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?

Maine requires at least 60 credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

The applicant for licensure in Maine is required to provide documented proof of a master’s degree or a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution that consists of a minimum of 60 semester hours and meets the criteria of paragraph A, B or C below:

A. A counseling degree from a program that was accredited by CACREP as a marital, couple, and family counseling/therapy program at the time the degree was awarded (subject to the 60 semester hour minimum);

B. A counseling degree from a marital, couple, and family counseling/therapy program that was accredited by COAMFTE at the time the degree was awarded at the doctoral level only, provided that the applicant can demonstrate completion of a clinical practicum as described in Maine rules and subject to the 60 semester hour minimum;

C. A counseling degree from a marital, couple and family counseling/therapy program that consisted of a minimum of 60 semester hours as an organized sequence of study that includes curricular experiences and demonstrated knowledge that substantially satisfies each of the nine areas of study described Maine rules.

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

While Maine does encourage these accreditations, they do not require them.

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?

In determining whether a course pertains to an area, the Maine board considers the content of the course as set forth in course descriptions, catalogs, syllabi, lesson plans, assignment lists, reading lists, or other contemporaneous documents; completed coursework produced by the applicant; any reliable information furnished by the applicant, the instructor who taught the course, a member of the academic
department which offered the course, or a senior administrative official of the institution; and the title of the course. No one course will be recognized as satisfying more than one area of study.

Marital and Family Studies. Nine semester hours in theories of family development, general systems theory, theories of family functioning, the family life cycle, sociology of the family, families under stress, contemporary family forms, family subsystems, family of origin and external societal influences, family pathology such as addiction, child abuse and sexual abuse, and other related topics. Three of the nine semester hours must be in general systems theory.

Marital and Family Therapy. Nine semester hours in the study of major marital and family therapy treatment approaches and techniques to provide a substantive understanding of systems change. The course work may include strategic, structural, object relations, integrative, experiential, systems, neoanalytic, communications and behavioral treatment modalities.

Human Development. Six semester hours in the study of human development across the life cycle, personality theory and cognitive development.

Human Sexuality. Studies that provide an understanding of human sexuality over the life cycle, sex roles, sexual function and dysfunction.

Diagnosis and Treatment. Studies that provide an understanding of psychopathology, the diagnosis and statistical manual and its use in counseling, psychopathology, the development of treatment plans and the use of related services, and the role of assessment, intake interviews, and reports.

Professional Orientation. Studies that provide an understanding of professional roles and functions, professional organizations and associations, history and trends within the profession, ethical and legal standards, and professional preparation standards and professional credentialing.

Research and Evaluation. Studies that provide an understanding of the types of research, basic statistics, research report development, research implementation, program evaluation, needs assessment, and ethical and legal considerations associated with research and evaluation.

Practicum. A course of clinical instruction that provides practical experience in counseling for the purpose of developing marriage and family counseling skills. These experiences allow students to perform, on a limited basis, some counseling activities that a regularly employed licensed marriage and family therapist would be expected to perform.

Internship. A full academic year of supervised marriage and family counseling experience consisting of at least 900 clock hours, including a minimum of 360 clock hours of direct client contact. The internship provides an opportunity for the student to perform all the activities that a regularly employed marriage and family therapist would be expected to perform.

Alternative Experience. In lieu of a practicum and internship, an applicant may provide documentation of 1,000 hours of lawfully obtained supervised marriage and family therapy counseling. At least 400 hours must consist of direct clinical contact hours. Documentation must include supervisor affidavits and a copy of the applicant’s final evaluation.
How many client contact hours must a student obtain during practicum, and how many of these must be relational hours?

Maine requires a supervised marriage and family counseling experience consisting of at least 900 clock hours, including a minimum of 360 clock hours of direct client contact.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

Maine does not specify a minimum number of supervision hours during practicum.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Maine requires a practicum course three (3) credit hours and a full academic year of supervised marriage and family counseling.
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?

The applicant for licensure in Maine is required to complete 3000 hours of supervised clinical counseling experience in marriage and family counseling over a period of not less than 2 years following attainment of the qualifying degree. The 3000 hours shall include a minimum of 1000 hours of direct clinical contact hours with couples and families.

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

The applicant for licensure in Maine shall complete 3000 hours of supervised clinical counseling experience in marriage and family counseling over a period of not less than 2 years following attainment of the qualifying degree.

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 conditional licensee in Maine must receive a minimum of 200 hours of clinical supervision with the approved supervisor designated by the licensee. Supervision shall occur with substantial regularity throughout this period at the approximate rate of one hour of supervision per 15 hours of experience. Of the minimum 200 hours of clinical supervision, at least 100 hours shall consist of individual supervision. The approved supervisor may participate by live audio conference or live videoconference in lieu of physical presence in up to 50 hours of individual supervision.

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

Maine requires that the supervisor must be a licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed pastoral counselor, licensed clinical social worker, certified social worker-independent practice, licensed psychologist or licensed psychiatrist not under suspension or probation who meets one of the following additional criteria:

A. Licensed practice for a minimum period of five years, including not more than two years of practice as an entry-level conditional licensee;

B. Certification by a national professional organization in training or supervision; or

[NOTE: For example, certification as an approved clinical supervisor by NBCC.]

C. Thirty contact hours of training in supervision and a minimum of one year of licensed practice at a licensure level higher than entry-level conditional.

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 Maine.

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

It is unclear if Maine has a process to pre-approve applications.

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

Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure  
35 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0035  
Phone: (207) 624-8674  
Fax: (207) 624-8637  
TTY: (888) 577-6690  
Email: counsel.board@maine.gov  
Website: http://www.state.me.us/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/counselors/index.htm

**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 Maine.