

GUIDE TO LMFT OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) does not have reciprocity with any other state licensing board. Any applicant, whether licensed or unlicensed, will need to meet all requirements mandated by California law prior to being issued a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) license. The application process for an out-of-state applicant, as well as the qualifications required, may differ depending on the following:

1. Whether you are licensed in another state, and for how long;
2. The amount of supervised experience you have completed and whether it is substantially equivalent to California's requirements; and
3. Your degree and other coursework you have completed.

The information in this document is a summary and is provided only as a general guide. **For more information, see the "Application Instructions" section of the *LMFT Application for Licensure and Examination - Out-of-State*.** For more information about general requirements pertaining to LMFT licensure, see the Board's [Statutes and Regulations](#).

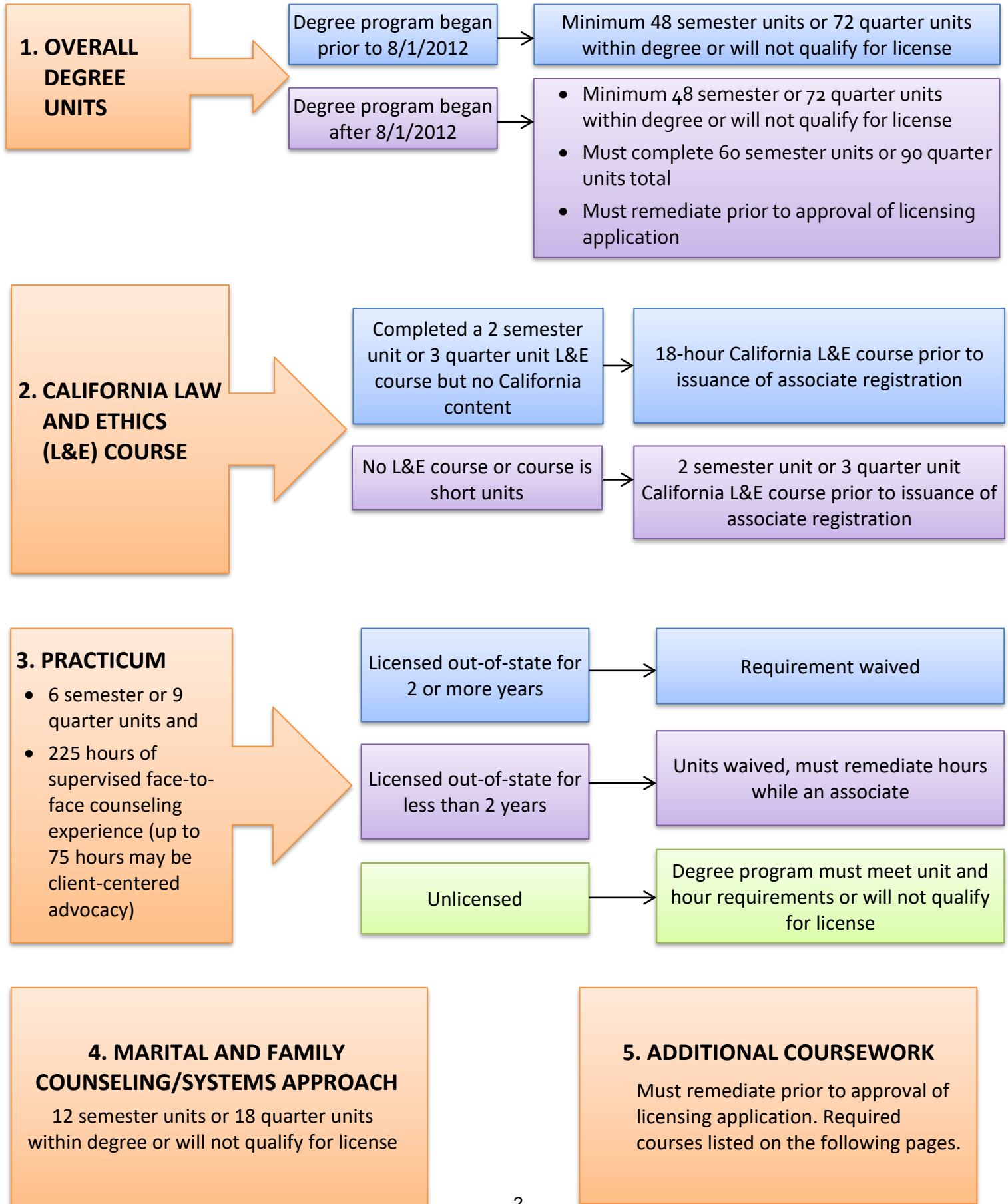
For questions about **educational** requirements, contact: bbs.amft@dca.ca.gov

For questions about supervised **experience** requirements, contact: bbs.lmft@dca.ca.gov

EDUCATION, SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE AND EXAMINATIONS

- **Education**: If you are unsure whether your degree or other coursework qualifies (or is deficient), submit your *Application for Associate MFT Registration* or *Application for Licensure and Examination*, and we will provide you with the results of the evaluation.
- **Experience**: Regardless of whether you are licensed, you must meet California's supervised experience requirement of 3,000 hours gained over a minimum of two (2) years. Any experience in California must be gained as a registered Associate MFT.
 - **Credit for Time Actively Licensed**: If you hold a LMFT license in another state and need additional experience to meet California's requirements, you may count up to 100 hours for every month licensed toward the supervised experience requirement, for a maximum of 1,200 hours. These hours do not need to be verified.
- **Examination**: You will be required to pass the LMFT California Law and Ethics Exam. You may take this exam upon registration as an Associate MFT or upon approval of your *Application for Licensure and Examination*. After passing the Law and Ethics Exam, you will be required to pass the California LMFT Clinical Exam.

Summary of LMFT Out-of-State Education Requirements



ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK LIST - LMFT OUT-OF-STATE

The required courses listed below may be taken from a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, a school approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), or an acceptable continuing education provider.

Undergraduate coursework cannot be accepted. See [Statutes and Regulations](#) for required content.

Note: 1 semester unit = 15 hours; 1 quarter unit = 10 hours

Course	Length	Content Required
a) Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting in California	7 hours	See Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 28
b) California Cultures, and the Social and Psychological Implications of Socioeconomic Position	15 hours	Instruction must include an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
c) Mental Health Recovery Oriented Care and Methods of Service Delivery	45 hours	Instruction must cover principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments, including structured meetings with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment and recovery.
d) Diagnosis, Assessment, Prognosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders	30 hours	Must include diagnosis, assessment, prognosis and treatment of mental disorders, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe mental disorders • Promising mental health practices • Evidence-based practices
e) Psychological Testing	15 hours	Instruction must cover psychological testing
f) Psychopharmacology	15 hours	Instruction must cover psychopharmacology

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Course	Length	Content Required
g) Developmental Issues from Infancy to Old Age	15 hours	Must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of developmental issues on individuals, couples and family relationships. • The psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications of developmental issues and their effects. • The understanding of the impact that personal and social insecurity, social stress, low educational levels, inadequate housing and malnutrition have on human development.
h) Aging, Long Term Care and Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse	10 hours	Instruction must cover aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive and psychological aspects of aging, as well as instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
i) Spousal/Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection and Intervention	15 hours	Instruction must cover spousal and partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.
j) Multicultural Development and Cross-Cultural Interaction	15 hours	Instruction must include experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender, and disability, and their incorporation into the psychotherapeutic process.
k) Human Sexuality	10 hours	Instruction must include the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.
l) Substance Use Disorders	15 hours	See BPC section 4980.81(a)(7)
m) Co-Occurring Disorders and Addiction	15 hours	See BPC section 4980.81(a)(7)

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Course	Length
<p>n) Miscellaneous Content Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childbirth, child rearing, parenting and step-parenting • Marriage, divorce and blended families • Cultural factors relevant to abuse of partners and family members • Poverty and deprivation • Financial and social stress • Effects of trauma • The psychological, psychotherapeutic, community and health implications of the matters and life events that arise in marriage and family relationships within a variety of California cultures 	<p>No specific number of hours required, but content listed must be adequately covered within the applicant's coursework</p>