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?

Indiana requires a minimum of 27 credit hours in courses that cover specific topics as outlined in their rules.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Applicants for licensure in Indiana must have completed at least a Master’s degree or higher in Marriage and Family Therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) or a Master's degree or higher in marriage and family therapy (or in a related area as determined by the board) from an eligible postsecondary educational institution that meets the following requirements:

(1) If the institution was located in the United States or a territory of the United States, and at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution was accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

(2) If the institution was located in Canada, and at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution was a member in good standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

(3) If the institution was located in a foreign country other than Canada, and at the time of the applicant’s graduation the institution: (A) was recognized by the government of the country where the school was located as a program to train in the practice of marriage and family therapy or psychotherapy; and (B) maintained a standard of training substantially equivalent to the standards of institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

An applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist or an applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist associate who has a master's or doctoral degree from a program that did not emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the course work requirement from an institution that is: (1) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education; and (2) recognized by the United States Department of Education.

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

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

An applicant for licensure in Indiana must have completed twenty-seven (27) semester hours of graduate course work that must include graduate level course credits with material in at least the following content areas (the content areas may be combined into any one (1) graduate level course, if the applicant can prove that the course work was devoted to each content area):

(A) Theoretical foundations of marriage and family therapy. Studies that provide an understanding of the epistemology of family therapy. Examples are: A. Theories of individual and family development and transitions across the life-span; and B. Theories of family therapy.

(B) Major models of marriage and family therapy. Studies that provide an understanding of clinical practices and treatments of Family Therapy. Examples are: A. Structural and Strategic Family Therapy; B. Brief Family Therapy; C. Solution Oriented Family Therapy; D. Narrative Family Therapy.

(C) Individual development. Studies that provide an understanding of a person's development. Examples are: A. Life-span human development; B. Child psychology and development; C. Adolescent developmental stages; D. Adult in mid-life or menopausal women, etc.

(D) Family development and family relationships. Studies that provide an understanding of family development and varying relationships within the family. Examples are: A. Advanced family studies; B. Family stages during the life cycle.

(E) Clinical problems. Studies that provide an understanding of problems affecting a family system. Examples are: A. Treating the abusing family; B. Family treatment of incest; C. Clinical treatment of alcoholism and other addictions in the family; D. Helping a family cope with crisis.

(F) Collaboration with other disciplines. Studies that provide an understanding of family therapy approaches cooperating with other professionals. Examples are: A. Behavior disorders; B. Medical management and family therapy in ADD and ADHD; C. Psychological Testing and how it relates to borderline families; D. Family therapy in a school setting.

(G) Sexuality. Studies that provide an understanding of sexuality in the family. Examples are: A. Human sexuality; B. Treating sexual dysfunction; C. Principles, practices, and applications of sexual abuse treatment.

(H) Gender and sexual orientation. Studies that provide an understanding of the range of sexual differences. Examples are: A. Human sexuality; B. Gender and transgender clinical problems; C. Comparing and contrasting treatment regarding issues of heterosexuality, bisexuality and homosexuality; D. Homosexual and bisexual couples and families.

(I) Issues of ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, and culture. Studies in this area include, but are not limited to, the following: A. Special clinical problems pertaining to treatment of African American, Asian and Hispanic families; B. Clinical problems of the working poor; C. First generation immigrant families.
(J) Therapy techniques. Studies in this area include, but are not limited to, the following: A. Family therapy skills; B. Family sculpting; C. The use of genograms in family therapy.

(K) Behavioral research that focuses on the interpretation and application of research data as it applies to clinical practice. Studies in this area include, but are not limited to, the following: A. Research methods in child and family studies; B. Qualitative research in marriage and family studies.

The applicant will have not less than one (1) graduate level course of two (2) semester hours in the following areas:

(A) Legal, ethical, and professional standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy or an equivalent course approved by the board. Examples are: A. Professional issues in marriage and family therapy; B. Ethical issues in marriage and family therapy.

(B) Appraisal and assessment for individual or interpersonal disorder or dysfunction. Examples include: A. The use of the DSM in diagnosis; B. Comparing and contrasting the GAF and the GARF.

The following graduate work may not be used to satisfy the content area requirements: (1) Thesis or dissertation work. (2) Practicums, internships, or fieldwork.

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

Indiana requires at least one (1) supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience in a marriage and family counseling setting where the applicant provided five hundred (500) face to face client contact hours of marriage and family therapy services under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist who has at least five (5) years of experience or a qualified supervisor approved by the board.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

Indiana requires that during practicum the applicant must receive one hundred (100) hours of supervision from a licensed marriage and family therapist who has at least five (5) years experience as a qualified supervisor. The requirements may be met by a supervised practice experience that took place away from an institution of higher education but that is certified by an official of the eligible postsecondary educational institution as being equivalent to a graduate level practicum or internship program at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Education, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, or the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Indiana requires a minimum of one year of practicum at an average rate of ten (10) hours of clinical contact per week.
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 a license as a marriage and family therapist in Indiana must have at least two (2) years of clinical experience, during which at least fifty percent (50%) of the applicant’s clients were receiving marriage and family therapy services. The applicant's clinical experience must include one thousand (1,000) hours of post degree clinical experience.

Additional Note:

ALL APPLICANTS EARNING THEIR MASTER’S DEGREE AFTER JULY 1, 2008, WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LMFTA PRIOR TO EARNING ANY POST-GRADUATE CLINICAL HOURS. ANY CLINICAL HOURS EARNED PRIOR TO THE RECEIPT OF YOUR LMFTA WILL NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD THE 1000 HOURS NEEDED TO MEET THE LMFT SUPERVISION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT.

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

Indiana requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 1000 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?

Applicants for licensure in Indiana must submit proof of completion of at least two hundred (200) hours of post degree clinical supervision, of which one hundred (100) hours must be individual supervision under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist who has at least five (5) years of experience or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board.

Beginning November 1, 2011, the Indiana Board will no longer issue additional temporary permits to any applicant who fails the examination. If an individual does not take the first available examination, the individual may not begin accumulating any post degree clinical experience hours toward licensure as a marriage and family therapist until the individual passes the examination.

A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised work experience requirement.

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

A qualified supervisor in Indiana may be any of the following:

1.) A licensed marriage and family therapist who has at least five (5) years of experience; or

2.) An American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) approved supervisor; or

3.) An AAMFT approved supervisor candidate; or

4.) A supervisor who a) has possession of a masters degree or higher in a mental health field; and b) has five (5) years of post-master’s professional practice experience; and c) is supervising within their scope of experience and training.
**Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?**

Yes. An applicant who has failed the initial examination and two (2) subsequent examinations shall be disqualified from retaking the examination until satisfactory documentation of additional education and experience has been received from the applicant and approved by the Board. This documentation may consist of additional coursework, internship experiences, supervision or any combination of the aforementioned items.

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

None are noted in Indiana.

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

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

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

Thomas McGee, Board Director  
Professional Licensing Agency  
Attn: Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board  
402 West Washington Street, Room W-072  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
Board Phone Number: (317) 234-2064  FREE (317) 234-2064  
Board Fax Numbers: (317) 233-4236 & (317) 233-5559  
Board Email Address: pla5@pla.IN.gov

**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 Indiana.