



26 | Related Educational Programs, or the equivalent ~~a closely~~  
27 | ~~related field~~, and has completed all of the following  
28 | requirements:

29 |       a. Thirty-six semester hours or 48 quarter hours of  
30 | graduate coursework approved by the Florida Board of Clinical  
31 | Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health  
32 | Counseling, which must include a minimum of 3 semester hours or  
33 | 4 quarter hours of graduate-level course credits in each of the  
34 | following nine areas: dynamics of marriage and family systems;  
35 | marriage therapy and counseling theory and techniques; family  
36 | therapy and counseling theory and techniques; individual human  
37 | development theories throughout the life cycle; personality  
38 | theory or general counseling theory and techniques;  
39 | psychopathology; human sexuality theory and counseling  
40 | techniques; psychosocial theory; and substance abuse theory and  
41 | counseling techniques. Courses in research, evaluation,  
42 | appraisal, assessment, or testing theories and procedures;  
43 | thesis or dissertation work; or practicums, internships, or  
44 | fieldwork may not be applied toward this requirement.

45 |       b. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester  
46 | hours or 4 quarter hours in legal, ethical, and professional  
47 | standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy  
48 | or a course determined by the board to be equivalent.

49 |       c. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester  
50 | hours or 4 quarter hours in diagnosis, appraisal, assessment,

51 and testing for individual or interpersonal disorder or  
52 dysfunction; and a minimum of one 3-semester-hour or 4-quarter-  
53 hour graduate-level course in behavioral research which focuses  
54 on the interpretation and application of research data as it  
55 applies to clinical practice. Credit for thesis or dissertation  
56 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied  
57 toward this requirement.

58 d. A minimum of one supervised clinical practicum,  
59 internship, or field experience in a marriage and family  
60 counseling setting, during which the student provided 180 direct  
61 client contact hours of marriage and family therapy services  
62 under the supervision of an individual who met the requirements  
63 for supervision under paragraph (c). This requirement may be met  
64 by a supervised practice experience which took place outside the  
65 academic arena, but which is certified as equivalent to a  
66 graduate-level practicum or internship program which required a  
67 minimum of 180 direct client contact hours of marriage and  
68 family therapy services currently offered within an academic  
69 program of a college or university accredited by an accrediting  
70 agency approved by the United States Department of Education, or  
71 an institution which is publicly recognized as a member in good  
72 standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges of  
73 Canada or a training institution accredited by the Commission on  
74 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education  
75 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

76 Certification shall be required from an official of such  
77 college, university, or training institution.

78 2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
79 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
80 coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
81 additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
82 syllabus or catalog description published for the course.

83  
84 The required master's degree must have been received in an  
85 institution of higher education which at the time the applicant  
86 graduated was: fully accredited by a regional accrediting body  
87 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
88 Accreditation; publicly recognized as a member in good standing  
89 with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; or  
90 an institution of higher education located outside the United  
91 States and Canada, which at the time the applicant was enrolled  
92 and at the time the applicant graduated maintained a standard of  
93 training substantially equivalent to the standards of training  
94 of those institutions in the United States which are accredited  
95 by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on  
96 Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. Such foreign  
97 education and training must have been received in an institution  
98 or program of higher education officially recognized by the  
99 government of the country in which it is located as an  
100 institution or program to train students to practice as

101 professional marriage and family therapists or psychotherapists.  
102 The burden of establishing that the requirements of this  
103 provision have been met shall be upon the applicant, and the  
104 board shall require documentation, such as, but not limited to,  
105 an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service, as  
106 evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and  
107 education were equivalent to an accredited program in this  
108 country. An applicant with a master's degree from a program  
109 which did not emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete  
110 the coursework requirement in a training institution fully  
111 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
112 Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States  
113 Department of Education.

114 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 491.006, Florida  
115 Statutes, is amended to read:

116 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

117 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to  
118 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon  
119 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
120 demonstrates to the board that he or she:

121 (a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of  
122 the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
123 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
124 and mental health counseling.

125 (b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has

126 actively practiced the profession for which licensure is applied  
127 in another state for 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding  
128 licensure.

129 ~~2. Meets the education requirements of this chapter for~~  
130 ~~the profession for which licensure is applied.~~

131 2.3. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing  
132 examination in another state or has passed the licensure  
133 examination in this state in the profession for which the  
134 applicant seeks licensure.

135 3.4. Holds a license in good standing, is not under  
136 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of  
137 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act  
138 that would constitute a violation of this chapter. The fees paid  
139 by any applicant for certification as a master social worker  
140 under this section are nonrefundable.

141 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.