

**TITLE 86. STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LICENSURE
CHAPTER 15. LICENSED MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

SUBCHAPTER 5. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE

86:15-5-3. Academic and experience requirements

(a) **Fulfillment of Section 1925.6, subsection B of the LMFT Act.**

Persons applying for licensure must have fulfilled the requirements listed in Section 1925.6, Subsection B of the LMFT Act.

(b) **Academic requirements.** Applicants must possess at least a masters degree in marital and family therapy or in a mental health, behavioral science, or counseling related field from a college or university regionally accredited by one of the following six regional accrediting associations: The New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSCHE), The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), or their predecessors or successors, which is content-equivalent to a graduate degree in marital and family therapy.

(c) **Degree requirements.** Applicants must possess at least a masters degree in marital and family therapy or in a mental health, behavioral science, or counseling related field. In order to be considered acceptable, the graduate degree(s) shall:

(1) be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).; or

(2) be from a program deemed content-equivalent to the COAMFTE educational requirements as determined by the Board. The degree must include a program whose primary focus is clearly to prepare the applicant for a career in family therapy and be listed in the college or university catalog.; or

(3) be from a non-COAMFTE approved program or a program that has not been deemed equivalent by the Board. The applicant must submit their educational credentials to the Board or the Board's designated credentialing agency for evaluation and determination of whether the program satisfies the requirements of Subchapter 5. Applicants with degrees earned from institutions outside the United States must provide an acceptable comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is acceptable to the Board or the Board's designated credentialing agency, and any other requirement(s) the Board deems necessary.

(d) **Coursework requirements.** In order to qualify as a "content-equivalent" degree, a graduate transcript must document the minimum number of graduate hours and knowledge areas listed below. Academic courses, three (3) semester hours or four (4) quarter credit hours, must include a minimum of 45 class hours for each course.

(1) Theoretical Foundations of Marital and Family Systems - at least three (3) courses which deals with one or more of the following areas: 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).

(2) Assessment and Treatment in Marital and Family Therapy - at least three (3) courses which deals with one or more of the following areas: 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, transgenerational.

(3) Human Development - at least three (3) courses which deals with one or more of the following areas: human development; personality theory; human sexuality, psychopathology. At least one (1) course must be in psychopathology or abnormal human behavior.

(4) Ethics and Professional Studies - at least one (1) course which deals with one or more of the following areas: professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and interprofessional cooperation; ethics; family law.

(5) Research - at least one (1) course which deals with one or more of the following areas: research design, methods, statistics; research in marital and family studies and therapy.

(6) Practicum/Internship - at least one (1) course of an organized practicum or internship with at least three hundred (300) clock hours in marital and family therapy with planned experiences providing classroom and field experience with clients under the supervision of college or university approved marital and family therapy professionals.

(e) **Experience requirement.**

(1) Applicants must complete two (2) calendar years of work in marital and family therapy following the receipt of the qualifying degree.

(2) These two years must be completed under a supervisor approved by the Board.

(f) **Examination.** Applicants must achieve a passing score on the LMFT examinations.