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, New Mexico requires 45 semester hours of graduate level coursework that embraces a family systems perspective.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

New Mexico requires a masters or doctoral degree in a counseling related field from an accredited institution. Accredited institution means a university or college accredited by a regional accrediting agency of institutions of higher education at the time of the applicant's graduation. Accrediting agencies include:

(1) the New England association of schools and colleges; (2) the middle states association of colleges and schools; (3) the north central association of colleges and schools; (4) the northwest association of schools and colleges; (5) the southern association of schools and colleges; or (6) the western association of schools and colleges.

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

New Mexico 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 be have met this educational requirement for licensure?

New Mexico requires the following coursework to be completed by an individual seeking licensure:

(1) Marriage and family studies- a minimum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework. Course content in this area may include the study of the family life cycle, family development, family subsystems, family theories, blended families, gender issues and families, cultural issues and families, contemporary families, family and interpersonal relationships and family crisis. All courses in this area must come from a systems perspective where systems theory is a major focus of the course.
(2) Marriage and family therapy - a minimum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework in family therapy assessment, treatment and intervention methods. Major theoretical approaches that may be studied include: strategic, structural, object relations family therapy, behavioral family therapy, communication family therapy, intergenerational family therapy and systemic sex therapy. Courses should have a major focus on family systems theory and systemic interventions.

(3) Human development - a minimum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework. Courses in human development across the life span including special issues (e.g., culture, gender, human sexuality) would be appropriate. Topic areas may include human development, infant/child/adolescent development, psychopathology, personality theory, and human sexuality. Courses should have a systemic focus. Testing and measurement courses are NOT acceptable in this area.

(4) Multicultural studies - a minimum of 3 semester hours of graduate coursework, includes a systemic orientation relevant to diverse racial ethnic populations.

(5) Professional studies - a minimum of 3 semester hours of graduate coursework. Areas of study include legal issues and responsibilities, professional liabilities, and ethics related to the practice of marriage and family therapy. Religious ethics and moral theology courses are NOT acceptable in this area.

(6) Research a minimum of 3 semester hours of graduate coursework. Courses in this area should assist the student in understanding and performing research. Topical areas may include: research design and methodology, quantitative methods and statistics. Personality and test and measurement courses are NOT accepted in this area.

(7) Supervised practicum - a minimum of 6 semester hours of graduate coursework. As part of the 6 semester hours of coursework, there must be a minimum of 300 hours of supervised direct client contact, for a period of at least 12 months. Practicum students may only count hours in which they work directly with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment in marriage and family related issues.

(8) Electives from any area listed above satisfy the 45 semester-hour requirement. Remaining coursework would be distributed as electives among the above areas.

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

A student expecting to apply for licensure in New Mexico is required to complete 300 supervised direct client contact hours with individuals, couples, families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment in marriage and family related issues. New Mexico does not specify the number of required relational hours.
How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

New Mexico does not specify a specific required number of hours for supervision during practicum. However, as a post-graduate, applicants for licensure are required to obtain one hour of face-to-face supervision for every ten hours of client contact.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

New Mexico requires that practicum be at least 12 months in length.
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 New Mexico must obtain a minimum of 2 years of post-graduate work experience in marriage and family therapy that includes at least 1,000 hours of postgraduate marriage and family clinical client contact. There is no specification for how many of these hours must be relational. There is no time limit as a licensed associate marriage and family therapist, but all work at this level must be done under clinical supervision.

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

New Mexico does not specify a required number of 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?

New Mexico requires 200 hours of appropriate postgraduate marriage and family supervision, including at least 100 hours of individual supervision. The appropriate supervision must be received from an individual who has education, clinical experience and supervisory experience in the field of marriage and family therapy.

Additional Notes:

New Mexico regulations specify that an applicant for licensure must have received one hour of face-to-face supervision for every ten hours of client contact. Individual supervision means face-to-face case consultation between the supervisor and no more than two supervisees related only to the supervisee's cases for a continuous 50 to 60 minutes, or for one supervisee for a continuous 25 to 30 minutes.

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

Supervision must be provided by a licensed professional clinical mental health counselor (LPCC), licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), licensed professional art therapist (LPAT), licensed psychologist, licensed psychiatrist, and licensed independent social worker (LISW). Appropriate supervisors must have education and experience in marriage and family therapy. It is the responsibility of the individual seeking supervision to assure the supervision is acceptable for the level of licensure that will be requested at the completion of the required supervision. The relationship between the supervisor and the applicant must promote the development of skill and responsibility in the delivery of counseling or therapy services. Client contact and supervision hours prior to being licensed will not be accepted for licensure.
Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?

Yes. However, qualified applicants who fail to obtain the minimum required passing score for an exam must surrender their temporary license immediately.

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

None are noted in New Mexico.

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

It is unclear if New Mexico accepts these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

New Counseling and Therapy Practice Board

Toney Anaya Building

2550 Cerrillos Road

Santa Fe, NM 57505

Phone: 505-476-4610

FAX: 505-476-4633

NEW MEXICO Web site: http://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Counseling_and_Therapy_Practice.aspx

Email: counselingboard@state.nm.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 Mexico.