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 gamftrc.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?

Missouri requires a minimum of 45 semester hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

In 2013 legislation passed stating that programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation For Marriage & Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) meet the educational requirements for licensure.

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

COAMFTE

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?

Missouri requires course work in the following content areas:

Theoretical Foundations of Marriage and Family Therapy—Courses in this area cover the development, theoretical foundations, contemporary conceptual directions, and critical philosophical issues of marriage and family therapy; 3 semester hours required;

Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy—Courses in this area cover the historical development, theoretical foundations, contemporary conceptual directions, and critical philosophical issues of marriage and family therapy and applied marriage and family therapy practice. Within the context of systems theory and marriage and family therapy, courses will cover assessment, evaluation and treatment of dysfunctional relationship patterns and mental disorders consistent with the scope of practice as defined in Missouri rules. Major marriage and family therapy assessment methods and instruments shall be covered; 12 semester hours required;

Human Development and Family Studies—Courses in this area cover the life cycle of individuals, couples and families and the modification of relationship dynamics over time from a systems perspective. Courses
shall address issues of relationships, normal development and dysfunctional patterns, as well as issues of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, religion, culture and other issues of diversity which emerge in a pluralistic society; 6 semester hours required;

**Ethics and Professional Studies** — Courses in this area cover the development of professional commitment, identity, and accountability. Studies shall include professional socialization and professional organizations, licensure and credentials, legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, business ethics in professional practice, family law, confidentiality, professional marital and family therapy codes of ethics, and cooperation with members of other mental health professions. The course shall be specific to the practice and profession of marriage and family therapy; 3 semester hours required;

**Research Methodology** — Courses in this area cover an understanding of research methodology and data analysis with the ability to evaluate research. Course content shall include both qualitative and quantitative research; 3 semester hours required;

**Practicum in Marriage and Family Therapy** — The practicum or internship consists of direct, face-to-face client contact to include couple and family formats. Individual supervision with one (1) or two (2) students in face-to-face consultation with a supervisor shall be provided. Students shall be trained to make relevant assessments of client systems; 6 semester hours required;

**Diagnostic Systems** — Courses in this area provide an understanding and a working knowledge of psychodiagnóstics using classification systems with an emphasis on the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Course content regarding the DSM must include understanding the organizational structure, professional terminology used in the manual, and competence in its application as it is used in the assessment process and subsequent treatment planning relative to the practice of marital and family therapy. 3 semester hours required.

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

Missouri does not specify a minimum number of client contact hours during practicum.

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

While Missouri does not specify a minimum number of supervision hours during practicum, they do require that practicum or internship consists of direct, face-to-face client contact to include couple and family formats. Individual supervision with one (1) or two (2) students in face-to-face consultation with a supervisor is required. Students must be trained to make relevant assessments of client systems.

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

Missouri requires 6 semester hours 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?

Missouri requires that applicants for licensure must complete a post graduate experience of no less than two years and no more than sixty (60) calendar months, and that this experience must include a minimum fifteen hundred (1,500) hours of the three thousand (3,000) hours of supervised experience in marital and family therapy to be direct client contact. Direct client contact is defined as face-to-face interaction between the client and therapist in the same room.

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

Missouri requires applicants for licensure to complete 3,000 hours of supervised experience in MFT in no less than two years and no more than five years.

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

Missouri requires that an applicant for licensure must complete a minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervision, at least half of which one hundred (100) hours must be in individual face-to-face supervision. The use of electronic communication is not acceptable for meeting face-to-face supervision requirements of this rule unless the communication is verbally and visually interactive between the supervisor and PLMFT or S-MFT; and the PLMFT or S-MFT must obtain at least fifteen (15) hours of supervised experience within a calendar month in order for the experience to be considered by the state committee and must be in compliance with Missouri rules. In addition, a minimum of two (2) hours every two (2) weeks or one (1) hour every week of individual face-to-face supervision with the registered supervisor is required. For the purpose of this regulation, an hour of individual face-to-face supervision shall be defined as fifty (50) continuous minutes and two (2) hours shall be defined at no less than one hundred (100) continuous minutes with the registered supervisor and supervised marital and family therapist or provisional licensed marital and family therapist in the same physical space.

Additional Notes:

At least half of the supervision must be individual face-to-face supervision which may consist of no more than two (2) PLMFTs or S-MFTs meeting with the registered supervisor. The remaining supervision may be group supervision. Group supervision may consist of at least three (3) and no more than six (6) PLMFTs or S-MFTs or combination thereof. The services provided by a PLMFT or S-MFT shall be performed under the registered supervisor’s full order, control, oversight, and guidance. The PLMFT or S-MFT shall remain under the supervision until licensed as a marital and family therapist.

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

Missouri requires that a supervisor must be licensed as marital and family therapist, professional counselor, psychologist, clinical social worker, or psychiatrist in Missouri for supervised experience to be considered for
licensure. A licensure supervisor must document five (5) years clinical experience in providing marital and family therapy. A licensure supervisor with a graduate degree awarded after January 1, 1990 must document either three semester hours or five (5) quarter hours graduate course work in marital and family supervision or comparable seminars/workshops or supervised studies. A licensure supervisor with a graduate degree awarded after January 1, 1990 must document at least thirty (30) hours of supervision of supervision or be in the process of receiving supervision of supervision.

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

Yes. A person can take the examination in marital and family therapy developed by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards at any time after the master’s degree is awarded."

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

None are noted in Missouri.

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

It is unclear if Missouri has a process to pre-preapprove applications.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Missouri Information
Loree Kessler, Executive Director
State Committee of Marital & Family Therapists
3605 Missouri Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-751-0870
573-751-0735 (Fax)
Email #1: loree.kessler@pr.mo.gov
Website: http://pr.mo.gov/marital.asp
Email #2: maritalfam@pr.mo.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)

None are noted in Missouri.