the post-master's or doctoral degree.

New Jersey defines "one calendar year" to mean 1,500 hours over a 50-week period, which is considered full-time, or no less than 750 hours over two periods of 50 weeks, which is considered part time, totaling of 1,500 hours for the two periods of 50 weeks.

Supervised marriage and family therapy experience for each calendar year shall consist of a minimum of 20 hours per week of actual marriage and family therapy client contact, with a minimum of one hour of supervision for every five hours of client contact."

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

New Jersey requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 1500 hours of experience per required year of supervised experience. These hours are not limited by the requirements of a supervisor or a specific breakdown of weekly hour requirements. Administrative or clinical hours are acceptable.

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

New Jersey allows up to half of the required supervision hours (200 of the 400 hours) to be in group supervision. Group supervision consists of no more than six supervisees in a room at a time. Individual supervision can consist of one or two supervisees in a room, and at least 200 hours must be individual supervision. All 400 hours may be individual supervision.

Additional Note:

New Jersey requires that the supervised marriage and family therapy experience for each calendar year shall consist of:

- i. A minimum of 20 hours per week of actual marriage and family therapy client contact, with a minimum
of one hour of supervision for every five hours of client contact;
- ii. A minimum of four hours of supervision per week, at least two hours of which shall be individual face-to-face supervision (the remaining two hours may be individual or group supervision); and
- iii. A minimum of six hours per week in other work-related activities such as preparing and maintaining

client records as described in N.J.A.C. 13:34-8, report writing, maintaining appointment schedules, communicating with other professionals, preparing for supervision, preparing and maintaining financial records in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:34-5.4 and 6.1, and any other activities the qualified supervisor deems appropriate;

and

2. One calendar year of counseling experience, which may be in marriage and family therapy or in general counseling, shall consist of a minimum of 1,500 hours over a 50-week period, which is considered full-time, or no less than 750 hours over two periods of 50 weeks, which is considered part-time, totaling 1,500 hours for the two periods of 50 weeks. "

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

Qualified supervisor in New Jersey means an individual who has no less than five full-time years of professional marriage and family therapy practice experience or the equivalent and has either:

1. A New Jersey license to practice as a marriage and family therapist; or
2. Obtained from an accredited institution a minimum of:
 - i. A master's degree in marriage and family therapy
 - ii. A master's degree in social work;
 - iii. A graduate degree in a related field and has demonstrated to the Board that he or she has completed course work content and training substantially equivalent to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy; or
 - iv. A graduate degree in a related field which does not provide training and course work substantially equivalent in content to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, and is either a post graduate degree recognized by the Board, or a program of training and course work at an institute or training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

IMPORTANT NOTE: New Jersey requires that the supervisor's training must be equivalent to an AAMFT approved supervisor or AAMFT approved supervisor candidate of any student enrolled in a practicum.

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 New Jersey.

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

It is unclear if New Jersey grants these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

"Terri Goldberg, Acting Executive Director

State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners

P.O. Box 45007

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973-504-6415

FAX: 973-648-3536

NEW JERSEY Board Web site: <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/mft/>

Email: askconsumeraffairs@dca.lps.state.nj.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 are noted in New Jersey.