



Board of Behavioral Sciences

Memo

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To: Workforce Development Committee **Date:** October 16, 2025
From: Steve Sodergren, Executive Officer
Subject: Presentation on Other State Jurisdiction LMFT Education Requirements for Licensure

BACKGROUND

As previously discussed in Committee, current law requires that all education requirements for in-state applicants be completed prior to issuance of an associate registration as a marriage and family therapist, if graduate study began on or after August 1, 2012. No coursework may be remediated post-degree. As a result, applicants who are missing a single required course may be required to complete an entirely new qualifying degree.

In contrast, out-of-state applicants are offered greater flexibility and may remediate several educational deficiencies post-degree, including in some cases after receiving an associate registration. This distinction has raised concerns for California graduates and created challenges ensuring that all associates have completed the necessary education prior to beginning supervised practice. Additionally, as more education programs adopt a hybrid or distance-learning models, the distinction between “in-state” and “out-of-state” programs has become increasingly difficult to apply equitably.

While not previously discussed by the Committee, another important consideration is the requirement that the qualifying degree be an integrated degree in marriage and family therapy. Under the current educational requirements, a qualifying degree must include 12 semester units specifically in marriage and family coursework, along with “additional coursework” outlined in statute. Not all the “additional coursework” has a defined content unit requirement, but the program must include integrated certain defined competencies.

While current California’s education requirements provide flexibility for institutions to design programs that will prepare students for licensure, they can also create challenges in determining whether a degree meets California education standards. This can be problematic when programs are broadly titled or interdisciplinary in nature and do not clearly demonstrate integration of the required MFT content and competencies within the curriculum.

OTHER STATE JURISDICTION REVIEW

To better understand national licensing trends and identify potential areas for refining California's LMFT licensure requirements, staff reviewed the education and licensure statutes of Oregon (**Attachment A**), Ohio (**Attachment B**) and Texas (**Attachment C**). These jurisdictions were selected because of their structural similarity to California's licensure framework and the clarity of their education requirements. The review focused on degree accreditation, title, unit requirements, course content, and remediation pathways.

In-State v. Out-of-State

It was found that, unlike California, the jurisdictions reviewed do not distinguish between in-state and out-of-state education. Instead, they emphasize verification of quantifiable course content, competencies, and program accreditation regardless of where the degree was earned.

Unit Requirements

Across all four jurisdictions, there is a general alignment around a 60-semester or 90-quarter unit graduate degree standard. This is commensurate with the current program requirements of the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) accreditation. Transitional allowances are provided for older programs that conferred 45-48 units, a structure similar to California's recognition of Pre-2012 programs.

Degree Designation

California specifies acceptable degree titles such as marriage and family therapy, psychology, or counseling with an emphasis in MFT coursework. In contrast, Oregon and Texas accept degrees in related behavioral sciences field, provided that the coursework substantially meets marriage and family therapy education requirements. Ohio is the most restrictive, requiring the degree to be explicitly titled as marriage and family therapy and grounded in systemic theory.

Accreditation

The extent to which the other jurisdictions rely on accreditation to determine whether a degree meets educational requirements varies greatly. All jurisdictions reviewed recognize COAMFTE accreditation as meeting the educational requirements for licensure. However, Oregon specifies that the COAMFTE accredited programs must include two semester or three-quarter units in the diagnosis of mental disorders.

Both Oregon and Texas also recognize marriage, couple, and family counseling programs accredited by Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Oregon requires that CACREP accredited programs similarly include two semester or three-quarter hours in the diagnosis of mental disorders. Texas accepts CACREP accredited degrees earned after January 1, 2017. All jurisdiction reviewed also accept degrees from regionally or nationally accredited institutions; however, such degrees are not automatically recognized as meeting the education requirements and require a review of the program's coursework content.

In contrast, California requires that qualifying degrees must be obtained from programs accredited either by COAMFTE or by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. However, California does not view accreditation as sufficient, by itself, to demonstrate that a degree meets the educational requirements. Instead, the Board relies on the evaluation of a programs coursework content to determine if they have met the education requirements.

Content

Despite structural variations, there is a broad consistency in required educational content areas and competencies. All states require graduate-level study emphasizing systemic practice with couples and families. Common content areas include family therapy theory and techniques, human development, diagnosis and assessment, professional law and ethics, multicultural counseling, research methods, and supervised clinical training.

Differences between California and the other jurisdictions arise primarily in how education content areas are prescribed. California's in-state education requirements are the most detailed in identifying the specific competencies that must be integrated throughout a degree program, but they are less prescriptive when defining the number of units required for each defined content area. This can lead to uncertainty regarding the amount of coursework that is required. California's requirements for out-of-state degrees are more prescriptive and clearer concerning the required units required for each content area than its in-state requirements are.

In contrast, states like Oregon, Texas, and Ohio define competencies to be integrated within content areas and clearly specify the number of hours required for each. While practicum requirements vary in terms of total hours and supervision standards, the core content areas and competencies in practicum and clinical training are generally consistent across jurisdictions.

Remediation

Each jurisdiction allows applicants to remediate educational deficiencies through additional coursework, though the scope varies. Oregon, Texas, and Ohio permit post degree coursework to address gaps in content or practicum experience. California allows remediation of coursework, for out-of-state degrees through additional graduate level courses but generally does not permit post degree practicum remediation, except under provisions for out-of-state applicants.

CONCLUSION

Overall, California's LMFT educational requirements are consistent with national expectations. California's in-state framework is the most comprehensive in identifying the competencies that must be integrated throughout a degree program, yet it is less prescriptive in defining unit requirements for each content area. In contrast, California's out-of-state requirements align with the other jurisdictions in prescribing unit requirements for educational content areas but are more comprehensive in identifying competencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee should consider the following recommendations when reviewing the proposed LMFT education requirements:

- The committee should consider amending the current education requirements to remove the in-state and out-of-state designations and rely on degrees that substantially meet the education requirements as set forth in statute.
- The Committee should consider removing degree titles and instead accept any degree that meets the educational requirements.
- The committee should consider formally recognizing that degrees accredited by COAMFTE or CACREP as meeting the educational requirements.
- The Committee should consider identifying minimum unit requirements for each content area and revising the competency standards to provide broader, more flexible descriptions.
- The committee should consider amending the current remediation content to offer a broader range that can be met.

Attachments

Attachment A: Oregon Rules for LMFT Licensure

Attachment B: Ohio Rules for LMFT Licensure

Attachment C: Texas Rules for LMFT Licensure

Attachment A: Oregon Education Requirements

Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists - Chapter 833

Division 40: REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Educational Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist

To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist under ORS 675.715(1)(b), an applicant must hold a graduate degree from one of the following:

- (1) A marriage and family therapy program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) or a marital and family therapy program fully accredited by the Counsel for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP);
- (2) A program at an institution of higher learning that was accredited by a regional accrediting agency as of the date the degree was conferred; or
- (3) A foreign program that has been evaluated by a credentialing body recognized by the Board. Submission of foreign degree evaluation and cost of the foreign degree qualification determination are the responsibility of the applicant.
- (4) A graduate degree under section (1) must have included at least two semester credit hours or three credit quarter hours of coursework in the diagnosis of mental disorders.
- (5) A graduate degree under sections (2) or (3) must have included all of the following requirements:
 - (a) For graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014:
 - (A) At least two years in duration, including at least 48 semester credit hours or 72 quarter credit hours;
 - (B) At minimum, the following coursework:
 - (i) Human Development- four semester hours or six quarter hours;
 - (ii) Marital and Family Theoretical Foundation Studies- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (iii) Marital and Family Therapy Diagnosis and Assessment, Treatment, Principles and Techniques Studies- eight semester hours or 12 quarter hours;
 - (iv) Professional Studies- two semester hours or three quarter hours;

- (v) Research Methods or Statistics- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (vi) Supporting Coursework Focusing on the Systems Paradigm for Specialty Areas- 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours; and
 - (C) A supervised clinical practicum or internship experience of at least 240 direct client contact clock hours.
- (b) For graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014:
- (A) At least two years in duration, including at least 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate-level credit;
 - (B) At minimum, the following graduate-level coursework:
 - (i) Individual and Family Development- four semester hours or six quarter hours;
 - (ii) Couple and Family Theoretical Foundation Studies- six semester hours or nine quarter hours;
 - (iii) Couple and Family Therapy, Treatment, and Techniques Studies- six semester hours or nine quarter hours;
 - (iv) Diagnosis of mental disorders- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (v) Diversity studies that include issues related to diversity, power and privilege- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (vi) Ethical and Professional Studies- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (vii) Research Methods or Statistics- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (viii) Supporting coursework focusing on counseling and/or systems approaches- 36 semester hours or 54 quarter hours; and
 - (C) A supervised clinical practicum or internship experience of at least 280 hours of direct client contact.
- (c) The program's clinical practicum or internship experience must have:
- (A) Had supervisory staff with a minimum of a master's degree in the program emphasis and with pertinent professional experience;
 - (B) Made provision for faculty monitoring of operations;

- (C) Kept records of student-client contact hours including summary of student progress by the supervisor;
 - (D) Had a written agreement with the program and student specifying learning objectives; and
 - (E) Had a mechanism for program evaluation.
- (d) Deficiencies in the credit hour requirements of sections (a) or (b) may be remedied by completing graduate level coursework in the deficient area(s) at a regionally accredited institution.
- (e) Deficiencies in the supervised experience requirement of section (c) may be remedied by completion of:
- (A) Post-degree clinical experience completed in a Board-approved associate registration pursuant to OAR Chapter 833, Division 50, credited on an hour-for-hour basis for up to the full 280 required hours of direct client contact, with at least 40% of the deficient hours working with couples and families in the same session. This remedial experience is in addition to, and not a substitute for, the experience requirements (clock hours and duration) set forth in OAR 833-040-0021 or OAR 833-050-0071; or
 - (B) At least five years of active licensure issued by another state credentialing entity to practice marriage and family therapy.
- (f) For reciprocity applicants only, three years or more of active licensure to practice marriage and family therapy in another U.S. state may substitute for the requirements of Sections (a) through (c) above.

Chapter 675 — Psychologists; Occupational Therapists; Certified Sexual Offense Therapists; Regulated Social Workers; Licensed Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists

675.715 Application; fee; qualifications; examinations; licensing; rules.

- (1) In order to obtain a license as a professional counselor or a marriage and family therapist, an applicant shall make application on a form and in such a manner as the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists prescribes, accompanied by the nonrefundable fee established pursuant to ORS 675.785. The board shall issue a license as a professional counselor or a marriage and family therapist to each applicant who furnishes satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant meets the following qualifications:
- (a) Is not in violation of any of the provisions of ORS 675.715 to 675.835 and the rules adopted by the board.
 - (b) Has received:

- (A) A graduate degree in counseling in a program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs of the American Counseling Association that includes training in the diagnosis of mental disorders;
 - (B) A graduate degree in marriage and family therapy in a program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy that includes training in the diagnosis of mental disorders;
 - (C) A graduate degree, under standards explicitly adopted by the board by rule that is determined by the board to be comparable in both content and quality to a degree approved under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph and that includes training in the diagnosis of mental disorders; or
 - (D) A graduate degree, determined by the board to meet at an acceptable level at least a majority of the board's adopted degree standards and that includes training in the diagnosis of mental disorders, and has completed additional graduate training obtained in a counselor or marriage and family therapy program at an accredited college or university to meet the remainder of the standards.
- (c) At the time of application to become a licensed professional counselor or a licensed marriage and family therapist, has a minimum of three years of full-time supervised clinical experience or the equivalent, in accordance with rules adopted by the board.
- (d) Demonstrates competence as a professional counselor or marriage and family therapist by passing an examination prescribed by the board as follows:
- (A) The examination for the professional counselor license must include, but need not be limited to, counseling theory, human growth and development, social and cultural foundations, the helping relationship, group dynamics, lifestyle and career development, appraisal of individuals, research and evaluation, professional orientation, ethics and Oregon law.
 - (B) The examination for the marriage and family therapist license must include, but need not be limited to, marriage and family therapy theory, systems theory, appraisal of family relationships, normal individual and family development, research and evaluation, professional conduct, ethics and Oregon law.
- (2) An application that remains incomplete for one year from the date of the initial submission to the board is considered to have been withdrawn by the applicant. Incomplete applications include, but are not limited to, applications lacking documentation, signatures or the payment of fees required by the board. [1989

c.721 §2; 1993 c.51 §1; 1993 c.546 §109; 1997 c.249 §206; 2001 c.120 §2; 2009 c.549 §14; 2013 c.211 §2]

675.720 Registered associate; registration requirements; renewal; ethical standards.

- (1) If an applicant for a license under ORS 675.715 possesses the graduate degree required by ORS 675.715 but has not submitted documentation satisfactory to the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists that the applicant has the required supervised clinical experience, the applicant must register a plan to obtain acceptable post-degree supervised clinical experience to qualify for a license as a professional counselor or as a marriage and family therapist.
- (2) To register as a professional counselor associate or as a marriage and family therapist associate under this section, the applicant shall submit in the form and manner determined by the board:
 - (a) A request for registration; and
 - (b) A plan to obtain or complete the supervised clinical experience required for licensure.
- (3) The board shall register the applicant as an associate upon receipt and approval of the completed request and plan required in subsection (2) of this section.

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Attachment B: Ohio Education Requirements

RULE 475-25-01 Education requirements for admission to the examination for marriage and family therapist.

The requirements for licensure are generally set forth in section [4757.30](#) of the Revised Code.

(A) Pertaining to the educational requirements, the board further prescribes that: a "graduate degree in marriage and family therapy" is defined as a degree that meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) The program or concentration shall clearly be identified as marriage and family therapy (also referred to as "MFT"), shall include a minimum of ninety quarter hours or sixty semester hours of graduate level course work in marriage and family therapy training grounded in systemic theory and systemic approaches that is acceptable to the committee. Such a program shall specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train marriage and family therapists. Examples of this include statements explaining the distinction between MFT and other human service areas, statements that the program prepares students to pass the national MFT examination, or statements that the program prepares students for MFT state licensure.
- (2) The marriage and family therapy curriculum shall stand as a recognized entity within the institution and have a marriage and family therapy faculty. Marriage and family therapy faculty identify with the MFT profession by having a doctoral degree in "Marriage and Family Therapy," holding a state license in MFT, being clinical members of the AAMFT, and/or being AAMFT approved supervisors.
- (3) The marriage and family therapy coursework shall have a major focus on marital and family systems and systemic therapeutic interventions. Program coursework must include content on crisis intervention. Marriage and family therapy coursework shall include at least two graduate courses in paragraph (A)(3)(a) and paragraph (A)(3)(b) of this rule and at least one graduate course in paragraphs (A)(3)(c) to (A)(3)(g) of this rule of the following areas of marriage and family therapy :
 - (a) Marriage and family therapy theory studies: Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to marriage and family studies, including the historical development of the relational/systemic perspective and empirical foundations of the field of marriage and family therapy. This area facilitates students developing knowledge of the early and contemporary theories of MFT. It should provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation. Major MFT theories include but are not limited to:

strategic, structural, contextual, Bowenian, narrative, solution-focused, object relations, experiential, emotion focused, and internal family.

- (b) Clinical treatment of individuals, couples and families: Courses in this area facilitate students developing competencies in systemic hypotheses, treatment planning and interventions specifically designed for use with a wide range of diverse individuals, couples, and families, and includes a focus on evidence-based practice and empirically supported treatment modalities. The courses in this category may focus on areas such as:
 - (i) Couples therapy: theories and skills in providing therapy with couples, including family of origin issues, new marriages, marriage preparation, multi-cultural issues, partnerships, and divorce.
 - (ii) Family therapy with children, adolescents, or young adults: training in unique diagnostic and treatment considerations in working with children, adolescents, or young adults, including collaboration with medical providers and educational systems.
 - (iii) Sexuality and family therapy: the physiological, psychological, and sociocultural variables associated with sexual identity and sexual behavior including sexual dysfunctions.
 - (iv) Substance abuse and addictive disorders in marriage and family therapy: This course covers the physical and psychological aspects of psychotropic medication, alcohol, and other substances on relationships and behavior as well as systemic treatment approaches to substance use disorders.
- (c) Research: This course facilitates students developing competencies in marriage and family therapy research and evaluation methods and in evidence-based practice, including becoming an informed consumer of couple, marriage, and family therapy research.
- (d) Professional ethics: Courses in this area shall include the "American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy" (AAMFT) code of ethics, confidentiality and liabilities of clinical practice and research, professional ethics as a marriage and family therapist, professional socialization, and the role of the professional organization, licensure, state and federal legislation, independent practice and inter professional cooperation. Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses do not meet this requirement.
- (e) Individual and family development: This course shall address individual and family development and biopsychosocial health across the lifespan from a systemic perspective.

- (f) Appraisal of individuals and families: Course content shall address from a relational/systemic perspective, psychopharmacology, physical health and illness, traditional psycho diagnostic categories, and the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of major mental and emotional disorders, including the appropriate use of the current edition of the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders."
- (g) Family therapy with diverse, multicultural and/or underserved communities: This course facilitates students developing competencies in understanding and applying knowledge of diversity, power, privilege and oppression as these relate to race, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability, health status, religious, spiritual and/or beliefs, nation of origin, immigration status, housing status, or other relevant social categories, in the practice of marriage and family therapy. This includes developing competencies in working with sexual and gender minorities and their families as well as anti-oppressive practices.
- (h) Practicum: Includes a supervised training experience consisting of the provision of marriage and family therapy to clients and is acceptable to the board as defined in paragraphs (A)(3)(f)(i) to (A)(3)(f)(v) of this rule.
 - (i) Applicants, who begin their program after January 2015, shall have a minimum of two semesters or three quarters of qualified supervised clinical practicum and/or qualified internship with five hundred hours of direct face-to-face client contact with individuals, couples, and families and one hundred hours of supervision. Applicants, who begin their program before January 2015, shall have a minimum of two semesters or three quarters of qualified supervised clinical practicum and/or qualified internship with three hundred hours of direct face-to-face client contact with individuals, couples, and families and sixty hours of supervision.
 - (ii) Applicants, who begin their program after January 2015, shall have two hundred fifty hours of the five hundred hours of direct client contact with couples and/or families present. Applicants, who begin their program before January 2015, shall have one hundred fifty hours of the three hundred hours of direct client contact with couples and/or families present.
 - (iii) The clinical practicum and internship experience must be under the supervision of an independently licensed marriage and family therapist with supervision designation, an AAMFT approved supervisor, an AAMFT supervisor candidate, or an independently licensed mental health practitioner who shall have demonstrated competence in the area in which he/she is supervising and have training in legal and ethical issues relevant to marriage and family therapy.

- (iv) Applicants from non-COAMFTE accredited programs shall document their practicum and internship experience on a form prescribed by the board. The form shall be completed by the supervisor or supervisors and shall document the student's competency, client contact hours, and supervision hours in all areas designated on the form. The form shall be completed and submitted by the student at the time of examination request.
- (4) Programs accredited by the "Commission On Accreditation Of Marriage And Family Therapy Education" (COAMFTE) at the time of applicant's degree conferral are recognized as meeting the requirements for a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy.
- (5) Applicants who possess a degree from a program not accredited by the "Commission On Accreditation Of Marriage And Family Therapy Education" (COAMFTE) shall submit a request to this board for approval in meeting the educational requirements for admission to the examination for the marriage and family therapy license. Program approval may be obtained by the applicant submitting to the board written evidence that the degree meets the requirements set forth in paragraphs (A)(1) to (A)(3) of this rule.
- (B) Supplemental coursework, including supplemental clinical practicum/internship experience, taken after the completion of the degree program may be acceptable if the applicant meets either of the following:
 - (1) Holds a conferred degree in marriage and family therapy as defined in paragraphs (A)(1) and (A)(2) of this rule, acceptable to the board, and achieved both of the following:
 - (a) Completes the necessary coursework and/or clinical practicum/internship experience from a marriage and family therapy program as defined in this rule,
 - (b) Obtains written permission for each supplemented course and/or practicum/internship experience from the board prior to the beginning of the course and/or practicum/internship experience and completes said course(s) and/or practicum/internship experience within five years of approval.
 - (2) Applicants, who possess a master's degree and are enrolled in a COAMFTE accredited doctoral program having completed all coursework except for dissertation.
- (C) Post-graduate supervised direct client contact hours obtained out of state may satisfy a deficit in the number of practicum/internship hours as specified in paragraph (A)(3)(f)(v) of this rule. These substituted hours shall not be counted toward the two years of required supervised practice for IMFT licensure.

- (D) Applicants who are denied admission to the examination shall be afforded an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

Section 4757.30 | License as marriage and family therapist.

- (A) The marriage and family therapist professional standards committee of the counselor, social worker, and marriage and family therapist board shall issue a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist to a person who has done all of the following:
- (1) Properly completed an application for the license;
 - (2) Paid the required fee established by the board under section [4757.31](#) of the Revised Code;
 - (3) Achieved one of the following:
 - (a) Received from an educational institution accredited at the time the degree was granted by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the board a master's degree or a doctorate in marriage and family therapy;
 - (b) Completed a graduate degree that includes a minimum of ninety quarter hours of graduate level course work in marriage and family therapy training that is acceptable to the committee;
 - (4) Passed an examination administered by the board for the purpose of determining the person's ability to be a marriage and family therapist;
 - (5) Completed a practicum that includes at least three hundred hours of client contact.
- (B) To be accepted by the committee for purposes of division (A)(3)(b) of this section, marriage and family therapist training must include instruction in at least the following:
- (1) Research and evaluation;
 - (2) Professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities;
 - (3) Marriage and family studies;
 - (4) Marriage and family therapy, including therapeutic theory and techniques for individuals, groups, and families;
 - (5) Human development;
 - (6) Appraisal of individuals and families;

(7) Diagnosis of mental and emotional disorders;

(8) Systems theory.

(C) The marriage and family therapist professional standards committee shall issue a license to practice as an independent marriage and family therapist to a person who does both of the following:

(1) Meets all of the requirements of division (A) of this section;

(2) After meeting the requirements of division (A)(3) of this section, completes at least two calendar years of supervised training while engaged in the practice of marriage and family therapy.

The two years of supervised training must include two hundred hours of face-to-face supervision while completing a minimum of one thousand hours of documented client contact in marriage and family therapy. Of the required two hundred hours, a minimum of one hundred hours must be individual supervision. Supervision shall be performed by a supervisor whose training and experience meets standards established by the board in rules adopted under section [4757.10](#) of the Revised Code.

(D) An independent marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist may engage in the private practice of marriage and family therapy as an individual practitioner or as a member of a partnership or group practice.

(E) A marriage and family therapist may diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders only under the supervision of a psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed professional clinical counselor, independent social worker, or independent marriage and family therapist. An independent marriage and family therapist may diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders without supervision.

(F) Nothing in this chapter or rules adopted under it authorizes an independent marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist to admit a patient to a hospital or requires a hospital to allow a marriage and family therapist to admit a patient.

(G) An independent marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist may not diagnose, treat, or advise on conditions outside the recognized boundaries of the marriage and family therapist's competency. An independent marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist shall make appropriate and timely referrals when a client's needs exceed the marriage and family therapist's competence level.

Attachment C: Texas Education Requirements

TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RULES

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Subchapter C. Applications and Licensing

801.112. General Academic Requirements.

- (a) An applicant must submit an official transcript showing:
 - (1) a master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE);
 - (2) a master's degree from a program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling (MCFC) specialization which meets the requirements of §801.114(b)(8) of this title (relating to Academic Course Content) and starts on or after January 1, 2017, (the earliest class reported on one of an applicant's official transcripts denotes the start of a program); or
 - (3) a master's or doctorate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in marriage and family therapy or in a related mental health field with a planned course of study in marriage and family therapy as described in §801.113(b), (c), and (d) of this title (relating to Academic Requirements) with the required minimum course content as described in §801.114 of this title.
- (b) An applicant with foreign degree or coursework must comply with council rules, 22 Texas Administrative Code §882.11, (relating to Applicants with Foreign Degrees).
- (c) An applicant must submit a course description from an official school catalog or syllabus for any course listed on the transcript with a title not self-explanatory or apparently relevant to academic requirements.
- (d) The council will not accept any undergraduate courses as meeting any academic requirements unless the applicant's official transcript clearly shows that the course was awarded graduate credit by the school.
- (e) The council will accept as meeting academic requirements only those courses shown on the applicant's transcript as:
 - (1) part of the applicant's program of studies and as completed with a passing grade or for credit; or

(2) taken outside the applicant's program of studies and completed with at least a "B" or "pass."

(f) The council will consider a quarter hour of academic credit as two-thirds of a semester hour.

801.113. Academic Requirements.

(a) An applicant for the licensure examination must have completed or be enrolled in a council-approved marriage and family therapy graduate internship.

(b) An applicant for LMFT Associate or LMFT must have a master's or doctorate degree in marriage and family therapy or a master's or doctorate degree in a related mental health field with course work and training determined by the council to be substantially equivalent to a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or an institution of higher education approved by the council with (the earliest class reported on one of an applicant's official transcripts denotes the start of a program):

(1) at least 45 semester hours for an applicant who started a program before August 1, 2017; or

(2) at least 60 semester hours for an applicant who started a program on or after August 1, 2017.

(c) A degree or course work in a related mental health field must have been a planned course of study designed to train a person to provide direct services to assist individuals, families or couples in a therapeutic relationship in the resolution of cognitive, affective, behavioral or relational dysfunctions within the context of marriage or family systems.

(d) Examples of degrees in a related mental health field may include counseling, psychology, social work, or family studies with an emphasis on Marriage and Family Therapy. Degrees in fields other than those listed may be reviewed for eligibility toward course equivalency in accordance with council rules, 22 Texas Administrative Code, §882.1 (relating to Application Process).

801.114. Academic Course Content.

(a) An applicant who holds a graduate degree in a mental health-related field must have course work in each of the following areas:

(1) theoretical foundations of marriage and family therapy--three semester hours;

(2) assessment and treatment in marriage and family therapy--12 semester hours;

- (3) human development, gender, multicultural issues and family studies--six semester hours;
 - (4) psychopathology--three semester hours;
 - (5) professional ethics--three semester hours;
 - (6) applied professional research--three semester hours; and
 - (7) supervised clinical internship--12 months or nine semester hours.
- (b) An applicant who begins a graduate degree program in marriage and family therapy or a mental health-related field on or after August 1, 2017, must complete course work and the minimum required semester hours in each of the following areas (the earliest class reported on one of an applicant's official transcripts denotes the start of a program):
- (1) theoretical knowledge and foundations of marriage and family therapy--three semester hours--including the historical development, theoretical and empirical foundations, and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy;
 - (2) assessment and treatment in marriage and family therapy--12 semester hours--including but is not limited to treatment approaches specifically designed for use with a wide range of diverse couples, families, and children, including sex therapy, same sex couples, young children, adolescents, interfaith couples, crisis intervention, and elderly;
 - (3) human development, gender, multicultural issues and family studies--six semester hours;
 - (4) psychopathology--three semester hours--including traditional psycho-diagnostic categories including knowledge and use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders;
 - (5) professional ethics--three semester hours--including professional identity of the marriage, couple, and family therapist, including professional socialization, scope of practice, professional organizations, licensure and certification; and ethical issues related to the profession of marriage, couple, and family therapy as well as the practice of individual therapy;
 - (g) applied professional research--three semester hours-- including research evidence related to MFT, becoming an informed consumer of research, and research and evaluation methods;
 - (h) treatment of addictions and management of crisis situations--no minimum requirements;

- (i) supervised clinical internship--12 months or nine semester hours.
During the supervised clinical internship, the applicant must have 300 hours of experience, of which:
 - (1) at least 150 hours must be direct client contact hours; and
 - (2) of the 150 direct client contact hours, at least 75 hours must be direct client contact with couples and families.
- (c) The remaining courses needed to meet the 45 or 60 graduate semester hour requirement must be marriage and family therapy or related course work in areas directly supporting the development of an applicant's professional marriage and family, individual, or group therapy skills.

801.203. Provisional LMFT License.

- (a) A provisional license may be granted to a person who:
 - (1) is licensed or otherwise registered as a marriage and family therapist by another state or other jurisdiction, whose requirements for licensure or registration, at the time the license or registration was obtained, were substantially equivalent to the requirements set out in §801.76 of this title (relating to Application for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT));
 - (2) has successfully passed a national examination relating to marriage and family therapy or an examination approved by the council;
 - (3) Is sponsored by a Texas LMFT with whom the provisional license holder may practice under this section;
 - (4) provides documentation, on council prescribed forms, of the experience requirements set out in §801.142 of 132 this title (relating to Supervised Clinical Experience Requirements and Conditions) and §801.143 of this title (relating to Supervisor Requirements); and
 - (5) meets any other requirements set forth under the Act.
- (b) Upon formal written request, the council may waive the requirement set out in subsection (a)(3) of this section, if the council determines that compliance with subsection (a)(3) of this section, would cause undue hardship to the applicant.
- (c) The council will issue a license to a holder of a provisional license if:
 - (1) the provisional license holder passes the examinations required by §801.174 of this title (relating to Licensure and Jurisprudence Examinations);

- (2) the provisional license holder provides official graduate transcripts meeting the requirements set forth in §§801.112 through 801.115 of this title (relating to General Academic Requirements, Academic Requirements, Academic Course Content, and Academic Requirements and Supervised Clinical Internship Equivalency for Applicants Currently Licensed as an LMFT in Another Jurisdiction, respectively);
 - (3) the provisional license holder provides documentation, on council prescribed forms, of the experience requirements set out in §§801.142 and 801.143 of this title (relating to Supervised Clinical Experience Requirements and Conditions and relating to Supervisor Requirements, respectively); and
 - (4) the provisional license holder meets any other requirements set forth under the Act.
- (d) The council must complete the processing of a provisional license holder's application for an LMFT license within 180 days after the provisional license was issued. The council may extend the 180-day deadline to allow for the receipt and tabulation of pending examination results.