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

Kansas does not accept the Northcentral University Marriage and Family Therapy degree for licensure

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?

Kansas does not specify a minimum number of required credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Kansas requires that an applicant for licensure must have completed a master's or doctoral degree from a marriage and family therapy program, in an educational institution with standards consistent with those of the state universities of Kansas, approved by the board; or has completed a master's or doctoral degree from an educational institution in a related field for which the course work is considered by the board to be equivalent to that provided in Kansas rules and consists of a minimum of nine semester hours in human development, nine semester hours in theories of marriage and family functioning, nine semester hours of marital and family assessment and therapy, three semester hours in professional studies and three semester hours in research; or completed a master's or doctoral degree from an educational institution in a related field with additional work from an educational program in marriage and family therapy approved by the board and such degree program and additional work includes the course work requirements provided in Kansas rules.

In addition to the above, the applicant shall have completed no less than 50% of the coursework for the degree “in residence” at one institution, and the required practicum shall be completed at the same institution.

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

While Kansas encourages COAMFTE accreditation, it does 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.

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

Kansas requires that each marriage and family therapy student successfully complete a minimum of nine graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, in each of the following substantive content areas:
(A) Human development and family study courses in which the interplay between interpersonal and intrapersonal development is stressed and issues of gender, ethnicity, and ecosystems are addressed as they relate to human development. These courses may include studies in sexuality, sexual functioning, sexual identity, sexism, stereotyping, and racism;

(B) Theoretical foundations of marital and family functioning courses, including an overview of the historical development of systems theory and cybernetics, a study of the life cycle of the family, and a study of family processes and the modification of family structures over time. These courses may include studies in the birth of the first child, adolescent sexual development, death of a family member, and issues of context, including gender and ethnicity; and

C) Marital and family assessment and therapy courses that underscore the interdependence between diagnosis or assessment and treatment by insuring that students can use appropriate assessment instruments and methods within a systemic context. These courses shall provide a thorough understanding of the major theoretical models of systemic change, including structural, strategic, intergenerational, contextual, experiential, systemic, and behavioral theories. These courses also shall teach the principles and techniques evolving from each theory. In addition, the courses shall identify the indications and contraindications for use of each theory or technique, and shall address the rationale for intervention, the role of the therapist, and the importance of considering gender and ethnicity in selecting and using assessment and treatment methods.

Each marriage and family therapy student successfully complete a minimum of three graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, in each of the following substantive content areas:

(A) A professional study course that contributes to the development of a professional attitude and identity by examining the role of professional socialization, professional organizations, licensure and certification, the code of ethics, the legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, and interprofessional cooperation, as these topics relate to the profession and practice of marriage and family therapy. A generic course in ethics shall not be considered appropriate for this area of study; and

(B) A research course in which students gain an understanding of research methodology, data analysis, computer research skills, and evaluation and critical examination of professional research reports. The emphasis of the course shall be placed on the quantitative and qualitative research that is relevant to marriage and family therapy.

Additional Notes:

In addition to, or as a part of the academic requirements for the graduate degree, Kansas requires the completion of 15 graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, supporting diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders using the “diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders” as specified in Kansas rules. Three of the 15 semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, shall consist of a discrete academic course with the primary and explicit focus of psychopathology and the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders as classified in the “diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders.” The remaining 12 graduate semester credit hours, or their academic equivalent, shall consist of academic courses with the primary and explicit focus of diagnostic assessment, interdisciplinary referral and collaboration, treatment approaches, and professional ethics or other coursework that specifically contains identifiable, equivalent instruction. The 15 graduate semester
credit hours shall be from an educational institution and graduate degree program meeting the requirements described in Kansas rules.

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

Kansas requires that an applicant for licensure from an accredited program must have completed a graduate level supervised clinical practicum of supervised professional experience including psychotherapy and assessment with individuals, couples, families or groups, integrating diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders with use of the American psychiatric association's diagnostic and statistical manual, with not less than 350 hours of direct client contact or additional postgraduate supervised experience as determined by the board.

Each marriage and family therapy program that is not accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education shall meet all of these conditions:

(1) The program requires satisfactory completion by the applicant of a marriage and family therapy practicum, or its equivalent, that is provided by the program and that fulfills these conditions:

(A) Is a part-time clinical experience that integrates didactic learning with clinical experience and that is completed concurrently with didactic coursework at a typical rate of five to 10 hours of direct client contact per week;

(B) consists of at least 500 total hours of client contact; and

(C) includes at least 100 total hours of supervision that is provided by the program's core faculty and off-site supervisors. The practicum shall provide a minimum of 50 supervised hours in an individual format and no more than 50 supervised hours in a group format. Supervision shall occur at least once a week.

**Additional Notes:**

Kansas ruled define "'group format,'" for the purposes of clinical practicum supervision, to mean face-to-face, simultaneous supervision with not more than six supervisees. "'Individual format,'" for the purposes of clinical practicum supervision, means face-to-face supervision with one supervisor and one supervisee.

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

Kansas requires 100 hours of supervision, a minimum of 50 individual, for non-COAMFTE accredited programs during practicum.

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

Kansas does not specify a minimum 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?

Kansas requires a minimum of 24 months to complete 1500 hours of direct client contact providing psychotherapy and assessments.

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

Kansas requires 4000 hours of post-graduate experience that must be obtained in no less than 24 months from the date supervision begins. There is no mandatory number of hours that must be met weekly or monthly during supervision, except the two supervision sessions per month.

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

Kansas requires 150 hours of supervision. The supervision shall be provided throughout the entirety of the postgraduate supervised professional experience with at least one hour of clinical supervision each week that the supervisee accrues at least 15 hours of direct client contact. Of the 150 required supervision hours, at least 50 hours must be individual, face-to-face supervision. The remaining 100 hours may be done in either group or individual supervision. There can be no more than 6 supervisees in the group. There must be at least two separate supervision sessions per month, at least one of which shall be one-on-one individual supervision. You may begin once your training plan has been approved by the BSRB.

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

Kansas requires that a clinical supervisor shall meet one of the following requirements:

1. The clinical supervisor shall be a clinical marriage and family therapist (LCMFT) who is licensed in Kansas and who has engaged in the independent practice of clinical marriage and family therapy, including the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders for at least 2 years beyond their licensure date.

2. If an LCMFT is not available, the clinical supervisor may be a Licensed Psychologist (LP), Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW), Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), or a Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist (LCP). The qualifying individual shall have no less than two years of clinical practice beyond the qualifying licensure date.

Additional Notes:

In addition to the above requirements, each clinical supervisor shall meet these requirements:

(1) Provide oversight, guidance, and direction of the supervisee's clinical practice of marriage and family therapy by assessing and evaluating the supervisee's performance;

(2) conduct supervision as a process distinct from personal therapy, didactic instruction, or marriage and family therapy consultation;
(3) provide documentation of supervisory qualifications to the supervisee;

(4) periodically evaluate the supervisee's clinical functioning;

(5) provide supervision in accordance with the clinical supervision training plan;

(6) maintain documentation of supervision in accordance with the clinical supervision training plan;

(7) provide the documentation required by the board when a supervisee completes the postgraduate supervised professional experience. The supervisor shall submit this documentation on board-approved forms and in a manner that will enable the board to evaluate the extent and quality of the supervisee's professional experience and assign credit for that experience;

(8) provide a level of supervision that is commensurate with the education, training, experience, and ability of both the supervisor and the supervisee; and

(9) ensure that each client knows that the supervisee is practicing marriage and family therapy under supervision.

Additional Note:

Kansas requires that each supervisor and supervisee shall develop and co-sign a written clinical supervision training plan on forms provided by the board at the beginning of the supervisory relationship. The supervisee shall submit this plan to the board and shall receive board approval of the plan before any supervised professional experience hours can begin to accrue. This plan shall clearly define and delineate the following items:

1. The supervisory context;
2. A summary of the anticipated types of clients and the services to be provided;
3. The format and schedule of supervision;
4. A plan for documenting the following information: (A) The date of each supervisory meeting; (B) the length of each supervisory meeting; (C) a designation of each supervisory meeting as an individual or group meeting; (D) a designation of each supervisory meeting as conducted in the same physical space or otherwise, in the case of emergency; and (E) an evaluation of the supervisee's progress under clinical supervision;
5. A plan to notify clients of the following information: (A) The fact that the supervisee is practicing marriage and family therapy under supervision; (B) the limits of client confidentiality within the supervisory process; and (C) the name, address, and telephone number of the clinical supervisor;
6. The date on which the parties entered into the clinical supervision training plan and the time frame that the plan is intended to encompass;
7. An agreement to amend or renegotiate the terms of the clinical supervision training plan, if warranted, including written notification of these changes to the board office, as provided in subsection (h);
8. The supervisee's informed consent for the supervisor to discuss supervision or performance issues with the supervisee's clients, the supervisee's other marriage and family therapy or employment supervisors, the board, or any other individual or entity to which either the supervisee or the supervisor is professionally accountable; and
9. A statement signed by each supervisor and supervisee acknowledging that each person has read and agrees to the postgraduate supervised professional experience requirements set forth in this regulation. (h) All changes to the clinical supervision training plan shall be submitted by the supervisee to the board for its approval.
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 Kansas.

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

It is unclear if Kansas will review these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
712 South Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603-3817
785-296-3240
785-296-3112 (Fax)
Email: Tom.Hawk@bsrb.state.ks.us
Website: http://www.ksbsrb.org/

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)

"Semester credit hour," as used in K.A.R. 102-5-3, means a minimum of 13 clock hours of formal, didactic classroom instruction that occurred over the course of an academic semester and for which the applicant received formal graduate academic credit.

“In residence,” when used to describe a student, means that the student is present at the physical location of the institution for the purpose of completing coursework during which the student and one or more core faculty members are in face-to-face contact.