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.

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?

Wisconsin does not specify a minimum number of credit hours, but does require 9 specific courses.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Wisconsin requires that an applicant for licensure must have earned a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a regionally accredited institution; or a master's or doctoral degree in a field with coursework substantially equivalent to marriage and family therapy from a regionally accredited institution; or Clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

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

While Wisconsin does encourage COAMFTE accreditation, they do not require this accreditation.

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?

For purposes of meeting the educational requirements for a certificate as a marriage and family therapist in Wisconsin, the following courses are required in order to be considered substantially equivalent to a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from an accredited institution. Specifically, a course of study that includes at least 9 separate courses in the general topic areas of marital and family studies, marital and family therapy, and human development during the completion of a master’s or doctoral degree at a regionally accredited college or university, are required as follows:

(a) Marital and family studies; a minimum of 2 separate courses and 6 semester hours of academic credit. The courses shall relate directly to family development and family interactional patterns across the life cycle of the family as well as the family. Course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of family life cycle; theories of family development; marriage and the family; sociology of the family;
families under stress; the contemporary family; the family in a social context; the cross-cultural family; youth, adult, aging and the family; family subsystems; and individual, interpersonal relationships involving marital, parental, and sibling relations.

(b) Marital and family therapy; a minimum of 2 separate courses and 6 semester hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of family therapy methodology; family assessment; treatment and intervention methods in family or marital therapy; overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy such as: communications, contextual, experiential, object relations, strategic, structural, systemic, trans generational.

(c) Human development; a minimum of 2 separate courses and 6 semester hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of human development; personality theory; human sexuality; psychopathology; and behavior–pathology.

(d) Professional studies; a minimum of 1 course and 3 semester hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: the study of professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and inter-professional cooperation; ethics; and family law.

(e) Research; a minimum of 1 course and 3 semester hours of academic credit. The course work shall include one or more of the following areas: research design; methods and statistics; and research in marital and family studies and therapy.

(f) Practicum (see below)

Note: There is a depth requirement in the educational equivalency evaluation. Each applicant is required to have a minimum of 2 courses in each of the general topic areas of marital and family studies, marital and family therapy, and human development. Each applicant is also required to have a minimum of 3 additional courses chosen from one or more of those topic areas, for a total of 9 separate courses in the topic areas of marital and family studies, marital and family therapy, and human development.

**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 a clinical practicum as part of an academic program in marriage and family therapy or a substantially equivalent field, including at least 300 hours in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, accumulated under supervision.

Note: The clinical practice required in an academic program shall not be considered to fulfill any part of the postgraduate supervised practice requirement for licensure eligibility.
How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

Wisconsin does not specify a minimum number of supervision hours during practicum.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Wisconsin requires that a practicum to be not less than 8 calendar months and not more than 24 calendar months.
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?

After graduating, an individual working toward licensure in Wisconsin must accrue at least 1000 hours of face-to-face client contact over a period of not less than 24 months.

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

Wisconsin requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 3000 hours of experience after graduating. An individual must possess a training license in order to accrue these 3,000 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?

Wisconsin requires that the person whose practice is being supervised shall receive a minimum of one hour of face-to-face supervision for each 10 client contact hours. Only those individuals who hold a valid marriage and family therapist training certificate may begin accumulating hours towards their postgraduate supervised practice requirements.

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

Qualifications of a Supervisor in Wisconsin must fit at least one of the following categories:

(a) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has received a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy.

(b) An individual licensed as a marriage and family therapist who has engaged in the equivalent of 5 years of full-time marriage and family therapy practice.

(c) A psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed in Wisconsin.

(d) A person who holds an “approved supervisor” certificate from the American association for marriage and family therapy.

(e) Another qualified professional approved by the Marriage and Family Therapy Board in advance of the supervision of the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Additional Notes:

(1) If supervision is provided in group sessions, the group shall consist of no more than 6 persons receiving supervision for every one person providing supervision.

(2) If supervision is provided in group sessions, each person receiving supervision as part of the group session receives one hour credit for each hour that the group meets for supervision, but may not credit any time which is primarily social activity with the group or supervisor as part of a supervision session.
(3) A supervision session for a group or individual which is provided by more than one supervisor may not be credited for more than the actual time elapsed during the supervision session, not including social activities.

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

Yes. In addition, an applicant for licensure in Wisconsin must pass the Wisconsin Statutes and Rules examination. An applicant who completes all of the requirements for licensure except for passing the national exam may obtain a temporary license valid for up to 9 months from the date of its issuance, and it may be renewed once upon receipt of a written request and any required renewal fee.

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

None are noted in Wisconsin.

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

It is unclear if Wisconsin has a process to pre-preapprove applications.

**How can someone contact the Board in this state?**

Website: http://drl.wi.gov/profession.asp?profid=24&locid=0

Email: DSPSBoards@wisconsin.gov

Phone: 877-617-1565

**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 Wisconsin.