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, Oklahoma does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Oklahoma regulations state that in order to qualify for MFT licensure an applicant must have at least a master’s degree in marital and family therapy or in a mental health, behavioral science, or counseling related field which is content-equivalent to a graduate degree in marital and family therapy. All degrees and coursework needed to meet the academic requirements must be from a college or university accredited by one of the following six regional accrediting associations recognized by the United States Department of Education: The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges, The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges, The Western Association of School and Colleges, and The Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.

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

Oklahoma 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?

Oklahoma requires that the applicant must document coursework in the following areas:

Theoretical Foundations of Marital and Family Systems – any course which deals primarily in areas such as family life cycle; theories of family development; marriage and/or the family; sociology of the family; families under stress; the contemporary family; family in a social context; the cross-cultural family; youth/adult/aging and the family; family subsystems; individual, interpersonal relationships (marital, parental, sibling). Required: Three 3 semester hour courses

Assessment and Treatment in Marital and Family Therapy – any course which deals in areas such as family therapy methodology; family assessment; treatment and intervention methods; overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy such as: communications, contextual, experiential, object relations, strategic, structural, systemic, trans generational. Required: Three 3 semester hour courses.
Human Development – any course which deals primarily in areas such as human development; personality theory; human sexuality; psychopathology; at least one of which in psychopathology or abnormal human behavior. Required: Three 3 semester hour courses.

Ethics and Professional Studies – any course which deals primarily in areas such as professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and inter-professional cooperation; ethics and family law. Required: One 3 semester hour course.

Research – any course which deals primarily in areas such as research design, methods, statistics, research in marital and family therapy. Required: One 3 semester hour course.

Practicum/internship – At least 300 clock hours.

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

Oklahoma requires students to complete at least 300 clock hours of client contact. Oklahoma does not specify how many of these hours must be relational.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

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

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Oklahoma 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?

Oklahoma requires that work experience under supervision must extend over a minimum of 24 months. This marital and family therapy related experience must include a minimum of 1000 hours of direct client contact. The candidate must have a minimum of 250 relational hours with two or more members of the relational system present in the session.

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

Oklahoma does not specify the 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?

Oklahoma requires that supervision sessions should be scheduled weekly and shall be no less than 6.25 hours of supervision for each 42 hours of direct client contact. No more than 42 hours of direct client contact can be counted in a four week period of time, or may be arranged on a different schedule upon: (A) written request of the supervisor and supervisee in advance, and (B) approval of the schedule by Oklahoma. The total number of face-to-face supervision hours must be at least 150. Supervision in group sessions shall equal no more than 75 hours of the total requirement. Technology-assisted supervision shall not account for more than 75 hours of the total requirement.

Additional Notes:

Supervised experience is acceptable when:

(1) it begins after all applicable academic requirements have been completed, and supervision agreement has been approved by the Department.

(2) official application for licensure has been made. Applicants who have met part or all of supervision experience requirements for clinical membership in AAMFT will be considered to have met part or all of the supervision requirements for licensure in Oklahoma.

(3) it consists of the performance of therapy activities and contains the following characteristics: (A) supervision focuses on the raw data from a supervisee’s continuing clinical practice, which may be available to the supervisor through a combination of direct observation, co-therapy, written clinical notes, and audio and video recordings and the LMFT Act and Regulations. (B) supervision is a process clearly distinguishable from personal psychotherapy, and is contracted in order to serve professional/vocational goals. (C) individual supervision shall be face-to-face with one supervisor and one or two supervisees. (D) group supervision may be done with up to six supervisees and a supervisor.

(4) supervised experience hours may be accrued in academic, governmental, or private practice settings.
(5) the supervised experience is accrued in a private for-profit or private not-for-profit therapy setting without having an approved LMFT supervisor providing on-site supervision, if the agency employing the LMFT Candidate provides an on-site supervisor who is available to the LMFT Candidate any time services are being rendered by the LMFT Candidate, and the LMFT Candidate is receiving supervision for licensure from an approved LMFT supervisor. Out of state on-site supervisors may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the state of Oklahoma.

**More Additional notes:**

Oklahoma requires approved LMFT Supervisors to meet with LMFT candidate(s) in person at least once every six month evaluation period when performing technology-assisted supervision.

Approved supervisors shall consult with on-site supervisor at least once per supervisee during each reporting period.

An LMFT Supervision Agreement between supervisor and supervisee as well as the On-Site Supervisor Verification form must be received and approved by the Department prior to the accrual of supervision hours.

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

In order to be approved as a supervisor for therapists seeking MFT licensure in Oklahoma, an individual must:

(1) be an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy approved Supervisor familiar with the Oklahoma LMFT Act and Rules duly promulgated, or

(2) be an LMFT that meets the following qualifications:

(A) two (2) years of experience in marital and family therapy beyond the number of years of experience required for licensure and

(B) successfully completed a graduate course in therapist supervision (at least 45 contact hours) or equivalent course of study acceptable to Oklahoma. This equivalent course of study should consist of workshops in marriage and family therapy supervision in combination with directed study of the marriage and family therapy supervision literature. Fifteen (15) of the 45 clock hours should be in a class or workshop format which includes a minimum of four supervisors-in-training; the other 30 clock hours should be reserved for the directed study. Directed study must be approved and monitored by an Approved Supervisor.

Approved LMFT Supervisors are required to complete a minimum of three (3) clock hours, every three (3) years, of continuing education in therapy supervision specific to Oklahoma law provided by the LMFT Advisory Board, or its designee. Approved Supervisor designation will not be renewed until the continuing education requirement for each missed renewal period is met.
Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?

Yes. In addition to the Licensing Examination in Marital and Family Therapy (Professional Examination Service) or another equivalent examination as determined by the Department, applicants for licensure in Oklahoma must take an oral and/or written examination covering psychopathology and the LMFT law and regulations as approved by the Department. The applicant must pass the oral exam within one year from the first date applicant is eligible to test or the supervision agreement will be revoked and the applicant shall be mailed notification at last known address.

An applicant’s eligibility to sit for the national examination shall be valid for three years, at which time if the applicant has not successfully passed the national exam, the licensure application shall be voided and the applicant shall be mailed notification at last known address. An applicant may re-apply with an additional requirement of a plan of remediation acceptable to the advisory board.

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

None are noted in Oklahoma.

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

It is unclear if Oklahoma accepts these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Nena West, Director
1000 NE 10th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1299
Phone: 405-271-6030
FAX: 405-271-1918
OKLAHOMA Board Web site:
http://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Professional_Counselor_Licensing_Division/index.html
Email: nenaw@health.ok.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)

Oklahoma defines "technology-assisted supervision" as supervision that occurs through video teleconferencing, over secure internet connections, wherein an Approved LMFT Supervisor and a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist Candidate are in separate physical locations. Technology-assisted
supervision must be approved by the Department prior to the accrual of hours. Factors to be considered by the Department include: distance between approved supervisor and candidate; financial hardship on approved supervisor or candidate; physical hardship on approved supervisor or candidate; specialty credentials; and other pertinent factors.