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

New Hampshire does not accept the Northcentral University Marriage and Family Therapy degree for licensure

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?

New Hampshire does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

New Hampshire requires that an applicant for licensure must have a master's degree or a doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or has a master's degree or a doctorate degree with a concentration in the field of marriage and family therapy from a regionally accredited institution, or has clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

New Hampshire requires that a minimum of one academic year of full-time academic graduate study in marriage and family therapy must be completed in residence at the institution granting the degree. Whether graduate study was completed in residence shall be determined based on criteria which include the following:

a. Predominant modality is face-to-face instruction;

b. Advising and evaluation is done face-to-face;

c. Students have face-to-face access to a core of marriage and family counseling faculty whose primary time and employment responsibilities are to the institution; and

d. Students have face-to-face access to other students matriculated in the program.

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

While New Hampshire strongly encourages COAMFTE accreditation, they do not require this accreditation.

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?
New Hampshire requires course work in the following content areas:

At least 3 courses in marital and family studies, family development and family interaction patterns across the life cycle of the individual as well as the family chosen from the following subject areas: a. Family life cycle; b. Theories of family development; c. Marriage and/or family sociology of the family; d. Families under stress; e. The contemporary family; f. Family in a social context; g. The cross/cultural family; h. Youth, adult, aging and the family; i. Family subsystems; and j. Individual, interpersonal relationships, such as marital, parental, sibling;

The completion of at least 3 courses in marital and family therapy chosen from the following subject areas: a. Family therapy methodology; b. Family assessment; c. Treatment and intervention methods; and d. Overview of major clinical theories of marital and family therapy such as communications theory, contextual theory, experiential theory, object relations theory, strategic theory, structural theory, systemic theory, and transgenerational theory;

The completion of one course in diagnosis;

The completion of at least 3 courses in human development chosen from the following subject areas:
 a. Human development; b. Personality theory; c. Human sexuality; d. Psychopathology; and e. Behavior-pathology;

The completion of at least one course in professional studies chosen from the following subject areas:
 a. Professional socialization and the role of the professional organization; b. Legal responsibilities and liabilities; c. Independent practice and interprofessional cooperation; d. Ethics; and e. Family law; and the completion of at least one course in research chosen from the following subject areas: a. Research design; b. Methods; c. Statistics; and d. Research in marital and family studies and therapy.

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

New Hampshire requires a minimum of 300 hours of face-to-face client contact hours with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment. At least half of these client contact hours shall have been completed with couples and families.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?

New Hampshire requires that practicum/internship must be supervised by an AAMFT approved supervisor prior to the completion of the master’s degree.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

New Hampshire requires at least a one-year practicum/internship.

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?

New Hampshire requires that an applicant for licensure must complete a minimum of 2 years of post-master's experience in a mental health counseling setting, including completion of a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised practice of marriage and family therapy under supervision approved by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy or the board.

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

New Hampshire defines a year of experience as not less than 1500 hours, hours which have been completed in not less than 12 and not more than 24 consecutive calendar months.

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

New Hampshire requires an applicant for licensure to complete 200 hours of face-to-face supervision with a minimum of one hour per week of individual face-to-face supervision. Graduates of master’s and doctoral programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) may use up to 100 hours of their pre-degree supervision towards requirements outlined in New Hampshire rules. Graduates of COAMFTE programs may also use client hours earned during their graduate program. Students in MFT doctoral programs who have a qualifying master’s degree may use practicum and internship experience and supervision in the doctoral program toward these requirements.

Additional note:

Prior to beginning supervision, candidates for licensure shall provide, or cause to be provided a proposed supervisory plan on a form provided by the New Hampshire board. New Hampshire does not consider independent private practice as supervised professional experience. The supervision of a candidate for mental health licensure by a person licensed under this chapter shall include the following:
(a) Regular meetings shall be held between the supervisor and the candidate.
(b) The supervisor shall assume professional responsibility for the candidate in a written agreement on record with the board. The supervisor must assume both professional and legal responsibility in the agreement.

New Hampshire defines individual and group supervision as follows: Individual supervision must be face-to-face contact between one supervisor and up to 2 supervisees. Group supervision must be face-to-face contact between one supervisor and up to 6 supervisees.

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

New Hampshire requires that a supervisor must be approved by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy or the board. Supervision standards are equivalent to an American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy approved supervisor, or approved alternate supervision as defined by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Commission on Supervision.
New Hampshire rules state that alternative supervisors for both pre-graduation and post-graduate experience must meet the following requirements:
(1) Have a graduate degree in couple/marriage and family therapy or related mental health discipline;
(2) Hold a NH license in a mental health profession;
(3) Have taken 5 graduate courses or taught in couple/marital and family therapy within or after the mental health professional degree used to qualify for licensure in NH; a. Four of the 5 graduate courses must be clinical C/MFT theory courses or courses applying family therapy to a population e.g. MFT with violence, addictions, or sex therapy; b. One course in ethics; c. A course is a 3-credit semester system or a 4-credit quarter system course OR 100 continuing education units post graduate degree taken or taught in marital and family therapy workshops or seminars; and
(4) Two years of full-time clinical experience post-licensure.
(5) The 30-hour full AAMFT Approved Supervisor Training Course.

Does the state require the National Examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB)?
Yes. If an applicant receives a failing grade he/she may apply for reexamination by notifying the board in writing.

Does the State have specific training requirements beyond the graduate degree?
None are noted in New Hampshire.

Can an individual with a criminal history request board review before actually having to apply for licensure?
It is unclear if New Hampshire has a process to review these requests.

How can someone contact the Board in this state?
Peggy Lynch, Board Administrator
Jamie Stevens, Program Assistant
Board Address
117 Pleasant Street - Dolloff Building
Concord, NH 03301
The Board office is located on the lower level.
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Telephone: 603-271-6762
Fax: 603-271-3950
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2954
Website: http://www.nh.gov/mhp/index.html
Email: mlynch@dhhs.state.nh.us

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 New Hampshire.