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?

Mississippi does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

The individual seeking licensure in Mississippi must hold a masters or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a COAMFTE accredited marriage and family therapy program; or hold a masters or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a college or university program with candidacy status by COAMFTE which subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation.

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

Yes, applicants in Mississippi are required to have a qualifying degree from a COAMFTE program.

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?

Other than practicum, Mississippi does not specify required course work.

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

The practicum student must have completed a minimum of 500 face to face clinical client contact hours of which no less than 200 must be relational contact hours with couples and/or families.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

The applicant must have received supervision with a ratio of no less than one (1) hour of supervision for each six (6) hours of clinical client contact. The practicum experience must be supervised by an AAMFT approved supervisor or Supervisor Candidate under supervision-of-supervision by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. Practicum groups must be limited to a maximum of 8 supervisees per supervisor per group.
What is the required length of practicum in this State?

The applicant for licensure in Mississippi must have completed a clinical practicum in marriage and family therapy of no less than 12 consecutive months that provided him or her face to face clinical practice with individuals, couples and families and allowed the applicant to apply classroom learning to actual marriage and family therapy practice situations in the field setting providing for live supervision. “Live Supervision” consists of a case related interactive face-to-face meeting between the supervisor and supervisee, during which time the supervisor is physically present in the clinical setting with the supervisee.
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?

An individual under a board-approved supervision plan in Mississippi seeking licensure must complete two years of documented clinical experience following the first qualifying graduate degree in the practice of marriage and family therapy within an agency, institution, or group practice setting. Application for licensure as a marriage and family therapist must occur within two years of completion of post graduate clinical experience. An individual seeking status as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who is not acquiring the documented clinical experience in an agency, institution, or a group practice setting will be practicing outside of Board’s Rules and Regulations, and his or her Plan of Supervision will not be approved by the MFT Discipline Specific Committee or the Board. This post graduate clinical experience must include a minimum of 1,000 documented face-to-face client contact hours. Mississippi does not specify how many of these client contact hours must be relational, however applicants are required to submit documentation of compliance with these rules which must be sent from the agency or person providing the clinical supervision directly to the Board.

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

Mississippi does 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?

The individual seeking licensure in Mississippi must complete 200 hours of marriage and family therapy supervision. Up to 100 hours of acceptable clinical supervision accumulated during graduate training may be counted toward the required 200 hours of clinical supervision. All 100 of the post graduate supervision hours must be completed with a Board Approved Supervisor. A minimum of 50 hours of the 200 hours of supervision must be individual supervision. At least 100 hours of the 200 hours of clinical supervision must be completed with an AAMFT approved supervisor.

Additional Notes: “Group Supervision” means a minimum of three (3) and no more than eight (8) marriage and family supervisees or associates in a clinical setting during the supervision hour. A supervision hour is fifty minutes.

“Individual Supervision” shall mean a maximum of two (2) marriage and family supervisees or associates in a clinical setting during the supervision hour. A supervision hour is fifty minutes.

The individual seeking licensure must complete and submit a Plan of Supervision (including the Supervisor’s Statement), the Application to Enter Into Contract for Supervision Toward Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and a non-refundable processing fee to the Board for approval. All plans of professional post-masters supervision must be approved by the Board prior to the beginning of said supervision, i.e., no retroactive approval of professional supervision will be granted except as provided in Mississippi rules. Specifically, supervisees will not receive more than four (4) hours credit for supervision completed prior to the Board’s approval of the supervision plan. Supervisees should utilize this four (4) hours of supervision to collaboratively develop their supervision plan with their supervisor.
The Board reserves the right to request explanations or plans of correction related to the submitted Plan of Supervision at any point.

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

Mississippi requires that all postgraduate supervision must be received from an individual(s), who, at the time the supervision took place, were approved by the Board as a qualified supervisor and held a license to practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist. To become a Board approved Supervisor, an individual (other than an AAMFT Approved Supervisor) must have completed a minimum of four (4) consecutive years of verifiable practice at the LMFT level, submitted an application for supervisory approval to the Board, and received notice from the Board that the application was approved. AAMFT Supervisor Candidates must have four (4) consecutive years of verifiable practice at the LMFT level and must be under supervision-of supervision by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. An AAMFT Approved Supervisor may be recognized as approved by the Board upon: a) providing proof of licensure as a marriage and family therapist for two (2) years; b) submitting an application for supervisory approval to the Board; and c) providing documentation of current status as an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. Those individuals without standing as an AAMFT Approved Supervisor must have also completed a course in marriage and family therapy supervision approved by the Board with a minimum of twenty-four (24) contact hours. Supervision trainers (those teaching approved supervision courses) must be LMFTs and AAMFT Approved Supervisors.

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

Yes. An applicant for licensure that is currently enrolled in a COAMFTE accredited graduate program may sit for the exam 90 days prior to graduation with the written approval of their program director. An applicant may not be licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapy Associate or a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist without passing the required examination.

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

None are noted in Mississippi.

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

It is unclear if Mississippi grants these requests.

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

State of Mississippi  
MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS  
P.O. BOX 4508  
Jackson, MS 39296-4508  
Phone (601)987-6806/Fax (601)987-6808  
www.swmft.ms.gov email: info@swmft.ms.gov
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)

"Face-to-Face Supervision" means supervision conducted by a supervisor in the physical person of the person being supervised for the purpose of carrying out the supervision functions.

All individuals not exempt from licensure are prohibited from performing services for which licensure is required by the State of Mississippi Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act of 1997, Title 73, Chapter 53 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, as Amended, and these Rules and Regulations. They are also prohibited from holding themselves out to the public by any name, title or description described in the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act and these Rules and Regulations. These regulations apply to all traditional and electronic approaches to marriage and family therapy. A person who does not hold a valid and current license issued by the board shall not practice marriage and family therapy, nor advertise the performance of that practice.