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 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?

An applicant for licensure in Illinois must have completed a minimum of 48 semester hours or equivalent hours of graduate coursework.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Any person who applies for licensure in Illinois must hold a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy approved by the Department from a regionally accredited educational institution; or hold a master's or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in marriage and family therapy or in a related field with an equivalent course of study in marriage and family therapy that is recommended by the Board and approved by the Department; or hold a master's or doctoral degree from a program accredited by the commission on accreditations for marriage and family therapy education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapists.

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

Illinois 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.

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

The Illinois Board requires the following courses. Courses are evaluated according to course content rather than course title. A course is defined as an integrated, organized course of study. No student designed courses, independent study courses, workshops, on-line or correspondence courses may be used to satisfy the core courses. Course descriptions and syllabi are required for courses whose titles do not reflect the content described as follows:

Individual Development and Family Relations. Topics in marriage and family studies must be addressed in a minimum of 1 course (3 semester hours or equivalent). Topics that may be counted toward this area of study include family development and family interactional patterns across the life cycle of the individual as well as the family. Courses may include the study of: family life cycle; theories of family development; marriage and/or family dynamics; sociology of the family; families under stress; the contemporary family; social, cultural, and spiritual foundations of family life; the cross-cultural family;
gender studies; youth/adult/aging and the family; family subsystems; interpersonal relationships (marriage, parenting, sibling); human development; lifestyle and career development; personality theory; and human sexuality.

Theoretical Foundations and Clinical Practice. Topics in marriage and family therapy must be addressed in a minimum of 6 courses (18 semester hours or equivalent). The following topics must be covered: i) the historical development, theoretical and empirical foundations, and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy; ii) overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy that offer conceptualizations and methods for working conjointly with two or more clients present in therapy sessions who are in significant relationships with each other outside the therapy context. These clinical theories shall include those in major textbooks in marriage and family therapy, such as: communications, contextual, experiential, object relations, strategic, behavioral, structural, systemic, transgenerational; iii) assessment and evaluation of individuals (children, adolescents, and adults), couples and families; iv) treatment and intervention methods for working with individuals (children, adolescents and adults), couples, families and groups in therapy; v) assessment and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral and interpersonal disorders and psychopathology, including making clinical assessments, certifying diagnoses, prescribing treatment and signing off on treatment plans for persons with mental illnesses or other clinical disorders; vi) contemporary issues, which include but are not limited to gender, violence, addictions, abuse, psychopharmacology, physical health and illness in the treatment of individuals, couples, and families from a relational/systemic perspective; sexual functioning, sexual orientation, and sex therapy as they relate to couple, marriage and family therapy theory and practice; significant material on diversity and discrimination as it relates to couple and family therapy theory and practice; vii) crisis intervention. The coursework in this section must balance methods for working individually (one client in a therapy session), and for working conjointly with at least two clients present in therapy sessions who are in significant relationships with each other outside the therapy context, and must include methods for working with groups.

Professional Studies and Ethics. Topics in professional studies and ethics must be addressed in a minimum of 1 course (3 semester hours or equivalent) that includes unique professional and ethical situations involved with conjoint therapies. Topics that may be counted toward this area of study include: professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and interprofessional cooperation; ethics; family law; unique professional and ethical situations involved with conjoint therapies.

Research. Topics in research must be addressed in a minimum of 1 course (3 semester hours or equivalent). Topics that may be counted toward this area of study include: research design and methods; statistics; research in a mental health field.

Clinical Practicum/Internship. (300 hours) – 15 hours per week, approximately 8-10 hours in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, families and groups for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment.)
How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?

Illinois requires 300 client contact hours during practicum. More specifically, Illinois requires 15 hours per week, approximately 8-10 hours in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, families and groups for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

Illinois requires 100 hours of supervision hours during practicum.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Illinois 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?

Illinois requires an applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist, following receipt of the first qualifying education degree, to complete at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact with individuals, couples and families for the purpose of evaluation and treatment of mental, emotional, behavioral and interpersonal disorders and psychopathology for a period of at least 2 years. At least 350 hours of the 1000 hours of face-to-face client contact must involve working with only one client present in therapy sessions, and at least 350 hours of the 1000 hours of face-to-face client contact must involve conjoint therapy, i.e., working with two or more clients present in therapy sessions who are in significant relationships with each other outside the therapy context.

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

An applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist in Illinois must, following receipt of the first qualifying education degree, complete at least 3000 hours of professional work experience in not less than a 2 year period. Professional work experience shall be obtained in not less than 2 years and no more than 5 years.

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

An applicant for licensure in Illinois must complete 200 hours of clinical supervision of marriage and family therapy. At least 100 of these 200 clinical supervision hours must occur following the receipt of the first qualifying degree. Up to 100 hours of clinical supervision accumulated during graduate training may be counted toward the required 200 hours of clinical supervision. At least 100 of the 200 hours of clinical supervision must be completed with a marriage and family therapy supervisor who has met certain requirements (see below).

Additional Notes:

Illinois rules define "supervision" as the face to face conversation with a supervisor, usually in periods of approximately one hour each. "Individual supervision" shall mean a maximum of 2 supervisees meeting with one supervisor. "Group supervision" is defined as a maximum of 6 supervisees meeting with one supervisor. A doctoral practicum or internship may be applied toward the 200-hour clinical supervision requirement.

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

Illinois requires that at least 100 of the 200 hours of clinical supervision, whether accumulated during or after graduate training for the first qualifying degree, shall have been received from an individual(s) who, at the time the supervision took place:

1) was certified as an approved supervisor or supervisor in training by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; or
2) had held an active license as a marriage and family therapist with 5 years clinical experience providing marriage and family therapy after his or her first qualifying degree; or

3) held an active clinical membership certification with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy for at least 5 years; or

4) had: A) held an active license as a licensed clinical psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed clinical professional counselor or a psychiatrist licensed under the Medical Practice Act; B) 5 years clinical experience providing marriage and family therapy as defined in Illinois rules; C) provided at least 1000 hours of conjoint therapy; and D) either 2 years experience providing clinical supervision of marriage and family therapy (including the supervision of conjoint therapy) or completed a 1 semester hour graduate course in marriage and family therapy supervision (at least 15 contact hours) or the equivalent prior to or during the supervision provided the applicant.

The other 100 hours of the clinical supervision must have been received as part of a practicum or internship experience and/or from an individual(s) who, at the time the supervision took place, was a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor or psychiatrist licensed under the Medical Practice Act with 5 years experience in his/her discipline.

**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 Illinois.

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

It is unclear if Illinois accepts these requests.

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

Cheryl Fox, Board Administrator
Department of Professional Regulation
320 West Washington, 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62786
217-557-5633 (Fax)
cheryl.fox@illinois.gov
http://www.idfpr.com/profs/info/MarrFamTherapy.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 Illinois.