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?

Oregon requires 48 semester credit hours for graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014 and 60 semester credit hours for graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

The Oregon Board determines which graduate degrees are comparable in content and quality to degrees from CACREP, COAMFTE, or CORE approved programs. Degrees must meet the following standards: the degree was from an institution that: (1) Was a fully accredited member of one of the regional institutional accreditation bodies at the time the degree was granted; (2) Offered a minimum of a master's degree; and (3) Was at least two years' duration and included all coursework requirements set forth in Oregon rules.

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

Oregon 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?

Oregon requires courses in the following content categories (this is based on the 48 hour requirement):

**Human Development & Family Studies:** Stresses the complex developmental relationships among individuals in the family. Individually oriented content adapted to a systems paradigm. Stress on the life-cycle of the family and its modifications over time (first child, adolescent sexual development, leaving home, etc.) (4 semester credits)

**Marital and Family Theoretical Foundations:** Includes the historical development of systems theory. Human issues are considered from the systems paradigm, including both theoretical literature and practical treatment issues. (2 semester credits)
Marital and Family Therapy Diagnosis and Assessment, Treatment, Principles and Techniques: Includes a comprehensive survey of the major models of system change and the principles and techniques evolving from each model. Applied aspects of therapy practice (range of techniques, indications and contraindications for techniques, intervention rationales, the role of the therapist, etc.). (8 semester hours)

Professional Studies: Development of a professional attitude and identity. Studies of professional socialization and the role of professional organizations; licensure; legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research; family law; confidentiality issues, code of ethics, etc. (2 semester credits)

Research Methods or Statistics: Research methodology and data analysis, computer research skills, critical evaluation of professional research reports, with emphasis on research relevant to marital and family therapy. (2 semester credits)

Clinical/Applied Experience: Practicum/internship. 600 clock hours.

Supporting Coursework for Specialty Areas focusing on the systems paradigm (16-22 semester hours)

Oregon requires courses in the following content categories (this is based on the 60 hour requirement):

(a) Individual and Family Development -- 4 semester hours;
(b) Couple and Family Theoretical Foundation Studies -- 6 semester hours;
(c) Couple and Family Therapy, Treatment, and Techniques Studies -- 6 semester hours;
(d) Diagnosis of mental disorders -- 2 semester hours;
(e) Diversity studies that include issues related to diversity, power and privilege -- 2 semester hours;
(f) Ethical and Professional Studies -- 2 semester hours;
(g) Research Methods or Statistics -- 2 semester hours;
(h) Clinical/applied experience, including practicum, of at least 700 clock hours with 280 hours of direct client contact; and
(j) Supporting coursework focusing on counseling and/or systems approaches -- 36 semester hours.

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

Oregon requires a supervised clinical experience for all students of no less than 600 total clock hours to include 240 direct client contact hours, for graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014 or 700 total clock hours to include 280 direct client contact hours, for graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014. “Direct client contact hours” means only those clinical experience hours that are therapeutic or a combination of assessment and subsequent therapeutic interactions. Focus should be on relationship issues, couples, and families.

How many supervision hours must a student obtain during practicum?
Oregon rules do not specify a minimum number of supervision hours, however they do require that the supervisory staff must have a minimum of a master's degree in the program emphasis and with pertinent professional experience, made provision for faculty monitoring of operations, kept records of student-client contact hours including summary of student progress by the supervisor, had a written agreement with the program and student specifying learning objectives; and had a mechanism for program evaluation.

What is the required length of practicum in this State?

Oregon does not specify a minimum length 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?

To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist under Oregon rules, an applicant must have at least three years of full-time supervised clinical experience that consisted of no less than 2,000 supervised client contact hours of therapy with at least 1,000 of those hours working with couples and families.

Direct client contact hours must have been obtained after receipt of the qualifying graduate degree and be face to face with a client or clients including through electronic communication. “Electronic communication” means communication through use of videoconference, telephone, teleconference, internet, electronic mail, chat-based, or video-based.

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

Oregon does not specify a minimum number of experience hours.

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

Oregon requires that supervision must occur every month. The minimum level of supervision depends on the number of hours accrued in a month. If the number of client contact hours in any given month is less than 46 hours, then the minimum supervision requirement is two (2) hours, with a minimum of one (1) hour of individual supervision. If the number of client contact hours in any given month is 46 hours or more, then the minimum supervision requirement is three (3) hours of supervision, with a minimum of one and a half (1 1/2) hours of individual supervision. You can exceed the minimum level of supervision per month. If a supervisee does not meet minimum monthly supervision requirements, then the client contact hours for the month will not be approved.

Additional Notes:

(1) For those applying for licensure in Oregon through the direct or reciprocity methods, supervision must:

(a) Take place within the same calendar month as the completed direct client contact hours;

(b) Be provided by someone other than a spouse or relative by blood or marriage or a person with whom the applicant has or had a personal relationship;

(c) Be the result of a professional relationship between a qualified supervisor and a counselor. Such relationship involves discussions based on case notes, charts, records, and available audio or visual tapes. The supervisee presents assessments and treatment plans for the clients being seen. The supervisor focuses on the appropriateness of the plans and the supervisee’s therapeutic skill. In contrast to consultation, the supervisor has the authority to direct treatment plans. In contrast to therapy, the
supervisor will identify counter-transference issues and develop a plan for the supervisee to work through those issues independently; and

(d) Total no less than two (2) hours of supervision for months where 45 or less direct client contact hours are completed; or total no less than three (3) hours of supervision for months where 46 or more direct client contact hours are completed; and

(e) Be conducted in a professional setting, face to face, one to one, except: (A) Up to 75 percent of the individual supervision hours may be by electronic communication; and (B) Up to 50 percent of the supervision may have been received in a group setting, which: (i) Included no more than ten (10) supervisees for supervision taking place before July 1, 1998 or six (6) supervisees for supervision on or after July 1, 1998; (ii) Where the leadership does not shift from one supervisor to another; and (iii) Is not a staff or team meeting, intensive training seminar, discussion group, consultation session, or quality assurance or review group.

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

Oregon requires that the supervisor, at the time of supervision must have been:

(a) A supervisor approved by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy or a diplomat in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors; or

(b) Licensed as a marriage and family therapist or hold an equivalent certification or license as determined by the Board, such as that required for clinical psychologists, clinical social workers and professional counselors; and (A) Been trained specifically in the systemic approach to couples and family therapy; (B) Completed a minimum of five (5) years of clinical experience; and (C) For any supervision hours after June 30, 1992, completed thirty (30) clock hours of training in supervision theory and practice in post-master’s academic coursework or equivalent training, as determined by the Board.

Oregon also has a Supervisor Law and Rules Examination.

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 Oregon.

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

No. A criminal background check option is only available if you are a licensee or intern in good standing with the Board and have completed a fingerprint-based criminal background check within one year prior to your renewal date.
How can someone contact the Board in this state?

Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists
3218 Pringle Rd. SE, Suite 250
Salem, OR  97302-6312
Website: lpct.board@state.or.us
Phone: 503-378-5499
Fax: 503-373-1427
Email: becky.eklund@state.or.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 Oregon.