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?

Ohio requires a minimum of 60 credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

A graduate degree in marriage and family therapy is defined in the state of Ohio as: (1) The program or concentration shall clearly be identified as marriage and family therapy. Such a program shall specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train marriage and family therapists. (2) The marriage and family therapy curriculum shall stand as a recognized entity within the institution and have a marriage and family therapy faculty. (3) The marriage and family therapy coursework completed shall be an organized course of study that includes at least one graduate course in each of these seven areas of marriage and family therapy; (4) The marriage and family therapy coursework completed must include four courses in marriage and family therapy.

Additional Notes: Programs not accredited by the "Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education" (COAMFTE) shall be submitted to this board for approval as meeting the educational requirements for admission to the examination for the marriage and family therapy license. Program approval may be obtained by submitting to the board written evidence that the degree meets the requirements set forth in Ohio rules.

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

No, Ohio 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.

Additional Notes: Programs that are accredited by the "Commission On Accreditation Of Marriage And Family Therapy Education" (COAMFTE) that have met all of the conditions specified in Ohio rules are recognized as meeting the requirements for a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to be have met this educational requirement for licensure?
Ohio requires course work for non-COAMFTE program graduates in the following content areas:

(a) Marriage and family studies: Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to marriage and family studies. (four courses)

(b) Systems theory: Courses in this area should address the historical development, theoretical and empirical foundations, and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy.

(c) Research: Courses in this area should assist the student in understanding and performing research. Topic areas may include: research methodology, qualitative and quantitative methods, and statistics.

(d) Professional ethics: Courses in this area shall include the "American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy" (AAMFT) code of ethics, confidentiality and liabilities of clinical practice and research, professional ethics as a marriage and family therapist, professional socialization, and the role of the professional organization, licensure or certification legislation, independent practice and interprofessional cooperation. Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses do not meet this requirement.

(e) Human development: Courses in this area should provide knowledge of personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. Test and measurement courses do not meet this requirement.

(f) Appraisal of individuals and families: Courses in this area must include the framework for understanding the individual, couple and family group, psychological and educational testing, and the assessment and treatment of major mental and emotional disorders.

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

A student seeking licensure in Ohio is required to obtain 300 client contact hours during their practicum experience, and 150 of these hours must be relational hours.

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

Ohio does not specify a required number of supervision hours.

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

Students who will eventually seek licensure in Ohio are required to engage in 12 months 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?

The state of Ohio requires an individual to obtain a minimum of 2 years post graduate clinical experience and at least 1000 client contact hours. Ohio does not specify how many of these hours must be relational hours.

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

Ohio does not specify the number of experience hours required 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?

Ohio requires 200 hours of supervision, and states that 100 of these hours must be individual supervision hours.

Additional Notes: Supervision must be face-to-face.

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

Ohio requires that all supervisees engaging in training supervision for licensure as independent marriage and family therapists shall be under supervision of one of the following:

(a) An “American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Approved Supervisor” who holds an Ohio license as an independent marriage and family therapist, a professional clinical counselor with supervision designation, an independent social worker with supervision designation, psychologist or psychiatrist;

(b) A licensed independent marriage and family therapist with three years post degree experience in the field of marriage and family therapy;

Requests for exceptions due to hardship shall be made in writing to the board. The supervisor shall have demonstrated competence in the area in which they are supervising and have training in legal and ethical issues relevant to marriage and family therapy.

Additional Notes:

An individual who will eventually seek licensure in Ohio may use the following as approved supervisors toward independent licensure: an IMFT or an AAMFT-approved PCC-S, LISW-S, psychiatrist, or psychologist. If this individual is unable to find an IMFT, they will need to use all available resources to find the second option of an AAMFT-approved supervisor.
Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)? Are there any other examinations required?

Yes.

Additional Notes:

Individuals in the last term prior to receiving their master or doctoral degree from a program that is accredited by COAMFTE may provide a letter, facsimile or email from a professor or registrar that states the student is on track to graduate at the end of that term in order for the board to make an examination approval or disapproval decision.

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

None are noted in Ohio.

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

The Ohio Board does not pre-evaluate criminal convictions; the evaluation is a part of the application process. Since the Board has the responsibility to protect the public, a primary objective of the Board is to ensure applications for registrations or licenses from applicants with criminal convictions have documentation on file that gets an appropriate review. For this reason, the Board evaluates all misdemeanor and felony convictions in the same manner for each type of professional license.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

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Email: CSWMFT.info@cswb.state.oh.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 Ohio.