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?

Montana requires a minimum of 48 semester hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Applicants for licensure in Montana must provide documentation of obtaining a master’s degree or a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a recognized educational institution or a degree from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education; or has a graduate degree in an allied field from a recognized educational institution and graduate level work that the board determines to be the equivalent of a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling.

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

Montana encourages but 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?

No.

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

Montana requires at least 36 hours of courses comprised of human development, family development/family dynamics, marriage and family systems/systems theory, marriage and family therapy, ethics in marriage and family therapy, and research in marriage and family therapy.

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

Montana requires that a minimum total of 500 direct-client contact hours of which at least 50 percent is with couples or families.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

Montana requires at least 100 hours of supervision of which at least 75 are in individual supervision with, at most, one other supervisee.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Montana requires at least nine hours of credit must be earned in actual direct client contact, including at least six semester hours of practicums and three or more semester hours of internship or externship.
**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?

Montana requires an applicant for licensure to obtain 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact in the practice of marriage and family therapy, of which up to 500 hours may be accumulated while achieving the educational credentials.

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

Montana requires 3,000 hours of supervised experience.

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

Montana requires applicants for licensure to obtain at least 200 hours of supervision of which at least 75 percent are in individual supervision, and of which a minimum of 80 hours is earned with each supervisor. At least 50 percent of supervision must involve raw clinical data, i.e., live observation in the therapy room or through a one-way mirror or live-feed camera, videotape, or audiotape.

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

Montana requires that a person supervising the experience of an applicant for licensure shall meet the minimum qualifications as follows:

1. The supervisor must be a licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed psychologist, or licensed and board-certified psychiatrist.

2. The supervisor must hold an active and current license in good standing, which was issued by the licensing board or other officially recognized licensing body of the state where supervision occurs.

3. The supervisor must have three years of post-licensure experience or board-approved training in clinical supervision.

4. Board-approved training in supervision must consist of a minimum of one semester hour of board-approved graduate education or 20 clock hours of board-approved training in clinical supervision.

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

It is unclear if Montana will conduct pre-application reviews.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Cyndi Breen
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Email: dlibsdswp@mt.gov
Website: http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/swp_board/board_page.asp

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 Montana.