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?

Yes, New York requires a minimum of 45 credit hours (unless it is from a CACREP accredited program, which must be 60 hours).

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

To meet the professional education requirement for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist, the applicant for licensure in New York must have a degree that qualifies in category A, B or C below:

A. A master’s or doctoral degree from a program in Marriage and Family Therapy that is:

• registered by the Department as licensure qualifying;

• accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFT) or another acceptable accrediting agency; or

• determined by the Department to be the substantial equivalent of such a registered or accredited program.

OR

B. A master’s or higher degree from a program in an allied mental health field acceptable to the Department (including but not limited to social work, psychology and mental health counseling) and additional graduate level coursework, determined by the Department to provide the substantial equivalent professional education of a licensure qualifying program in Marriage and Family Therapy.

OR

C. Completion of a program located outside the United States and its territories that:

• prepares individuals for the professional practice of Marriage and Family Therapy; and

• is recognized by the appropriate civil authorities of that jurisdiction; and

• can be appropriately verified; and
is determined by the Department to be the substantial equivalent of a registered licensure qualifying or acceptable accredited master's or doctoral program in Marriage and Family Therapy.

The New York Department will individually evaluate an applicant who has completed a program other than one registered as licensure qualifying or accredited by COAMFTE. The results of the evaluation will indicate the additional graduate level course work and/or supervised practicum/internship that must be completed to remedy educational deficiencies. An applicant is not eligible for a limited permit or the examination until the education requirements have been satisfied, in the determination of the Department.

New York registers as licensure-qualifying an education program that is offered in New York State and which it has determined includes the course content specified in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations for the marriage and family therapy profession. New York does not register as licensure-qualifying programs that are offered by institutions outside of New York. Each individual who graduates from a program outside of New York must apply for licensure and then be individually evaluated to determine if the applicant has satisfied education requirements equivalent to a New York licensure-qualifying program. The applicant will be notified if additional information is required or if additional education or an internship must be completed to meet the education requirements for licensure in New York.

New York has determined that programs accredited by the following organizations in the specific professions are equivalent to a New York State-registered program:

- Masters or higher degree in mental health counseling of 60 semester hours (or more) accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) under its 2009 Standards;
- Masters or higher degree program in marriage and family therapy accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) under its 2005 Standards;
- Masters or higher degree program in art therapy that is accredited by the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) under its 2007 Standards;
- Post-masters program in psychoanalysis that is accredited by the American Board for Accreditation in Psychoanalysis (ABAP) under its 2002 Standards.

NOTE: An applicant who did not complete a New York State licensure-qualifying program or an accredited program, as defined above, must have an individual review of education.

New York will accept a degree program that is completely or partially offered on-line, if the program meets the accreditation standards bulleted in the above paragraph. If a student completes a distance-learning program at a regionally accredited school outside New York that is not accredited by one of the organizations above, New York will review the transcript, course syllabi and internship to determine whether the program is equivalent to a New York licensure-qualifying program after the application for licensure and fee have been received.
Does the State require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?

While New York 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?

For a degree from a non-registered program to be considered substantially equivalent, the program must include at least 45 semester hours, or the equivalent, of study that contains curricular content that includes but is not limited to each of the following areas:

- at least three (3) semester hours in the study of human development, including individual, child and family development;
- at least twelve (12) semester hours in marriage and family therapy clinical knowledge, including but not limited to psychopathology;
- at least six (6) semester hours in marriage and family therapy theoretical knowledge;
- family law;
- at least three (3) semester hours in research;
- at least three (3) semester hours in professional ethics; and
- include a supervised practicum in marriage and family therapy of at least 300 client contact hours.

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 300 client contact hours.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

New York does not specify the number of supervision hours a student must receive during practicum.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

New York 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 individual working toward licensure in New York must complete at least 1,500 direct client contact hours in the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy. The experience may only be completed under a
limited permit issued by the Department or as part of the licensure qualifying education program, for experience in New York; experience completed in other jurisdictions must be completed legally in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction.

**Additional Note #1:**

If the applicant for licensure meets the education requirement for licensure by completing a master's or doctoral degree program registered by the Department as licensure qualifying or a program that New York determines is equivalent, the applicant may use client contact clock hours completed as part of the educational program and/or after to meet this requirement in addition to post-degree hours completed under a limited permit.

**Additional Note #2:**

The setting where the experience is obtained must be a location where legally authorized individuals provide services that constitute the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, as defined in Education Law, and must be responsible for the services provided by individuals gaining experience for licensure. The setting cannot be a private practice owned or operated by the applicant. If the experience is completed in a setting other than the permit setting, the applicant must submit an operating certificate or certificate of incorporation that indicates the entity is authorized to employ licensed professionals and provide services that are restricted under Title VIII of the Education Law.

An acceptable setting is defined in the Commissioner’s Regulations as:

i. a professional corporation, registered limited liability partnership, or professional service limited liability company authorized to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;

ii. a sole proprietorship owned by a licensee who provides services that are within the scope of his or her profession and services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;

iii. a professional partnership owned by licensees who provide services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;

iv. a hospital or clinic authorized under Article 28 of the Public Health Law to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;

v. a program or facility authorized under the Mental Hygiene Law to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;

vi. a program or facility authorized under Federal Law to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy;
vii. an entity defined as exempt from the licensing requirements or otherwise authorized under New York State law or the laws of the jurisdiction in which the entity is located to provide services that are within the scope of practice of Marriage and Family Therapy.

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

New York requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 1500 hours of experience, all direct client contact hours.

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

While New York does not specify a minimum number of post-graduate supervision hours, they do require that the supervisor must provide at least one hour per week or four hours per month of in-person individual or group supervision where the supervisor:

- reviews your assessment, evaluation and treatment of each client under his or her general supervision; and
- provides oversight, guidance and direction to you in developing skills as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

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

A qualified supervisor must be licensed and registered in New York State to practice Marriage and Family Therapy, medicine, as a physician assistant, psychology, licensed clinical social work, or as a registered professional nurse or nurse practitioner and competent in the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, or must have the equivalent qualifications as determined by the Department for experience completed in another jurisdiction.

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

Yes. New York State candidates for the Marriage and Family Therapist licensing examinations must have completed their graduate program and received the graduate degree as a condition for admission to the examination. Applicants for licensure will not be approved to take the examination prior to receipt of the graduate degree. New York does not accept the California examination for licensure.

**Additional Note:**

New York State will not accept an examination given under non-standard conditions except per the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Examples of such non-standard conditions include the use of a dictionary or extra time for applicants whose primary language is other than English. If a candidate passed the examination under non-standard conditions for another jurisdiction, that candidate may be required to retake the examination under standard conditions.
Does the State have specific training requirements beyond the graduate degree?

Applicants for licensure in New York must complete coursework or training in the identification and reporting of child abuse offered by a New York State approved provider.

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

It is unclear if New York has a process to review these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

"David Hamilton, Executive Secretary
Office of the Professions
89 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12234
Phone: 518-474-3817       Ext. 450
FAX: 518-486-2981
NEW YORK Board Web site: http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/mhp/mftbroch.htm
NEW YORK Department Web site: http://www.op.nysed.gov/
Email: mhpbd@mail.nysed.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 are noted in New York.