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 aamft.org

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?

Colorado requires a minimum of 45 credit hours for masters degrees and 60 credit hours for a doctoral degree.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Colorado defines an “approved school” to mean any university or other institution of higher education offering a full-time graduate course of study in marriage and family therapy accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, a nationally recognized accrediting agency as determined by the board, or a substantially equivalent program approved by the board. This degree is required to include a practicum or internship in the principles and practice of marriage and family therapy.

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

While Colorado encourages COAMFTE accreditations, 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. If degree is from a non-COAMFTE accredited program, the applicant must complete the Education Equivalency Worksheet and submit all required supporting documentation, including course syllabi and/or descriptions of courses from the school in which the material was covered.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to be have met this educational requirement for licensure?

Colorado requires the following course work:

Marital and Family Studies (courses must equal 9 semester hours) – family development and interactional patterns across the life cycle of the individual as well as the family; family life cycle; theories of family development; marriage and/or the family; sociology of the family; families under stress; the contemporary family; the family in a social context; the multi-cultural family; youth/adult/aging and the family; family subsystems; individual, interpersonal relationships (marital, parental, sibling).

Marital and Family Therapy (courses must equal 9 semester hours) – family therapy methodology; family assessment; treatment and intervention methods; overview of major clinical theories of marital
and family therapy (communications, structural, strategic, transgenerational, experiential, object relations, contextual, and systemic).

Human development (courses must equal 9 semester hours) – significant material on issues of gender, human development, personality theory, human sexuality, psychopathology, and human behavior.

Professional studies (course(s) must equal 3 semester hours) – professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and inter-professional cooperation; ethics and family law.

Research (course(s) must equal 3 semester hours) – research design, methods, statistics, and research in marital and family studies and therapy.

The program must include a supervised practicum/internship appropriate to the practice of marriage and family therapy.

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

Colorado requires that if the masters or doctoral degree was awarded in 1979 or after, the applicant must prove that s/he completed a minimum of 300 hours of supervised practicum/internship, or a combination of the two, in the principles and practice of marriage and family therapy. The practicum/internship must include at least 15 hours/week, of which approximately 8-10 hours are spent in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis, and intervention. Colorado does not specify a minimum number of relational hours required during practicum.

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

Colorado does not specify the number of supervision hours a student must receive during practicum.

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

Colorado 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?

Colorado requires two years of post-master's practice in individual and marriage and family therapy under supervision that must include at least 1,500 hours of face-to-face direct client contact, 1,000 of which must be with couples and families for the purpose of diagnosis, assessment and intervention obtained in such a manner that they are reasonably uniformly distributed over a minimum of 24 months.

Colorado requires that one year of post-doctoral practice in individual and marriage and family therapy under supervision must include at least 1,500 hours of face-to-face direct client contact, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face direct client contact with couples and families for the purpose of diagnosis, assessment and intervention obtained in such a manner that they are reasonably uniformly distributed over a minimum of 12 months.

Additional Note: In order to be in compliance with the Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act of 2010, an applicant for licensure is required to complete an online profile on the Colorado website at www.dora.state.co.us/hppp. An individual cannot start a profile until the Division of Registrations receives their application and enters it into the database.

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

Colorado requires an applicant with a masters degree must obtain 2000 hours of experience.

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

Colorado requires that the applicant who is engaged in post-masters work must complete 100 hours of supervision over a period of 24 months (50 hours face-to-face). The individual engaged in post-doctoral supervision must complete 75 hours over a period of 12 months (37.5 hours face-to-face).

Colorado defines "individual supervision" to mean supervision rendered to one individual at a time. Colorado defines "group supervision" to mean supervision rendered to not more than ten (10) individuals at one time.

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

The Colorado Board may approve an individual who meets any of the following criteria as a supervisor:

(1) A marriage and family therapist or any other licensed mental health professional who, at the time of the supervision, possessed a license in good standing in the jurisdiction in which the applicant's services were rendered, and who, at the time of the supervision, had education, clinical experience, and clinical supervisory experience in the field of marriage and family therapy.

(2) A marriage and family therapist who, at the time of the supervision, was an approved supervisor under the auspices of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.
(3) A person who presents proof satisfactory to the Board that, at the time of the supervision, s/he was licensed in good standing as a marriage and family therapist, a professional counselor, a psychologist, or a clinical social worker under the Act and who, at the time of the supervision, had education, clinical experience, and clinical supervisory experience in the field of marriage and family therapy substantially equivalent to a licensed marriage and family therapist.

(4) A marriage and family therapist may be approved as a supervisor, who, at the time of the supervision, was licensed at the highest possible level in another jurisdiction in which the applicant's services were performed. The Board will consider post-degree supervised experience obtained in another jurisdiction by an individual who is not certified or licensed as a marriage and family therapist in the other jurisdiction, if the jurisdiction in which such person was practicing did not provide for such certification, licensure, listing or registration. The applicant’s supervisor is required to document to the satisfaction of the Board her/his competence in the same field of marriage and family therapy as that in which the applicant is seeking licensure.

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

Yes. A student in their last semester or quarter of either a Commission On Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) approved or non-COAMFTE approved graduate degree program may apply directly to the AMFTRB to sit for the marriage and family therapist examination.

Additional Note: All Colorado applicants for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist are required to pass a Board approved Jurisprudence Examination.

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

None are noted in Colorado.

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

It is unclear if Colorado has a process to review these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Colorado Division of Registrations
Office of Licensing—Marriage and Family Therapist
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 894-7745
FAX: (303) 894-7746
Website: www.dora.state.co.us/mental-health/mft/
Email: ronne.hines@dora.state.co.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 are noted in Colorado.