

Montana Board of Behavioral Health

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**Licensing Requirements and Application Checklist
Marriage and Family Therapist**

License Requirements for Marriage and Family Therapist

Below are the minimum requirements you must meet in order to be licensed in the state of Montana.

1. Applicant must meet one of the education requirements as described in Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3.
 - a. Option 1: Receive a master's degree or a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a recognized educational institution or a degree from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education; [[37.37.201](#)(1)(a)(i) MCA, [24.219.703](#)(1)(a)], or
 - b. Option 2: Receive a graduate degree in an allied field from a recognized educational institution and graduate level work that the board determines to be the equivalent of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling, [[37.37.201](#)(1)(a)(ii) MCA, ARM [24.219.703](#)(1)(b)], or
 - c. Option 3: Receive an educational program consisting of a minimum of 48 semester hours (or 72 quarter hours) that includes at least 36 hours of courses comprised of human development, family development/family dynamics, marriage and family systems/systems theory, marriage and family therapy, ethics in marriage and family therapy, and research in marriage and family therapy: in addition, at least nine hours of credit must be earned in actual direct client contact, including at least six semester hours of practicums and three or more semester hours of internship or externship to include a minimum total of 500 direct-client contact hours of which at least 50 percent is with couples or families, and 100 hours of supervision of which at least 75 are in individual supervision with, at most, one other supervisee, ARM [24.219.703](#)(1)(c)(d).
2. Fingerprinting and background check [[37.37.205](#)(2)(c) MCA, ARM [24.219.701](#)(10)],
3. Proof of good moral character [[37-37-201](#)(1)(d) MCA, and ARM [24.219.701](#)(2)(c)],
4. Application for and receipt of a Marriage and Family Therapist Licensure Candidate credential, MFLC, upon completion of an education requirement, 1a, 1b, or 1c and prior to earning post-degree supervised work experience, [[37.37.102](#)(4) MCA, [37.37.205](#) MCA, and ARM [24.219.705](#)],
5. Complete 3000 clinical supervision hours under direct supervision of a qualified supervisor, 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact in the practice of marriage and family therapy, 500 hours may be accumulated while achieving the educational credentials [[37.37.201](#)(1)(c) MCA & ARM [24.219.704](#)],
6. Pass a National Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Examination/Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB); [[37.37.201](#)(1)(b) MCA].

Checklist of Required Documents to Submit for Application for Marriage and Family Therapist

The following documents and additional forms are required in addition to the basic application. Some documents may be submitted directly by the applicant as part of the application. Others, such as transcripts, may need to be sent to the board directly from the source.

- Official license verification from states and jurisdictions in which the applicant holds or has ever held a professional license of any type,
- If you answered yes to discipline questions, include a detailed explanation on the event(s) and documentation from the source (licensing board, federal agencies/programs, or civil/criminal court proceedings such as initiating/charging documents, final disposition/judgement documents, etc.), [[37.37.201](#)(2)(3) MCA],
- Official transcripts sent directly to the Department from the university, [[37.37.205](#)(2)(b) MCA and ARM [24.219.701](#)(2)(b)],
- Three reference letters from the academic or behavioral health professions, [[37-37-201](#)(1)(d) MCA, and ARM [24.219.701](#)(2)(c)],
- Application must include submission of a Supervisor Agreement that includes qualified supervisor(s), [ARM [24.219.701](#)(2)(i), ARM [24.219.704](#)],
- Completion of a Training and Supervision Plan, [ARM [24.219.704](#) and ARM [24.219.705](#)],
- Completed background check results sent directly from State of Montana, Department of Justice to the Board office, [[37.37.205](#)(2)(c) MCA, ARM [24.219.701](#)(10)],
- Completion of a non-criminal justice application of rights form, [[37.37.205](#)(2)(c) MCA, ARM [24.219.701](#)(10)],
- Post-Candidate Credentialing, completion and submission of the Clinical Supervision Logs, [ARM [24.219.704](#)(2)(d)(i-vi)],
- Proof of passing score on the National Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Examination/Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB). [[37.37.201](#) MCA and ARM [25.219.701](#)(6)(7)(8) MCA],

Application Fee(s) for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

The following fee(s) must be submitted with your application. Online applicants can pay using a credit card or bank account. If you submit a paper application you must submit a check or money order. Do not mail cash.

- \$200 application fee

You can apply for a license online at <https://ebiz.mt.gov/POL/> or download a paper application from the website. Online application is recommended.

Please include a valid e-mail address with your application. E-mail is the department's primary form of communication.

If you have any questions about the application process or the licensing requirements please contact the Department of Labor and Industry Professional Licensing Bureau using the contact information at the top of this checklist.