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

District of Columbia does not accept the Northcentral University Marriage and Family Therapy degree as meeting MFT licensure requirements

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?

District of Columbia requires that qualifying degrees to consist of at least sixty (60) semester hours in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) and shall not include online degree programs.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

District of Columbia requires applicants for licensure must have successfully completed a master’s degree or a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a recognized educational institution; or possess a graduate degree in an allied field as defined in Board rules, from a recognized educational institution and has successfully completed graduate level course work which is equivalent to a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy, as determined by the Board.

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

District of Columbia encourages but does not require COAMFTE accreditation.

Does the State accept a COAMFTE accredited degree without requiring the applicant to list specific courses on the license application?

No.

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

The District of Columbia requires that the qualifying graduate degree for MFT licensure shall include a total of at least thirty-nine (39) semester hours in the following areas:

(a) A minimum of three (3) semester hours in family systems theories and their application in working with a wide variety of family structures, which shall include: (1) Studies of families in transition, nontraditional families and blended families; and (2) A diverse range of marriage and family issues presented in a clinical setting;

(b) A minimum of six (6) semester hours of marriage and family studies, which shall include:
(1) Theoretical foundations, history, philosophy, etiology and contemporary conceptual directions of marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling; and (2) Preventative approaches, including premarital counseling, parent skill training and relationship enhancement, for working with couples, families, individuals, subsystems and other systems;

(c) A minimum of nine (9) semester hours of marriage and family therapy, which shall include: (1) The practice of marriage and family therapy related to theory, and a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of the major models of marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling; and

(2) Interviewing and assessment skills for working with couples, families, individuals, subsystems and other systems, and skills in the appropriate implementation of systematic interventions across a variety of marriage and family issues presented in a clinical setting, including socioeconomic, abuse and addiction issues;

(d) A minimum of nine (9) semester hours of human development, which shall include: (1) Individual development and transitions across the life span; (2) Family, marital and couple life cycle development and family relationships, family of origin and intergenerational influences, cultural influences, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, social and equity issues, and disability; (3) Human sexual development, function and dysfunction, impacts on individuals, couples, and families, and strategies for intervention and resolution; and (4) Issues of violence, abuse, and substance use in a relational context, and strategies for intervention and resolution;

(e) A minimum of six (6) semester hours of psychological and mental health competency which shall include: (1) Psychopathology, including etiology, assessment, evaluation, and treatment of mental disorders, use of the current diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, differential diagnosis, and multiaxial diagnosis; (2) Standard mental health diagnostic assessment methods and instruments, including standardized tests; and (3) Psychotropic medications and the role of referral to and cooperation with other mental health practitioners in treatment planning, and case management skills for working with individuals, couples, and families;

(f) A minimum of three (3) semester hours of professional ethics and identity, which shall include:

(1) Professional identity, including professional socialization, professional organizations, training standards, credentialing bodies, licensure, certification, practice settings, and collaboration with other disciplines; (2) Ethical and legal issues related to the practice of marriage and family therapy, legal responsibilities of marriage and family therapy and marriage and family counseling practice and research, business aspects, reimbursement, record keeping, family law, confidentiality issues, and the relevant code of ethics, including the code of ethics specified by the Board; and (3) The interface between therapist responsibility and the professional, social, and political context of treatment; and

(g) A minimum of three (3) semester hours of research, which shall include: (1) Research in marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling and its application to working with couples and families; and 2) Research methodology, quantitative and qualitative methods, statistics, data analysis, ethics, and legal considerations of conducting research, and evaluation of research."
How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?

District of Columbia does not specifically require a practicum experience.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

District of Columbia does not specifically require a practicum experience.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

District of Columbia does not specifically require a practicum experience.
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?

An applicant for licensure in the District of Columbia is required to furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has completed a minimum of two (2) years of post-graduate work, within five (5) years of graduation, consisting of supervised clinical work experience in marriage and family therapy following completion of the first qualifying graduate degree and practicum required as part of the course of study.

An applicant for licensure in the District of Columbia is required to document successful completion of a minimum of fifteen hundred (1,500) hours of face-to-face contact with couples, families and individuals for the purpose of assessment and intervention.

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

The District of Columbia does not specify a minimum number of required experience 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?

The District of Columbia requires minimum of three hundred (300) hours of supervision of marriage and family therapy, with at least one hundred (100) hours being individual supervision. The remaining hours may be group supervision.

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

The District of Columbia requires that supervision shall be provided by supervisors approved by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) or by the Board.

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?

None are noted in the District of Columbia.

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

It is unclear if District of Columbia will conduct pre-application reviews.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

District of Columbia Board of Marriage and Family Therapy
899 North Capitol St. NE 1st Floor Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (877) 672-2174; (202) 478-5791
Fax: (202) 727-8471
Email: Thelma.Aboagye@dc.gov
Website: www.hpla.doh.dc.gov/hpla/cwp/view,A,1195,Q,490654.asp

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 District of Columbia.