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?

Nebraska does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

Nebraska defines an "approved marriage and family therapy program as one of the following:

1. COAMFTE Accreditation: A program of graduate marriage and family therapy education and training approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE); or

2. Related Field: A program in a related field offered by a regionally accredited higher educational institution, such as, but not limited to social work, psychology, sociology, human services, human development, family relations or counseling, must show evidence of course work as outlined in Nebraska Regulations.

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

No.

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?

a. Marriage and Family Studies: At least 9 semester hours. Courses in this area should be a fundamental introduction to systems theory. The student should develop an understanding of family structures and functioning within the social systems framework (including environmental context) and regarding a diverse range of presenting issues (e.g. gender, cultural, substance abuse). Topic areas may include: systems theory, family development, family subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families, etc. This area must have a major focus from systems theory orientation and encompass the social systems orientation. Survey or overview courses in which systems in one of several theories covered is not appropriate. Courses in which systems theory is the overarching framework and other theories are studied in relations to systems theory are appropriate.
b. Marriage and Family Therapy: At least 9 semester hours. Courses in this area should have a major focus on family systems theory and systemic therapeutic interventions. This area is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change, and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation, including diagnosis/assessment of individuals, couples and families. Major theoretical approaches might include: strategic, structural, object relations, cognitive behavioral, intergenerational, and integrative models of therapy with individuals, couples, and families.

c. Human Development: At least 9 semester hours. Courses in this area should provide knowledge of individual personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant course work in human development across the life span which includes special issues that affect an individual's development (e.g. culture, gender, and human sexuality). Topic areas may include: human development, child/adolescent development, psychopathology, personality theory, human sexuality, etc. This material should be integrated with systems concepts. Test and measurement courses are not accepted toward this area.

d. Professional Studies: At least 3 semester hours. Courses in this area are intended to contribute to the professional development of the therapist. Areas of study should include the therapist's legal responsibilities and liabilities, professional ethics relevant to marriage and family issues, professional values and socialization, and the role of the professional organization, licensure or certification legislation, independent practice and interpersonal cooperation. Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses are not accepted toward this area.

e. Research: At least 3 semester hours. Courses in this area should assist students in understanding and performing research. Topic areas may include: research methodology, quantitative methods, and statistics. Individual personality and test and measurement courses are not accepted toward this area.

f. Practicum: At least 6 semester hours which includes 300 hours of supervised direct client contact with individuals, couples and families - of this 300 hours, no more than 150 hours may be with individuals.

**Additional Notes:**

The LMHP credential in Nebraska requires applicants to have completed a specific course in ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES (at least 3 semester hours). This course should include the process of collecting pertinent data about client or client systems and their environment and appraising the data as a basis for making decisions regarding treatment and/or referral. Examples are ability to make a clinical diagnostic impression, knowledge of psychopathology, and assessment of substance abuse and other addictions.

Nebraska also requires official course descriptions for each course submitted (i.e., course catalogue, syllabi, etc.) and indication of the course name and course number if degree is from a non-COAMFTE program.

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

Nebraska requires 300 hours of supervised direct client contact with individuals, couples and families. Of this 300 hours, no more than 150 hours may be with individuals.
How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

The number of practicum supervision hours required by Nebraska is not specified.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Nebraska requires at least 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?

Nebraska requires that applicants obtain at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact in a setting where mental health services are being offered during which: a. The supervisee apprises the supervisor of the diagnosis and treatment of clients; b. The clients’ cases are discussed; c. Ethical principles of the profession are discussed; d. The supervisor provides the supervisee with oversight and guidance in treating and dealing with clients; and e. The supervisor evaluates the supervisee’s performance.

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

Nebraska requires the successful completion of 3,000 hours of supervised experience after receipt of the master's degree and during the 5 years immediately preceding the application for licensure and/or certification.

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

Nebraska requires a minimum of 1,500 hours of direct client contact with a minimum cumulative ratio of 2 hours of face-to-face contact between the supervisee and a qualified supervisor per 15 hours of the supervisee’s contact with clients, and state that no more than 45 hours may be accumulated without supervision. In addition, the supervisor cannot supervise more than 6 persons at one face-to-face supervisory setting.

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

Nebraska requires that anyone applying for marriage and family therapy certification must be supervised by a licensed mental health practitioner, licensed psychologist, or licensed physician who:

a. Holds a current active license;

b. Has not had his/her license disciplined, limited, suspended, or placed on probation during the 1 year immediately preceding the application for a provisional license. At least 1 year must have elapsed following completion of any disciplinary terms and conditions. If any of these actions are taken by the Department during the supervisory agreement period, the supervisor must terminate the supervision immediately and notify the Department; and

c. Holds an "approved supervisor's" designation certificate from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; or

d. Provides evidence of training in clinical supervision equivalent to 15 hours. Evidence must be shown through academic course work, continuing education, or consultation with a qualified marriage and family therapy supervisor, and has 3 years of experience supervising the provision of marriage and family therapy services.

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 Nebraska.

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

It is unclear if the Nebraska board has a process to pre-approve applications.

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

Nebraska Board of Mental Health Practice  
P.O. Box 94986 Lincoln, NE 68509-4986  
Phone: (402) 471-2117  
Fax: (402) 471-3577  
Email: kris.chiles@nebraska.gov  
Website: www.dhhs.ne.gov  
http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl_mhcs_mental_cmft.aspx

**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)**

A person who is certified as a mental health practitioner (LMHP) and certified as a marriage and family therapist (CMFT) may use the title Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). An individual cannot hold the CMFT independently, but must hold a mental health practice license in order to obtain the CMFT. In addition, the educational requirements for a CMFT differ from those required for a LMHP.

Mental Health Practice means the provision of treatment, assessment, psychotherapy, counseling, or equivalent activities to individuals, couples, families, or groups for behavioral, cognitive, social, mental, or emotional disorders, including interpersonal or personal situations; and includes the initial assessment of organic mental or emotional disorders for the purpose of referral or consultation.

Mental health practice does not include:

a. The practice of psychology or medicine;  
b. Prescribing drugs or electroconvulsive therapy;  
c. Treating physical disease, injury, or deformity;  
d. Diagnosing major mental illness or disorder except in consultation with a qualified physician or licensed clinical psychologist;  
e. Measuring personality or intelligence for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment planning;  
f. Using psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders except in consultation with a qualified physician or licensed clinical psychologist; or  
g. Using psychotherapy to treat the concomitants of organic illness except in consultation with a qualified physician or licensed clinical psychologist.