

The Board of Behavioral Sciences 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 at the highest level 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.
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, the "Application Instructions" section of the [LMFT Application for Licensure and Examination \(Out-of-State Applicant\)](#). For more information about requirements pertaining to LMFT licensure, see the Board's [Statutes and Regulations](#).

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

See the following pages for information about educational requirements. If you are unsure whether your degree or other coursework qualifies (or is deficient), submit your *Application for Associate Marriage and Family Therapist Registration* or *Application for Licensure and Examination* and fee, and we will provide you with the results of the evaluation.

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

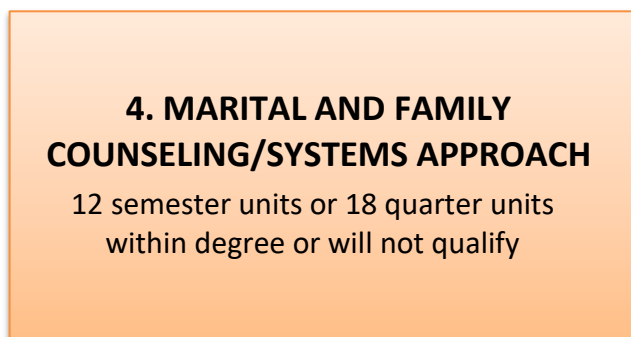
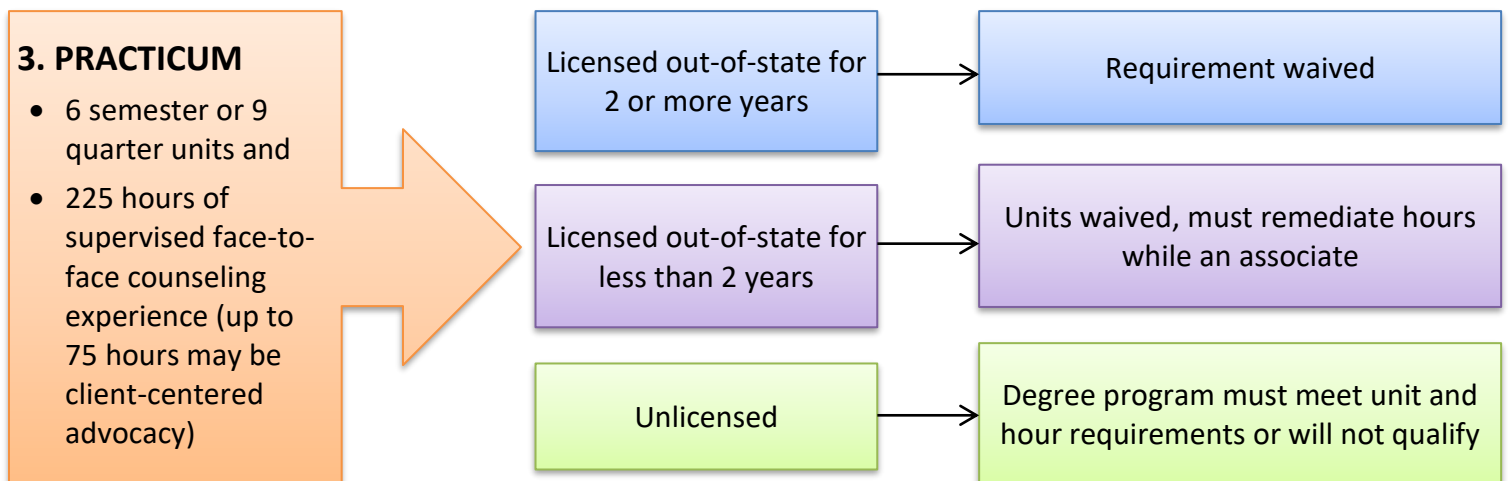
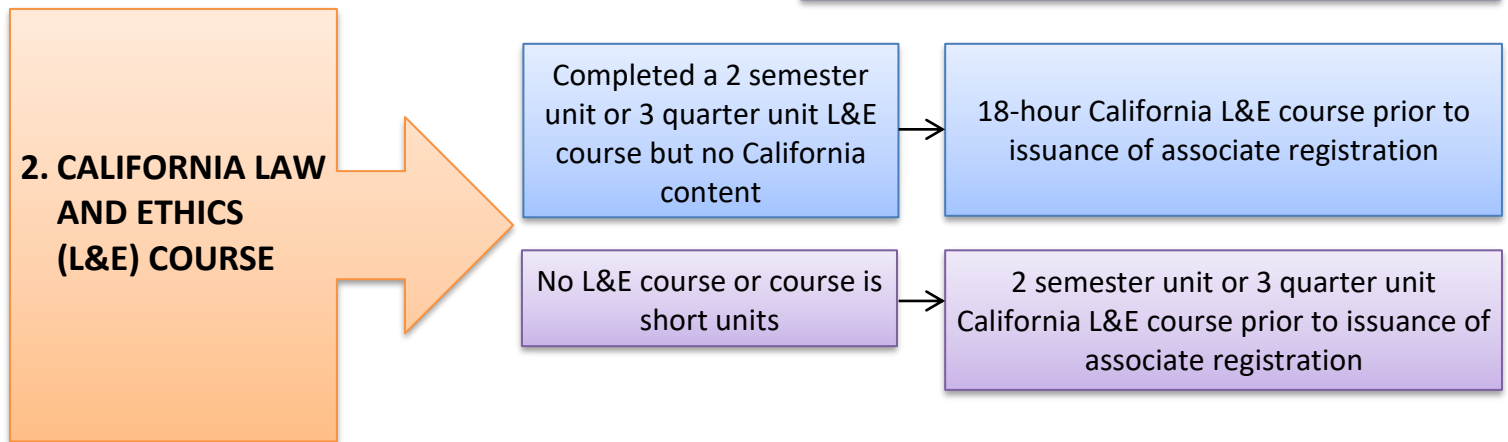
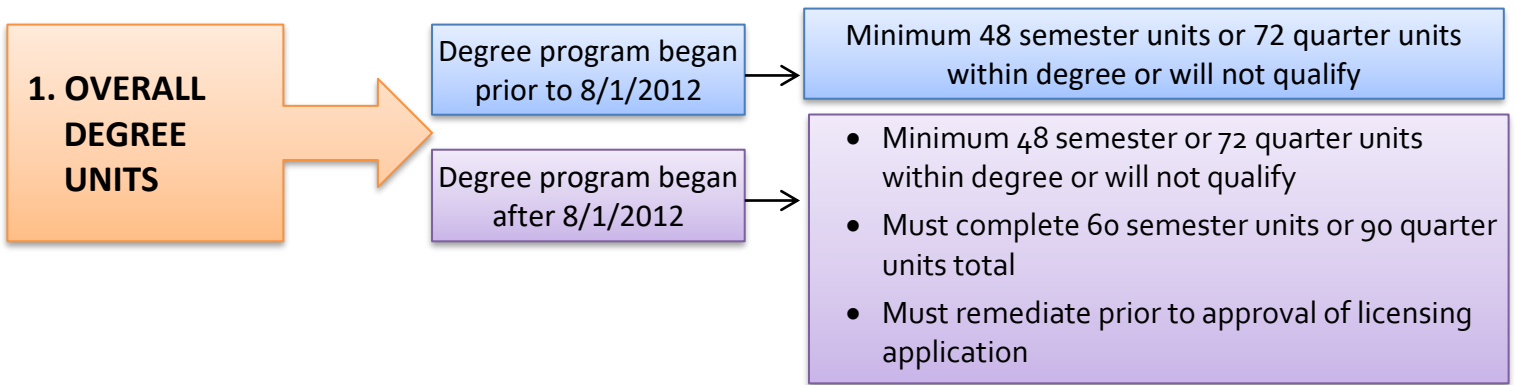
EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

You will be required to pass the LMFT California Law and Ethics Exam. You may take this exam upon registration as an Associate 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.

SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

<p>If you <u>currently</u> hold an <u>active</u> license as an LMFT (at the highest level) in another state, and have held that license for four (4) or MORE years immediately preceding the date of your California application:</p>	<p>You do not need to provide documentation of your supervised experience.</p>
<p>If you <u>currently</u> hold an <u>active</u> license as an LMFT (at the highest level) in another state, and have held that license for LESS than four (4) years:</p>	<p>The vast majority of applicants in this category do not need to provide documentation of supervised experience, as most states also require at least 3,000 hours of supervised experience.</p> <p>If your license was issued in a state that required less than 3,000 hours, you may count up to 100 hours for each month actively licensed, for a maximum of 1,200 hours. If you are still short, you must document additional experience on the <i>Out-of-State Experience Verification</i> form to total 3,000 hours (or gain in-state supervised experience while registered as an Associate).</p>
<p>If your out-of-state license is not current or active at the time of application:</p>	<p>Contact your state board to see if you can reinstate your license to an active status prior to submitting your application to the Board of Behavioral Sciences. If you are unable to do so, you must follow the instructions for unlicensed applicants.</p>
<p>If you are unlicensed:</p>	<p>You will need to submit verification of substantially equivalent supervised experience totaling 3,000 hours and 104 supervised weeks (see the <i>Out-of-State Experience Verification</i> form for specifics). This experience must have been gained within the six (6) years prior to your California application. If any experience will be obtained in California, you must register as an Associate first. See <i>Application Instructions</i> for more information.</p>

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



ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK LIST – LMFT OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS

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	1 semester unit or 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	3 semester units or 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	2 semester units	Must include diagnosis, assessment, prognosis and treatment of mental disorders, including: • 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
g) Developmental Issues from Infancy to Old Age	15 hours	Instruction 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.

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Course	Length	Content Required
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	1 semester unit or 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)
n) Miscellaneous Content	No specific number of hours required, but content listed must be adequately covered within the applicant's coursework	<p>Instruction must include:</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