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?

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

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Minnesota requires applicants for licensure as a marriage and family therapist to have completed a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program in a regionally accredited educational institution or from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; or has completed a master’s or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in a related field for which the course work is considered by the board to be equivalent to that outlined in Minnesota rules and regulations.

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

Minnesota 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?

This is unclear. However, Minnesota rules state that the burden is on the applicant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the coursework they took is equivalent to the requirements outlined in Minnesota rules.

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

Minnesota requires that for a master’s or doctoral degree is equivalent to a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy, it must be from a regionally accredited institution and contain the following coursework:

A. nine semester hours in human development covering human development, human behavior, personality theory, human sexuality, psychopathology including the assessment and diagnosis of mental illness, and behavior-pathology;

B. nine semester hours in marital and family studies covering theories of family development, theories of family functioning, the family life cycle, sociology of the family, families under stress, contemporary family forms, family subsystems, and theories of marital and family interaction;
C. Nine semester hours in marital and family therapy covering marital and family communication, family psychology, family therapy, methods of intervention, family assessment, treatment planning, sex therapy, major theories of marital and family therapy such as structural, strategic, transgenerational, experiential, object relations, contextual, and systemic therapy;

D. Three semester hours in research covering research design, methods, statistics, and special issues research in marital and family studies or a related field;

E. Three semester hours in professional studies covering professional socialization, professional organizations, legal issues, interprofessional cooperation, professional ethics, and family law.

Additional Notes:

This curriculum may be completed during the qualifying master’s or doctoral degree programs; or additional course work may be taken at a college or university accredited by a regionally accredited educational institution after receiving the graduate degree in order to fulfill the requirements for each of the areas described above. An applicant may not use a course for more than one area described above.

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

Minnesota requires that a clinical practicum in marriage and family therapy of at least 300 hours of clinical client contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment and intervention. Of the 300 hours, no more than 150 hours may be with individuals. This clinical experience must be supervised on site or at the academic institution by a licensed marriage and family therapist or an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy approved supervisor.

Minnesota is considering allowing up to 25% of the practicum hours may be earned or supervised via synchronous electronic means.

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

Minnesota does not specify the number of required supervision during practicum.

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

Minnesota 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?

Minnesota requires that an applicant for licensure must complete two years of supervised, postgraduate experience with a minimum of 1,000 hours of clinical client contact including the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness. The applicant must demonstrate at least 500 hours of the clinical client contact required in the following categories of cases: A. unmarried couples; B. married couples; C. separating and divorcing couples; and D. family groups including children.

Minnesota is considering increasing this to a minimum of 1500 hours that includes at least 600 hours of face to face direct therapy with families and/or couples, up to 600 hours of face to face direct therapy with individuals and non-family groups, and no more than 300 hours involving assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, and other clinical collateral contacts related to treatment. This 1500 hours of supervised experience must be completed in no more than 24 months. An additional 2500 hours supervised by a by a licensed mental health professional as listed in Minnesota Statutes, which shall include assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness. This supervised experience must be completed in no more than 5 years.

Additional Note:

Minnesota defines individual supervision as taking place in a setting in which a supervisor and not more than two supervisees are present; Minnesota defines group supervision as taking place in a setting in which a supervisor and not more than six supervisees are present.

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

Minnesota requires applicants to accumulate 4000 professional hours in not less than two years from awarding of requisite graduate degree. Other than client contact hours and supervision hours (equaling at least 1200 hours minimum), the other 2800 hours should include everything else of a professional nature, such as session preparation, case notes, staff meetings, continuing education, etc. This 2800 hours of work may be supervised by any Minnesota mental health professional.

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

Minnesota requires that post-graduate supervision must involve:

A. at least 200 hours of face-to-face contact between the supervisor and supervisee of which at least 100 hours must be in individual settings; all 200 hours of supervision must be related to the required 1000 hours of client contact;

B. 100 hours of supervision per year; and

C. a focus on the raw data from the supervisee's clinical work that is made directly available to the supervisor through means of written clinical materials, direct observation, and audio or video recordings.
What are the State requirements for an individual to be qualified as a supervisor?

Supervisors are acceptable to the Minnesota board if the supervisor:

A. is licensed as a marriage and family therapist in Minnesota;
B. has at least three years and 3,000 hours of experience in clinical practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist; and
C. provides evidence of training in supervision. Evidence must be shown through graduate level academic course work in supervision equivalent to three semester hours from a regionally accredited institution or 30 hours in continuing education, or designation by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as an approved supervisor.

The supervisor for this work must be Minnesota MFT Board-approved, listed on the MFT Board’s website.

Additional Note:

Minnesota supervisors are required to devote at least ten percent of the required continuing education hours to supervision requirements.

Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?

Yes. In addition, an oral examination is conducted by members of the board. The state examination of an applicant covers the applicant’s knowledge of the laws governing marriage and family therapists; the applicant’s knowledge of the code of ethics; the applicant’s awareness of the responsibilities to the board and to the public; and other practice-related areas.

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

None are noted in Minnesota.

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

It is unclear if Minnesota will review these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

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612-617-2220
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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 Minnesota.