

Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Requirements

Note -- Accreditation information can be obtained by calling the institution from which you received your degree.

CURRICULUM

1. An applicant for licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist shall have a master or higher degree in a behavioral health science from a regionally accredited college or university whose program is:
 - A. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education; or
 - B. Determined by the marriage and family therapy credentialing committee to be substantially equivalent to a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. A program is substantially equivalent if it includes the following courses for a minimum of three-semester credit hours each:
 1. Marriage and Family Studies (3 courses) – studies of introductory systems theory, family development, family systems, including marital, sibling, and individual subsystems, special family issues, and gender and cultural issues, all with a major focus on a systems theory orientation;
 2. Marriage and Family Therapy (3 courses) – studies of advanced systems theory and interventions, major systemic marriage and treatment approaches, structural, strategic, neo-analytic, group therapy, behavioral marriage and family therapy, communications, and sex therapy;
 3. Human Development (3 courses) – studies of normal and abnormal human development, personality theory, human sexuality, and psychopathology and abnormal behavior, which may be integrated with systems theory;
 4. Professional Studies (1 course) – studies of professional ethics as a therapist, including legal and ethical responsibilities and liabilities, family law;
 5. Research (1 course) – studies of research design, methodology, and statistics in marriage and family therapy; and
 6. Practicum (2 courses) – studies that are limited to the provision of marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples and families within an educational or professional setting under the direction of a faculty member or supervisor designated by the college or university.
2. An applicant for licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist shall complete a supervised internship as part of the master or higher degree curriculum.
 - A. The supervised internship shall consist of a minimum of 300 client-contact hours under direct supervision.
 - B. A licensed marriage and family therapist or an individual determined by the marriage and family therapy credentialing committee as qualified to provide supervision shall supervise the required internship. The marriage and family therapy credentialing committee shall determine whether an individual is qualified to provide supervision by evaluating the supervisor's education, experience and training.

EXAMINATION

1. The marriage and family therapy credentialing committee approves the marriage and family therapy licensure examination offered by the Professional Examination Service.

2. Applicants for associate marriage and family therapist and marriage and family therapist licensure shall receive a passing score on an approved licensure examination.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1. After completing the degree required in (1) an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall complete a minimum of 3200 hours of supervised work experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy in no less than 24 months.
 - A. Supervised work experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy is limited to the use of psychotherapy for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of individuals, couples, families and groups.
 - B. The 3200 hours of supervised work experience in marriage and family therapy shall include a minimum of 1600 hours of direct client contact.
 - a. A minimum of 1000 of the 1600 hours of direct client contact shall be client contact with couples and families. The remaining 600 hours may be with individuals and groups.
 - C. There is no experience requirement for licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist.

SUPERVISION

1. During the supervised work experience required in (5) an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall receive a minimum of 200 hours of clinical supervision in no less than 24 months.
 - A. An applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall demonstrate satisfactory performance in the following areas: assessment, diagnostics, individual and group psychotherapy, referrals, personal integrity, appropriate use of supervision, insight into client's problems, objectivity, ethics, concern for welfare of clients, responsibility, boundaries, recognition of own limits, and confidentiality by having the applicant's clinical supervisor submit a performance evaluation on forms available from the Agency.
 - B. The time span covered by the performance evaluation shall be the same as that for the supervised work experience requirement.
 - C. Clinical supervision of an applicant for marriage and family therapist licensure shall be provided by a marriage and family therapist licensed in Arizona.
 - D. An applicant may submit a written request to the marriage and family therapy credentialing committee for an exemption from the requirement of subsection 6(C). The marriage and family therapy credentialing committee shall review the supervision exemption request to determine whether the proposed supervisor has the necessary training, education and experience to provide supervision acceptable for marriage and family therapist licensure. If the proposed supervisor has the necessary training, education and experience, the marriage and family therapy credentialing committee shall grant the supervision exemption request.
 - E. The marriage and family therapy credentialing committee will not grant an exemption request for an unlicensed clinical supervisor providing clinical supervision in Arizona after July 1, 2006.
 - F. Beginning on July 1, 2006, the marriage and family therapy credentialing committee will not grant an exemption for a substance abuse counselor.
2. An applicant who has a master or higher degree in a behavioral science, but who does not meet all curriculum requirements may take post-graduate courses from a regionally accredited college or university to remove any deficiencies in the curriculum deficiencies constitute no more than nine semester credit hours.
3. A Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist shall not practice independently. A Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist shall practice only under direct supervision.