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 this 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?

Texas requires a minimum of 45 credit hours.

Additional Notes: A degree or course work in a related mental health field must have been a planned course of study designed to train a person to provide direct services to assist individuals, families or couples in a therapeutic relationship in the resolution of cognitive, affective, behavioral or relational dysfunctions within the context of marriage or family systems.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?
The Texas Board accepts as meeting academic requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist associate the following:

1. a master's degree or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
2. a master's degree or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from an accredited institution or program as defined in §801.2 of this title (relating to Definitions), but the program is not accredited by COAMFTE, provided that the practicum is at least 9 credit hours or 12 months
3. a master's or doctorate degree from an accredited institution or program as defined in Texas rules and regulations in a related mental health field with a planned course of study in marriage and family therapy as described in Texas rules and regulations (relating to Academic Requirements) with minimum course content as described in Texas rules and regulations (relating to Academic Course Content).

Additional Notes: Texas defines "accredited institutions or programs" as an institution or program which holds accreditation or candidacy status from an accreditation organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education.

Does the state require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?
No, Texas 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.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to have met this educational requirement for licensure?
Texas requires that an applicant who holds a graduate degree in a mental health related field must have course work in each of the following areas (one course equals three semester hours):
1. theoretical foundations of marriage and family therapy--one course
2. assessment and treatment in marriage and family therapy--four courses
3. human development, gender, multicultural issues and family studies--two courses
4. psychopathology--one course
5. professional ethics--one course
6. applied professional research--one course
7. supervised clinical practicum--12 months or nine hours.

How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?
Texas does not specify the number of practicum hours required or the number of relational hours.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?
Texas does not specify a required number of supervision hours.

What is the required length of practicum in this state?
Students in Texas are required to take 9 credit hours or 12 months of practicum.

Additional Hours: Texas rules state that if the practicum is not at least 9 credit hours or 12 months an applicant may be approved to take the licensing examination and may be issued an associate license upon successfully passing the examination. Prior to receiving a license as a marriage and family therapist under this section, the applicant shall complete the pre-graduation practicum deficit in addition to the post-graduate supervised experience requirements consistent with the requirements in Texas rules and regulations (relating to Supervised Clinical Experience Requirements and Conditions).

POST-GRADUATE 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, Texas requires an individual to obtain a minimum of 2 years clinical experience, at least 1500 client contact hours, and of these hours 750 must be relational hours.
Additional Notes:
Supervised clinical experience accrued in Texas may only be accrued under licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (exceptions: 500 client contact hours may be transferred from a Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) accredited doctoral program; and 100 supervision hours may be transferred from the graduate program).

What is the minimum number of experience hours required by this State?
Texas requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 3000 hours of experience after graduating.

Additional Notes: Texas rules and regulations state that a minimum 1,500 hours be in direct client services; The remaining 1,500 hours may come from related experiences that may include but not be limited to workshops, public relations, writing case notes, consulting with referral sources, etc. The associate may receive credit for up to 500 clock hours toward the required 3,000 hours of supervised clinical services by providing services via telephonic or other electronic media, as approved by the supervisor.

What is the minimum number of post-graduate supervision hours required by this State, and how many of these hours must be individual supervision?
Texas requires 200 hours of supervision, and a minimum of 100 of these hours must be individual supervision hours.

Additional Notes: Texas allows 100 hours of supervision from practicum to count toward the required 200 hours. Other requirements include: Supervision must be conducted under a supervision contract, which must be submitted to the board on the official form within 60 days of the initiation of supervision. The supervision contract submitted to the board must be approved by the board.

The 200 hours of supervision must be face-to-face. The associate must receive a minimum of one hour of supervision every two weeks. Up to 50 hours of the 200 hours of face-to-face supervision may occur via telephonic or other electronic media, as approved by the supervisor.

Texas defines group supervision as supervision that involves a minimum of three and no more than six marriage and family supervisees or associates in a clinical setting during the supervision hour. A supervision hour is forty-five minutes.

Texas defines individual supervision as supervision of no more than two marriage and family therapy supervisees or associates in a clinical setting during the supervision hour. A supervision hour is forty-five minutes. At least 50 hours of the post-graduate supervision must be individual supervision.

What are the State requirements for an individual to be qualified as a supervisor?
Supervisors are recognized by the Texas Board when Texas requirements are met by submitting an application which includes the applicable fee and the following:

1. a license as a marriage and family therapist (which is not a provisional or an associate license) issued by the board
2. one of the following:
a. successful completion of a one-semester graduate course in marriage and family therapy supervision from an accredited institution
b. a 40-hour continuing education course in clinical supervision that meets the minimum requirements of the board and is offered by a board-approved provider

3. a master’s degree and at least 3,000 hours of practice of marriage and family therapy over a minimum of three years as a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a doctoral degree recognized by the board and at least 1,000 hours of practice of marriage and family therapy over a minimum of one year as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

In lieu of meeting the qualifications set forth in Texas rules and regulations, a person is an acceptable supervisor if the person is licensed by the board and has been designated as an approved supervisor or supervisor candidate by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) before the person provides any supervision.

Additional Notes: Texas rules and regulations state that both the LMFT Associate and the board-approved supervisor are fully responsible for the marriage and family therapy activities of the LMFT Associate.

Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?
The Texas Board accepts the national licensure examination administered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) or the State of California marriage and family therapy licensure examination.

Does the State have specific training requirements beyond the graduate degree?
All applicants for licensure in Texas must submit proof of successful completion of the jurisprudence examination at the time of application. The jurisprudence examination must have been completed no more than six months prior to the licensure application date.

Can an individual with a criminal history request board review before actually having to apply for licensure?
In accordance with Occupations Code, §53.102, a person may request the department to issue a criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's eligibility for a license if the person: (1) is enrolled or planning to enroll in an educational program that prepares a person for an initial license or is planning to take an examination for an initial license; and (2) has reason to believe that the person is ineligible for the license due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

A person making a request for issuance of a criminal history evaluation letter shall submit the request on a form prescribed by the department, accompanied by the criminal history evaluation letter fee and the required supporting documentation, as described on the form. The request shall state the basis for the person's potential ineligibility.
How can someone contact the Board in this state?
Carol Miller, Executive Director/ ATTN: Carol Miller
Mail Code 1982, P.O. Box 149347/ Austin, TX 78714-9347
Phone: 512-834-6657 Ext. 2715   FAX: 512-834-6677
TEXAS Board Web site: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/
Email: carol.miller@dshs.state.tx.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 noted.