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?
Yes, Washington requires a minimum of 45 credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?
The state of Washington defines an "approved educational program" as: (a) Any college or university accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or its successor; or (b) A program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), at the time the applicant completed the required education.

Does the state require the program to have COAMFTE or CACREP Accreditation?
No, Washington 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 (This information can be found in the application form for licensure).

Additional Notes: Anyone who has obtained American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) clinical membership status is considered to have met the education requirements for licensure in the state of Washington. Verification must be sent directly to the department from the AAMFT.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to have met this educational requirement for licensure?
Washington requires course content in nine areas of study, with a minimum of twenty-seven semester credits are required in the first five areas of study: Marital and family systems, marital and family therapy, individual development psychopathology, human sexuality, and research.

Distribution of the course work is as follows:
1. **Marital and family systems.** An applicant must have taken at least two courses in marital and family systems. Course work required is a minimum of six semester credits.
2. **Marital and family therapy.** An applicant must have taken at least two courses in marital and family therapy. Course work required is a minimum of six semester credits.
3. **Individual development.** An applicant must have taken at least one course in individual development. Course work required is a minimum of two semester credits.

4. **Psychopathology.** An applicant must have taken at least one course in psychopathology. Course work required is a minimum of two semester credits.

5. **Human sexuality.** An applicant must have taken at least one course in human sexuality. Course work required is a minimum of two semester credits.

6. **Research.** An applicant must have taken at least one course in research methods. Course work required is a minimum of three semester credits.

7. **Professional ethics and law.** An applicant must have taken at least one course in professional ethics and law. Course work required is a minimum of three semester credits.

8. **Electives.** An individual must take one course in an elective area. Course work required is a minimum of three semester credits.

9. **Supervised clinical practice.** An applicant may acquire up to nine semester credits through supervised clinical practice in marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a qualified marriage and family therapist as determined by the school.

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

The number of client contact hours required for practicum is not specified by Washington’s rules or statutes.

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

Washington does not specify a required number of supervision hours.

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

Students in the state of Washington are required to have nine (9) semester credits of practicum.

**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, an individual who plans to seek licensure in the state of Washington must obtain a minimum of 2 years clinical experience, at least 1000 client contact hours, and of these hours 500 must be relational hours.

**Additional Notes:** Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy may be credited with 500 hours of direct client contact and 100 hours of formal meetings with an approved supervisor.

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

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

Washington requires 200 hours of qualified supervision with an approved supervision. 100 of these hours must be one-on-one supervision, and the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or group supervision.

**Additional Notes:** The state of Washington defines group supervision as face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

The state of Washington defines one-on-one supervision as face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensure candidates.

Washington requires that a minimum of 100 supervision hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist with at least five years clinical experience, and that up to 100 supervision hours can be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

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

The Washington Board requires supervisors to meet the following qualifications:

1. The approved supervisor must hold a license without restrictions that has been in good standing for at least two years.

2. The approved supervisor must not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has acted as the licensure candidate's therapist within the past two years.

3. The approved supervisor, prior to the commencement of any supervision, must provide the licensure candidate a declaration, on a form provided by the department, that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-134 and qualify as an approved supervisor.

4. The approved supervisor must have completed the following: (a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through: (i) A supervision course; or (ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or (iii) Supervision of supervision; or (iv) Any combination of these; and (b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice; or (c) An American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) approved supervisor meets the qualifications above.

5. The approved supervisor must attest to having thorough knowledge of the supervisee's practice activities including: (a) Practice setting; (b) Recordkeeping; (c) Financial management; (d) Ethics of clinical practice; and (e) A backup plan for coverage.

**Additional Notes:** The state of Washington defines an "equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" as a licensed mental health counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner, who has completed:(a) Three hundred clock hours in graduate or postgraduate marriage and family education, or continuing education in marriage and family therapy or supervision by an approved marriage and family therapist supervisor in marriage and family therapy or any combination of these; and (b) Five years of
clinical practice that includes the equivalent of one year of clinical practice working with couples and families requirements and has completed continuing education. "Approved supervisor" means a licensed marriage and family therapist, or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

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

Does the State have specific training requirements beyond the graduate degree?
Applicants for licensure in Washington must complete four clock hours of AIDS education.

Can an individual with a criminal history request board review before actually having to apply for licensure?
It is unclear if this option is available in Washington. Washington does require fingerprint-based background checks as part of the application for licensure process. This check may be through the Washington State Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

How can someone contact the Board in this state?
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Health Professions Section 7
Olympia, WA 98504-7869
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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.