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?

Massachusetts requires a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours for all degrees conferred after July 1, 1999. If an applicant's master's or doctoral degree program of study consisted of less than 60 semester hours, evidence of completion of graduate level courses outside of the degree program in the content areas listed in Massachusetts rules and regulations sufficient to meet the 60 semester hour degree, required courses, and internship or practicum requirements must be submitted to the Board for review and approval.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Massachusetts requires a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or related field from a recognized educational institution. A "recognized educational institution" is defined as an educational institution licensed or accredited by the state in which it is located which meets national standards for the granting of a master's or doctoral degree. “National Standards” shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, approval by the United States Department of Education.

Additional notes:

The program in Marriage and Family Therapy must be offered by an accredited institution of higher education, have an identified Marriage and Family Therapy faculty, include a supervised practice and/or internships consistent with the requirements in Massachusetts rules, and the field based supervisor of the supervised internship must meet the requirements of an “Approved Supervisor” as defined in Massachusetts rules.

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

Massachusetts 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?

Massachusetts does not require a listing of courses in the application, but does require that educational transcripts be submitted to the Board.

What courses does the State require an applicant to have taken in order to be have met this educational requirement for licensure?
Massachusetts requires three graduate level courses in each of the following content areas (Total courses required = nine):

a. Marital and Family Studies. Family life cycle; sociology of the family; families under stress; the contemporary family; family in a social context; the cross-cultural family; and youth/adult/aging and the family; family subsystems; individual, interpersonal relationships (marital, parental, sibling).
b. Marital and Family Therapy. Family therapy methodology; family assessment; treatment and intervention methods; overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy.
c. Human Development. Human development; personality theory; human sexuality; psychopathology; behavior-pathology. One course in this category must be in psychopathology or its equivalent.

Massachusetts requires one graduate level course in each of the following content areas (Total courses required = 2):

a. Professional Studies. Professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; legal responsibilities and liabilities; independent practice and interprofessional cooperation; ethics; family law
b. Research. Research design; methods; statistics; research in marital and family studies and therapy.

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

Massachusetts requires a supervised internship or practicum in marriage and family therapy be included in the masters or doctoral program of study. The internship or practicum shall include a minimum of 300 hours of direct/face to face client contact with individuals, family groups, couples, groups or organizations (public or private) under the direction of an approved supervisor.

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

Massachusetts requires that the practicum supervision shall consist of 100 face-to-face hours, of which 50 must be individual supervision. In addition, of the 100 hours of supervision, 25 hours must be supervision of direct observation or audio or videotape supervision.

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

Massachusetts 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?

Massachusetts requires a minimum of two years full-time or equivalent part-time (3360 hours) supervised clinical experience in marriage and family therapy that includes a minimum of 1000 hours face-to-face contact hours of clinical experience. Of those 1000 hours, a minimum 500 hours must be specifically face-to-face contact hours of clinical experience with couples and families. Private practice settings are not considered acceptable settings for this post-masters supervised clinical experience.

Massachusetts defines "full-time" as 35 hours per week/48 weeks per year. The full-time practice of marriage and family therapy includes at least ten hours per week of clinical work with individuals, family groups, couples, groups or organizations (public or private).

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

Massachusetts requires 3360 hours of experience after graduating.

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

Massachusetts requires 200 hours of supervision from an approved supervisor, of which 100 hours must be individual supervision.

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

Massachusetts defines an Approved Supervisor as one of the following:

(a) A marriage and family therapist designated as an "Approved Supervisor" by the AAMFT to supervise the clinical practice of marriage and family therapists, or

(b) a licensed marriage and family therapist, rehabilitation counselor, educational psychologist, mental health counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist, all of whom holds a master’s degree in either social work, marriage and family therapy, rehabilitation counseling, educational psychology, counseling or an equivalent field, or holds a doctorate degree in psychology, or a medical degree with a sub-specialization in psychiatry, and who: 1. has had primary supervisory responsibility for two practitioners providing marriage and family therapy for a period of two years or the equivalent; or 2. holds either a teaching or supervisory position in a recognized educational institution, institute or agency which trains marriage and family therapists, provides clinical services to individuals, couples and families on a regular basis, or offers graduate degrees in marriage and family therapy or a related field.

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

It is unclear if Massachusetts accepts these requests.

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

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02118-6100
Website: http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/mh/
Email: leija.t.meadows@state.ma.us

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)

Massachusetts has an extensive policy with regard to all distance or electronic-assisted provision of clinical services that includes (this is a partial listing) the following statements:

1. The services offered by licensees of this Board across a distance by electronic means, fall within the jurisdiction of the Board just as traditional, face-to-face services do. Therefore all Board policies and regulations will apply to these services.

2. Distance delivery of counseling and therapy is considered to occur in two locations: where the client is located and where the clinician is located.

3. Therefore, the provision of counseling and/or therapy to individuals located within Massachusetts at the time services are occurring, are considered to fall under the jurisdiction of the Board, regardless of the location of the provider.

4. Mental health professionals licensed by any jurisdiction other than Massachusetts, and not licensed by any Massachusetts Board or not eligible for an exception to Massachusetts licensure, are considered unlicensed by this Board for practice in Massachusetts.

5. Mental health professionals licensed by other jurisdictions who wish to provide services to clients within Massachusetts, are encouraged to apply for Massachusetts licensure.