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?

South Dakota requires at least forty-eight (48) semester credit hours in marriage and family therapy.

What type of institutional or programmatic accreditation is required?

South Dakota requires an applicant for licensure to possess a master's or doctoral degree from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or a program with specialty training in marriage and family counseling or therapy which is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and an equivalent course of study as approved by the board which meets the standards of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

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

While South Dakota encourages COAMFTE accreditation, it does 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. South Dakota requires a listing of courses on the application, as well as a transcript of the graduate degree sent directly to the Board's office by the institution awarding the degree.

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

South Dakota requires that the course of study include the following:

Marriage and family studies (3 course, 9 semester credit minimum): Introductory systems theory, family development, family systems (marital, sibling, individual subsystems), special family issues, gender and cultural issues, all with major focus from a systems theory orientation;

Marriage and family therapy (3 course, 9 semester credit minimum): Advanced systems theory and interventions, major systemic marriage and family treatment approaches, (structural, strategic, neoanalytic (object relations), behavioral marriage and family therapy, communications, sex therapy, etc.);
**Human development (3 course, 9 semester credit minimum)**: At least one course in psychopathology—abnormal behavior is required and at least one course in assessment is required. The third course may be selected from human development (normal and abnormal), personality theory, or human sexuality;

**Professional studies (1 course, 3 semester credit minimum)**: Professional ethics as a therapist including legal and ethical responsibilities and liabilities, family law, etc.;

**Research (1 course, 3 semester credit minimum)**: Research course in marriage and family studies and therapy including research design, methodology, statistics;

**Practicum (supervised clinical practice)**, one year minimum during graduate work: Fifteen hours per week, approximately 8 to 10 hours in direct clinical contact with individuals, couples, and families. Minimum of three hundred client contact hours required.

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

South Dakota requires a practicum (supervised clinical practice) with a minimum of 300 client contact hours. Students are expected to complete fifteen experience hours per week, approximately 8 to 10 hours in direct clinical contact with individuals, couples, and families.

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

South Dakota does not specify a minimum number of supervision hours during practicum.

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

South Dakota requires one year minimum of practicum during graduate work.
**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?**

South Dakota requires the applicant for licensure to successfully complete at least two years of supervised professional work experience in marriage and family therapy following receipt of the first qualifying graduate degree and the practicum required as part of the course of study, and at least two hundred hours of supervision of one thousand seven hundred (1700) hours of marriage and family therapy conducted in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, and families including supervision in the diagnosis of individual pathology. Only supervised clinical contact may be credited for this requirement.

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

South Dakota 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?**

South Dakota requires at least two hundred hours of supervision. At least one hundred of the two hundred hours of supervision must be individual supervision.

The training applicant and training supervisor are required to sign a form designated by the board. The form must be approved by the board prior to beginning the training experience. The form shall contain identifying information, including the applicant's name and mailing address; the applicant's social security number; the supervisor's name and mailing address; the supervisor's qualifications including license number and license issue date; social security number, and place of employment. At least two years of supervised experience in marriage and family therapy must be completed within three years and include 200 hours of supervision concurrent with 1700 hours of marriage and family therapy conducted in face-to-face contact with individuals, couples, and families.

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

South Dakota requires that the supervisor must be licensed as a marriage and family therapist for at least three years prior to supervision. In addition, the supervisor must be knowledgeable of the clinical skills required for effective delivery of marriage and family therapy as defined in South Dakota statute. The supervisor must have knowledge of the important literature in the field of marriage and family therapy and professional ethics and must see that all supervised work is conducted in appropriate professional settings. The supervisor shall document evidence of complying with the requirements on a form provided by the board. The form will be submitted prior to beginning the period of supervision. The supervisor must comply with standards of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) in the process of the supervision, as of July 1, 1998.
Additional Notes: South Dakota defines "group supervision" as the act or process of watching over the training, work experience, and performance of applicants for a license as a marriage and family therapist in a setting which the supervisor and not more than six applicants meet face-to-face in a regular ongoing fashion. South Dakota defines "individual supervision" as the act or process of watching over the training, work experience, and performance of an applicant for a license as a marriage and family therapist by means of face-to-face contact between the supervisor and not more than two applicants;

**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 South Dakota.

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

It is unclear if South Dakota will review these requests.

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

Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners  
Joyce Vos, Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 2164  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101  
Phone: (605) 331-2927 FREE (605) 331-2927  
Fax: (605)331-2043  
Email: sdbce.msp@midconetwork.com  
Website: http://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealthservices/licensingboards/board_examiners.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 South Dakota.