

Clinical Fellow Membership Requirements under the Evaluative Track

Clinical Fellow members have completed a qualifying graduate degree in marriage and family therapy or a related mental health, minimum of two calendar years of work experience in marriage and family therapy under supervision in accordance with standards established by the AAMFT Board of Directors.

Educational Requirements: Master's or Doctoral degree in MFT from a COAMFTE accredited program or a related mental health field from a regionally accredited institution. For Canadian residents, the program needs to be BOTH affiliated with the Universities Canada (formerly known as the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada or AUCC) or be affiliated with a Universities Canada accredited college or university and fulfill the educational requirements.

***NOTE: ATS schools who meet the education requirements will be considered eligible.

A minimum grade of "C" is required to accept courses toward the education requirements. We cannot accept pass/fail courses.

A qualifying graduate degree will be defined as "an integrated course of study which must include five (5) of the core courses from any of the five (five) educational requirements." If there is less than 5 but at least 2 courses completed within the graduate degree program, the applicant can still qualify their degree by taking courses approved by AAMFT.

This requirement is not intended to infer that all five courses can be fulfilled in any one area, but rather, five courses are accepted from a combination of all the core areas.

Curriculum Requirements: Must successfully complete the eleven required courses in five basic areas for a total of 33 semester credits or 44-quarter credits. The equivalent of one course is defined as 3 semester credits, 4-quarter credits, For post degree training programs, a minimum of 36 didactic hours (i.e. lecture hours) will be equivalent to one course. Individuals who have graduated from a COAMFTE accredited program have met all required courses as outlined in the AAMFT curriculum guidelines.

Marriage and Family Studies (a minimum of three courses required)

Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to systems theory. The student should learn to think in systems terms across a wide variety of family structures and a diverse range of presenting issues (i.e. gender, culture, and substance abuse). Topic areas may include: systems theory, family development, subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families, etc.

Marriage and Family Therapy (a minimum of three courses required)

Courses in this area should have a major focus on advanced family systems theories 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 might include: strategic, structural, object relations family therapy, behavioral family therapy, communications family therapy, intergenerational family therapy, and systemic sex therapy.

Human Development (a minimum of three courses required)

Courses in this area should provide knowledge of individual personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant coursework in human development across the life span, which includes special issues that affect an individual's development (i.e. culture, gender, and human sexuality). This material should be integrated with systems concepts. Topic areas may include: human development, child/adolescent development, psychopathology, personality theory, human sexuality, etc. **Courses not accepted in this area include test and measurement, career development, group counseling, etc.**

Professional Ethics (a minimum of one course required)

Courses in this area are intended to contribute to the professional development of the therapist. Areas of study should include the therapist's legal responsibilities and liabilities, 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 are not accepted toward this area.**

Research (a minimum of one course required)

Courses in this area should assist students in understanding and performing research. Topic areas may include: research methodology, quantitative methods and statistics. **Individual personality, test and measurement, and library research courses are not accepted toward this area.**

Credential Evaluation Services

Foreign graduate degree(s) must be submitted with an English translation and detailed certification from a credential evaluation service. These agencies must certify that the foreign degree is equivalent to a United States graduate degree. The evaluation must also include a detailed list of courses that were accepted towards the degree, including grade and semester credits that were earned. All costs for this certification are the responsibility of the applicant. For a list of services, please contact the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. at www.naces.org.

Practicum Requirement: Minimum 300 hours of direct client contact with individuals, couples, and families. This requirement should be completed during the master's or doctorate degree. Applicants who did not complete the full 300 hours may document their remaining hours as their first post-graduate client contact hours supervised by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, supervisor candidate or by an alternate supervisor accepted by AAMFT specifically for that individual. However, at least some of the practicum hours must be completed during the graduate program as part of a recognized practicum. Not all of the hours may be post-grad.

Graduates of COAMFTE accredited programs have met this requirement. COAMFTE graduates complete a minimum of 500 hours.

Post-Graduate Clinical Fellow Experience: Minimum of two (2) years of professional work experience in marriage and family therapy following receipt of master's or doctorate degree. Post-graduate Clinical Fellow experience includes both client contact and supervision hours, which must be completed concurrently. All Clinical Fellow work must be supervised by a qualified supervisor (AAMFT Approved Supervisor, supervisor candidate, or alternate supervisor—see section 12 and description below).

Individuals must receive a minimum of 200 hours of supervision concurrently while providing 1,000 hours of client contact in marriage and family therapy. At least 100 hours of the 200 hours must be individual supervision. AAMFT will accept a maximum of 100 hours of group supervision

For graduates of a COAMFTE accredited program only, hours completed as part of the graduate practicum and reported in section 11 of the application will be accepted on a 1 to 5 supervision to client contact hour ratio toward the post-graduate Clinical Fellow membership requirements. All hours will be accepted for graduates of COAMFTE accredited post-degree institutes.

Alternate Supervisor Qualifications: Supervisor should possess the educational and Clinical Fellow requirements as described above, plus a valid state (or province) license/certification. The supervisor should also have completed following minimum requirements:

- Five (5) years of professional work experience in marriage and family therapy.
- Three (3) years supervising marriage and family therapy trainees.
- Thirty-six (36) hours of supervision of supervision.
- Graduate marriage and family therapy supervision courses.