

Please read Series 8, Marriage and Family Licensing Rule, for all details concerning MFT Licensure.

A brief summary for the 'Grandfathering Clause' section, 27-8-6.4, is provided below:

Section 27-8-6.4 states: To qualify as having substantially similar qualifications, a person applying for licensure under §30-31-9(c) must have a master's or doctoral degree from an institution with a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), or a comparable accrediting body as determined by the Board, and meet the requirements as set forth in 6.1a(3) and 6.1a(4) of this rule. **This provision expires on July 1, 2012.**

Section 27-8-6-4. will allow applicants that have been licensed for more than five (5) years the following:

1. Not be required to take an exam for MFT reciprocity licensure
2. Post Graduate Supervision is not required for reciprocity MFT licensure
3. The reciprocity applicant **does need to provide substantially similar coursework** (3 semester hours each) to the courses listed in the section below:

(a) **Marriage and family studies:** Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to marriage and family studies. The student should learn to think across a wide variety of family structures and a diverse range of issues (i.e. gender, culture, and substance abuse). Topic areas may include but not limited to: family development, subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families;

(b) **Systems theory:** Courses in this area should address the historical development, theoretical and empirical foundations, and contemporary conceptual directions of the field of marriage and family therapy;

(c) **Research:** Courses in this area should assist the student in understanding and performing research. Topic areas may include: research methodology, qualitative and quantitative methods, and statistics;

(d) **Professional ethics:** Courses in this area must 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 or certification legislation, independent practice and inter professional cooperation. Religious ethics courses and moral theology courses do not meet this requirement;

(e) **Human growth and development:** Courses in this area should provide knowledge of personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant coursework in human development across the lifespan, which includes special issues that should be integrated with systems concepts. Topic areas may include but are not limited to: human development, psychopathology, personality theory, human sexuality. Test and measurement courses do not meet this requirement;

(f) **Appraisal of individuals and families:** includes individual and family differences, methods of data gathering and interpretation, individual, family and group testing, and case study;

(g) **Principles of etiology, assessment,** diagnosis, treatment planning, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and dysfunctional behavior; and,

(h) **Practicum:** Includes a supervised training experience consisting of the provision of marriage and family therapy to clients and is acceptable to the Board;

(i) Minimum twelve months, supervised clinical practicum with three hundred hours of direct contact with individuals, couples, and families;

(ii) Fifty percent of the three hundred hours must be with couples and families present.

(4) The marriage and family therapy coursework completed must include **four courses in marriage and family therapy**. Courses in this area should have a major focus on advanced marital or family systems and systemic therapeutic interventions. This area is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation. Major theoretical approaches include but are not limited to: strategic, structural, object relations, behavioral, intergenerational, and systemic sex therapy.

You may find a MFT transcript review sheet on our website to use for charting your coursework.