

# **Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy & Mental Health Counseling**

## **Licensure Requirements**

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### **To be licensed as a Clinical Social Worker in Florida you must have:**

1. A master's degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited school of social work.
2. Completed 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course in psychopathology. Courses not considered to be clinically oriented are: policy, administration, organization and communities.
3. A supervised field placement that was part of the applicant's master's program, during which the applicant provided clinical services directly to clients.
4. Two (2) years of post-master's supervised experience under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker.\*\* The supervision experience must have consisted of at least 1,500 hours providing psychotherapy face to face with clients for the profession for which licensure is sought, and shall be accrued in no less than 100 weeks. At least 100 hours of supervision per 1,500 hours of psychotherapy face to face with clients provided by the intern; At least one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks; at least one (1) hour of supervision per fifteen (15) hours of psychotherapy, with a minimum of one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks. If the applicant obtained group supervision, each hour of group supervision must alternate with an hour of individual supervision. Individual supervision is defined as one supervisor supervising no more than two (2) interns and group supervision is defined as one supervisor supervising more than two (2) but a maximum of six (6) interns in the group.
5. Passed the national clinical level examination developed by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).
6. Completed an eight-hour laws and rules course from a board approved provider.
7. Completed a two-hour prevention of medical errors course from a board approved provider.
8. Completed a three hour HIV/AIDS course and two hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.

### **To be licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Florida you must have:**

1. A master's degree in MFT or a closely related field with major emphasis in marriage and family therapy.
2. Completed 36 semester hours or 48 quarter hours of graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level course credits in each of the following nine areas: (1) dynamics of marriage and family systems; (2) marriage therapy and counseling theory and techniques; (3) family therapy and counseling theory and techniques; (4) individual human development theories throughout the life cycle; (5) personality theory or general counseling theory and techniques; (6) psychopathology; (7) human sexuality theory; (8) psychosocial theory; and (9) substance abuse theory and counseling techniques. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in (10) legal, ethical, and professional standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy or a course

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determined by the board to be equivalent. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours in (11) diagnosis, appraisal, assessment, and testing for individual or interpersonal disorder or dysfunction; and a minimum of one 3 semester hour of 4 quarter hour graduate level course in (12) behavioral research which focuses on the interpretation and application of research data as it applies to clinical practice.

3. Completed a minimum of one supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience in a marriage and family counseling setting, during which the student provided 180 direct client contact hours of marriage and family therapy services.
4. Completed two years of post-master's supervised experience under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist with five years of experience or the equivalent (see 64B4-21.007 F.A.C.) who is qualified as determined by the Board.\*\* The supervision experience must have consisted of at least 1,500 hours providing psychotherapy face to face with clients for the profession for which licensure is sought, and shall be accrued in no less than 100 weeks. At least 100 hours of supervision per 1,500 hours of psychotherapy face to face with clients provided by the intern; At least one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks; at least one (1) hour of supervision per fifteen (15) hours of psychotherapy, with a minimum of one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks. If the applicant obtained group supervision, each hour of group supervision must alternate with an hour of individual supervision. Individual supervision is defined as one supervisor supervising no more than two (2) interns and group supervision is defined as one supervisor supervising more than two (2) but a maximum of six (6) interns in the group.
5. Passed the national examination developed by the Examination Advisory Committee of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) and Professional Examination Services. (If you have passed the TX, OH or the CA written/oral exam [offered prior to April '04], you are exempt from passing the national exam FL requires).
6. Completed an eight-hour laws and rules course from a board approved provider.
7. Completed a two-hour prevention of medical errors course from a board approved provider.
8. Completed a three hour HIV/AIDS course and two hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.

### **To be licensed as a Mental Health Counselor in Florida you must have:**

1. (a) Minimum of an earned master's degree from a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) that consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours of clinical and didactic instruction, including a course in human sexuality and a course in substance abuse. [Note: CACREP accredited programs that are not mental health counseling programs do not meet this requirement, i.e., community counseling, school counseling, counselor education.] **OR**

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(b) Minimum of an earned master's degree from a program related to the practice of mental health counseling that consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours and meets the following requirements:

- Minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of the following 12 content areas: counseling theories and practice, human growth and development, diagnosis and treatment of psychopathology, human sexuality, group theories and practice, individual evaluation and assessment, career and lifestyle assessment, research and program evaluation, social and cultural foundations, counseling in community settings, substance abuse, and legal, ethical, and professional standards issues. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation work, practicum's, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied toward this requirement.
  - The equivalent of at least 1,000 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience as required in the standards for CACREP accredited mental health counseling programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-master's clinical experience requirement.
2. Two (2) years of post-master's supervised experience under the supervision of licensed mental health counselor or the equivalent (64B4-31.007 F.A.C.) who is qualified as determined by the Board.\*\* The supervision experience must have consisted of at least 1,500 hours providing psychotherapy face to face with clients for the profession for which licensure is sought, and shall be accrued in no less than 100 weeks. At least 100 hours of supervision per 1,500 hours of psychotherapy face to face with clients provided by the intern; At least one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks; at least one (1) hour of supervision per fifteen (15) hours of psychotherapy, with a minimum of one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks. If the applicant obtained group supervision, each hour of group supervision must alternate with an hour of individual supervision. Individual supervision is defined as one supervisor supervising no more than two (2) interns and group supervision is defined as one supervisor supervising more than two (2) but a maximum of six (6) interns in the group.
  3. The applicant must pass the national clinical mental health counseling examination (NCMHCE) developed by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
  4. Complete an eight-hour laws and rules course from an approved provider.
  5. Complete a two-hour prevention of medical errors course from an approved provider.
  6. Complete a three-hour course on human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome within six months of licensure.
  7. Complete a two hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.

**\*\*Licensure by Endorsement for CSW/MFT/MHC** - If you cannot document two year's of post-master's supervised experience by a qualified supervisor and you hold an active valid license to practice and have actively practiced the profession for which licensure is applied in Florida for 3

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of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure, you are eligible to apply by endorsement. **This will exempt you from meeting the post-master's supervised experience requirement.**

## **As an endorsement applicant, you must also:**

- Meet the education requirements outlined in the previous information.
- Pass the national examination required for licensure in Florida (or will pass after Board approval).
- Complete an eight-hour laws and rules course from a board approved provider.
- Complete a two-hour prevention of medical errors course from a board approved provider.
- Complete a three hour HIV/AIDS course and two hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.

**To be provisionally licensed** (a license to practice under supervision while you meet additional FL licensure requirements such as master's coursework, CE coursework or passing the national exam - license is valid for 24 months - cannot be renewed) **as a CSW/MFT/MHC you must have:**

- First applied for licensure by exam/endorsement as a CSW/MFT/MHC in Florida.
- Been approved by the board for the provisional license.

## **To be dually licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Florida you must:**

- Be actively licensed in Florida for a minimum of three years as a Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) Psychologist or an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) (certified under Section 464.012 Florida Statute, as a specialist in psychiatric mental health by the Board of Nursing).
- Pass the national examination developed by the Examination Advisory Committee of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) and Professional Examination Services.

## **To obtain Limited Licensure in Florida you must:**

- Be retired or intend to retire from the practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy or mental health counseling.
- Have been actively licensed in another state for at least 10 years in the same profession as you are applying for a limited license in Florida.
- Only practice in the employ of public agencies or institutions or nonprofit agencies or institutions which meet the requirements of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and which provide professional liability coverage for acts or omissions of the limited licensee. A limited licensee may provide services only to the indigent, underserved, or critical need populations within the state. The standard for determining indigency shall be that recognized by the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines produced by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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## **To be licensed as a Certified Master Social Worker in Florida you must have:**

- A master's Degree in social work from a university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, with a major emphasis or specialty in clinical practice or administration.
- Completed 3 semester hours of graduate level coursework in the following content areas: (1) agency administration and supervision; (2) program planning and evaluation; (3) staff development; (4) research; (5) community organization; (6) community services; (7) social planning and (8) human services advocacy.
- Three (3) years experience, two (2) years of which must be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a person who meets the education and experience requirements for certification as a certified master social worker or a licensed clinical social worker.
- Passed the national advanced generalist examination developed by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).
- Completed an eight-hour laws and rules course from a board approved provider.
- Completed a two-hour prevention of medical errors course from a board approved provider.
- Completed a three hour HIV/AIDS course and two hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure.

**Note:** This is an administrative license. It will not authorize you to provide clinical social work services.