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?

North Dakota does not specify a minimum number of credit hours.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

North Dakota requires an applicant for licensure to possess a master’s or doctoral degree that is equivalent to a master’s or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy if the degree is from a regionally accredited institution.

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

No, but it COAMFTE accreditation is strongly encouraged in North Dakota.

Does the State accept a COAMFTE accredited degree without requiring the applicant to list specific courses on the license application?

North Dakota requires an original transcript verifying qualifying degree from an accredited institution.

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

North Dakota requires that a qualifying degree must contain the following coursework:

**Nine semester hours in human development** covering human development, human behavior, personality theory, human sexuality, psychopathology including the diagnosis of mental illness, and behavior pathology;

**Six semester hours in marital and family studies** covering theories of family development, theories of family functioning, the family life cycle, sociology of the family, families under stress, contemporary family forms, family subsystems, theories of marital and family interaction, theories of child development, lifespan, and theories of gerontology;

**Twelve semester hours in marital and family therapy** covering marital and family communication, family psychology, family therapy, methods of intervention, family assessment, treatment planning, sex therapy, major theories of marital and family therapy such as structural, strategic, transgenerational,
experiential, object relations, contextual, systemic therapy, solution-focused therapy, narrative, and biofeedback methodologies;

**Three semester hours in research** covering research design, methods, statistics, and special issues research in marital and family studies or a related field;

**Three semester hours in professional studies** covering professional socialization, professional organizations, legal issues, interprofessional cooperation, professional ethics, and family law;

**Applicants are required to demonstrate courses which include content on issues of diversity (race, gender, sexual orientation, spirituality, class, etc.);**

A clinical practicum in marriage and family therapy of at least five hundred hours or twelve months or nine semester hours of clinical client contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment and intervention. Of the five hundred hours, no more than two hundred fifty hours may be with individuals. This clinical experience must be supervised onsite or at the academic institution by a licensed marriage and family therapist or an American association for marriage and family therapy-approved supervisor.

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

North Dakota requires a clinical practicum in marriage and family therapy of at least five hundred hours or twelve months or nine semester hours of clinical client contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment and intervention. Of the five hundred hours, no more than two hundred fifty hours may be with individuals.

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

While North Dakota does not specify a minimum number of supervision hours during practicum, they do allow up to 100 hours of supervision during the practicum to count toward the 300 hour total supervision hours required for licensure. In addition, North Dakota rules state that this clinical experience must be supervised onsite or at the academic institution by a licensed marriage and family therapist or an American association for marriage and family therapy-approved supervisor.

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

North Dakota requires a clinical practicum in marriage and family therapy of at least five hundred hours or twelve months or nine semester hours of clinical client contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment and intervention. Of the five hundred hours, no more than two hundred fifty hours may be with individuals. If the practicum is not at least 9 credit hours or 12 months an applicant may be approved to take the licensing examination and may be issued an associate license upon successfully passing the examination.
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?

North Dakota requires that an individual seeking licensure as a LMFT must complete 2000 hours of clinical services to families, couples and individuals. At least 1,500 hours of clinical services to individuals, couples or families must occur in a post-graduate supervision setting. These hours must be direct clinical services: 500 hours to unmarried couples, married couples, separating and divorcing couples, 500 hours to family groups including children, and 500 hours to individuals and/or related experiences. Of the 2,000 total hours, no more than 500 hours may be transferred from a COAMFTE accredited graduate program. The associate licensed in North Dakota may receive credit for up to two hundred fifty clock-hours toward the required two thousand hours of supervised clinical services by providing services via telephonic or other electronic media, as approved by the supervisor.

North Dakota rules calculate two years of supervised postgraduate experience in marriage and family therapy as a period of not less than twenty-four months and not more than forty-eight months.

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

It is unclear how many experience hours are required in North Dakota. See note above.

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

North Dakota requires a total of at least 300 hours of supervision. Of the 300 hours, at least 150 hours must be individual supervision (graduate program and post-graduate supervision). Of the 300 hours, no more than 100 hours (individual and group) may be transferred from the graduate program. At least 200 hours are post-graduate supervision hours, and at least 50 hours of the post-graduate supervision must be individual supervision.

Additional Notes:

Supervision must involve:

a. At least two hundred hours of face-to-face contact between the supervisor and supervisee of which at least one hundred hours must be in individual settings.

b. One hundred hours of supervision per year.

c. A focus on the raw data from the supervisee’s clinical work that is made directly available to the supervisor through means of written clinical materials, direct observation, and audio or video recordings.
d. During the period of supervised experience, an associate may be employed on a salary basis or be used within an established supervisory setting. The established settings must be structured with clearly defined job descriptions and areas of responsibility.

Supervision must be conducted under a supervision agreement, which must be submitted to the board on the official form within sixty days of the initiation of supervision. The associate must receive a minimum of one hour of supervision every two weeks. A supervision hour is forty-five minutes. Up to fifty hours of the two hundred hours of face-to-face supervision may occur via telephonic or other electronic media, as approved by the supervisor. An associate may have no more than two board-approved supervisors at a time, unless given prior approval by the board or its designee. The associate may receive credit for up to two hundred fifty clock-hours toward the required two thousand hours of supervised clinical services by providing services via telephonic or other electronic media, as approved by the supervisor.

The supervision by a North Dakota or other jurisdiction licensed marriage and family therapist shall take place in individual and group settings, according to the following: a. The individual supervision shall take place in a setting in which a supervisor and not more than two supervisees are present. b. The group supervision shall take place in a setting in which a supervisor and not more than six supervisees, but not less than three supervisees, are present.

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

**North Dakota requires that supervisors are to be recognized by the board by submitting an application which includes the following four documents:**

a. A graduate degree in marriage and family therapy or a graduate degree in a related mental health field, such as counseling and guidance, psychology, psychiatry, or clinical social work, from a recognized educational institution; b. A license, which is not a provisional or an associate license, issued by the board or a license as a marriage and family therapist in another jurisdiction; c. One of the following: (1) Successful completion of a one semester graduate course in marriage and family therapy supervision from an accredited institution; or (2) A forty-hour continuing education course in clinical supervision offered by a board-approved provider; and d. At least three thousand hours of direct client contact in the practice of marriage and family therapy over a minimum of three years as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

In lieu of meeting the qualifications set forth in North Dakota rules, a person is an acceptable supervisor if the person has been designated as an approved supervisor or supervisor-in-training by the American association for marriage and family therapy before the person provides any supervision.

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

Yes. After completing national exam and supervised experience, an applicant for licensure in North Dakota may apply for the state exam.


**Additional Notes:**

The state examination of an applicant must be held according to those methods determined by the board to be the most practical and expeditious in testing the applicant’s qualifications for licensure. The state examination of an applicant shall take place after the applicant’s application for licensure has been accepted by the board and before the applicant is approved for licensure. The state examination of an applicant shall cover: a. The applicant’s knowledge of the laws governing marriage and family therapists; b. The applicant’s knowledge of the code of ethics; c. The applicant’s awareness of the responsibilities to the board and to the public; and d. Other practice-related areas."

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

None are noted in North Dakota.

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

It is unclear if North Dakota grants these requests.

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

Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, North Dakota  
3910 Lewis Road, NW, , Mandan, ND 58554  
Phone: 701-223-2986  FREE 701-223-2986  
Website: www.ndmftlb.org  
Email: lgiese@midconetwork.com

**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 North Dakota.