



## Impact of Practicum Changes

The Board's statutes currently require 6 semester or 9 quarter units of practicum, along with 150 hours of direct client contact. California schools with an MFT program require an average of 8 semester practicum units, and an average of 230 client contact hours, although most schools require 150. A slight majority of students are in programs that require the current minimum 6 semester units of practicum and 150 direct client contact hours. However, a significant number of students are in programs that require a greater amount. See Attachment C for more information regarding individual school requirements and student enrollment.

For many schools, the proposed increase to 9 semester or 13 quarter units of practicum and to 225 hours of direct client contact does not pose a significant increase. Some concerns have been expressed that trainee positions in which hours are gained are often unpaid, and this would create a hardship for many. However, any additional hours of experience can be counted toward those required for licensure. Others have expressed support for the change, believing that it is necessary for protection of the public.

## Methodology

The data in this memo and in the attachments was obtained directly from the schools via email and also from school websites.

## Attachments

- A. State Schools (CSUs) with MFT Programs - Overall Semester Units Required and Number of Students Currently Enrolled
- B1. All Private Schools with MFT Programs in California - Number of Students Currently Enrolled and Total Units Required, *Sorted by Enrollment*
- B2. All Private Schools with MFT Programs in California - Number of Students Currently Enrolled and Total Units Required, *Sorted by Units*
- C1. All California Schools with MFT Programs - Minimum Practicum Units and Client Contact Hours Required – *Sorted by Enrollment*
- C2. All California Schools with MFT Programs - Minimum Practicum Units and Client Contact Hours Required – *Sorted by Units*