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.

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?

Kentucky does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Kentucky requires applicants for licensure to have completed a master's or doctoral degree program in marriage and family therapy, from a regionally-accredited educational institution, or a master's, post-master's, or doctoral program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education or any of its successor organizations, or an equivalent course of study as defined by the board.

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

While Kentucky 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?

The Kentucky board requires courses in the following content areas:

Marriage and family studies. This area shall include a minimum of three (3) courses (nine (9) semester hours). Courses in this area shall be theoretical in nature and have a major focus of system theory orientation, and may include: (a) Systems theory; (b) Family development; (c) Blended families; (d) Cultural issues in families; (e) Family subsystems; (f) Major models of family systems theory; or (g) Gender issues in families;

Marriage and family therapy. This area shall include a minimum of three (3) courses (nine (9) semester hours). Courses in this area shall have a major focus on family systems theory and systemic therapeutic interventions. Courses shall relate to major theories of family systems change and therapeutic practices evolving from each theoretical model. Examples include: (a) Structural communications family therapy; (b) Strategic object relations family therapy; (c) Behavioral family therapy; (d) Intergenerational family therapy; (e) Solution oriented family therapy; (f) Narrative family therapy; and (g) Systemic sex therapy;
Human development. This area shall include a minimum of three (3) courses (nine (9) semester hours). Courses in this area shall provide knowledge of individual human personality development in both normal and abnormal manifestations. Topic areas include, for example: (a) Human development; (b) Personality theory; (c) Human sexuality; and (d) Effects of gender and cultural issues on human development;

Psychopathology and Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. This area shall include a one (1) course minimum (three (3) semester hours). Courses in this area shall include psychopathology, diagnosis through use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or applications of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to marriage and family therapy;

Professional studies. This area shall include a minimum of one (1) course minimum (three (3) semester hours). Courses include, for example: (a) Professional ethics in marriage and family therapy; (b) Legal responsibilities of the therapist; (c) Professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; (d) Licensure or certification legislation; and (e) Independent practice issues;

Research. This area shall include a minimum of one (1) course minimum (three (3) semester hours). Courses may include: (a) Statistics; (b) Research methods; (c) Quantitative methodology; or (d) Other courses designed to assist the student to understand and perform research.

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

Kentucky requires that the practicum or internship must include a minimum of one (1) year or 300 hours of supervised direct client contact with individuals, couples, and families for family therapy. An applicant who did not complete a clinical practicum in graduate school may satisfy the practicum requirement with his or her first 300 post masters' client contact hours. These hours shall not be counted toward the two (2) years of required post master's experience or the 200 hours of clinical supervision.

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

The number of practicum supervision hours required by Kentucky is not specified.

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

Kentucky requires a minimum of one (1) year or 300 hours of supervised direct client contact.
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?

Kentucky requires applicants for licensure to obtain a minimum of two (2) years experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy consisting of 1,000 hours of direct, face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, and families in the practice of marriage and family therapy under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

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

Kentucky rules do not specify a minimum number of 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?

Kentucky rules define "clinical supervision" to mean the direct, face-to-face interaction between the supervisor and supervisee which utilizes a partnership aimed at enhancing the professional development of supervisees in providing marriage and family therapy services. The use of raw data in a supervision session shall constitute a minimum of fifty (50) hours of the 200 hours of required supervision.

Additional Notes:

Kentucky requires that supervision hours be equally distributed throughout the qualifying period and shall average at least four (4) hours per month as specified in the supervision contract. In addition, supervision hours must involve direct, face-to-face contact between the supervisor and supervisee, unless an alternative form of supervision has been approved by the board based on undue burden for the supervisor or supervisee.

An applicant completing a postgraduate degree program, masters degree program, or doctoral degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Education who also has completed a masters or doctoral degree program in a related field may count clinical contact hours and clinical supervision hours earned in a Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Education postgraduate degree program, masters degree program, or doctoral degree program towards the clinical supervision requirements for licensure.

Kentucky requires that there be a Supervisory Contract that begins prior to a course of supervision for the purpose of meeting licensure requirements. This contract shall be between a marriage and family therapist associate and an approved supervisor in writing. The approved supervisor shall enter into a Plan of Supervision for Clinical Experience with a person who meets the criteria for becoming a marriage and family therapist associate. The approved supervisor shall be responsible for the marriage and family therapist associate’s development and the welfare of the clients served by the marriage and family therapist associate in accordance with the code of ethics established in 201 KAR 32:050 and the provisions in 201 KAR 32:035.
Kentucky rules state that a board-approved supervisor must not supervise more than six (6) marriage and family therapist associates at the same time unless approved by the board. In addition, Kentucky defines "group supervision" as supervision of more than one (1), but less than seven (7), supervisees with the supervisor.

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

Kentucky requires the following qualifications for anyone seeking Board-Approved Supervisors Status (effective January 1, 2011): (a) An American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT) approved supervisor in good standing; (b) An AAMFT supervisor in training; (c) A marriage and family therapist licensed in Kentucky and in good standing with a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy; or (d) A person licensed and in good standing with a minimum of five (5) years of experience as a marriage and family therapist in another state, and who meets the licensure requirements for Kentucky.

To obtain initial board-approved supervisor status in Kentucky, an applicant who is not an AAMFT supervisor or supervisor in training in good standing shall provide proof of completion of six (6) hours of board-approved continuing education courses in supervision. This course shall be taken within the two (2) years preceding the date of application to become a board-approved supervisor. This requirement is in addition to the fifteen (15) hours of continuing education required for licensure renewal. The approved courses may be live or online and shall include: 1. Kentucky law governing the practice of marriage and family therapy, both administrative regulations and statutes; 2. Theories of supervision; 3. Ethical issues involved in supervision; and 4. Supervisor responsibilities such as logs, treatment planning and recording. To maintain board-approved supervisor status, a non-AAMFT approved supervisor shall complete two (2) hours of continuing education in supervision every year.

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 Kentucky.

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

It is unclear if the Kentucky board has a process to pre-preapprove applications.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Kentucky Board of License for Marriage and Family Therapists
911 Leawood Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-3296, ext. 234 (Telephone)
502-696-5849 (Fax)
Email: marcia.egbert@ky.gov
Website: http://mft.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx
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 Kentucky.