

Congratulations! You've either completed your education and are filling out the LMFTA application or have completed your requirements for licensure and are filling out your application for LMFT. As a board, we share your desire to grant approval to your application and are excited to help you on your next step in your career. This quick note is to assist you in your application process so that you can move forward without delay.

At this time, you have certainly become aware of the LMFT Statutes and Regulations (if not, please review them). It is important to note that Statutes are laws passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. One job of the board is to review each application to ensure it meets the minimum requirements established by this law. Since it is your legal application, the board obviously cannot make changes to it but is limited to determining if your application meets the minimum requirements of the Statutes and Regulations. The most common errors on the application are in the first three sections of required coursework.

If your education fulfills the minimum requirements of the Statute and the application is filled out properly, then the processing time will be minimized. You will notice that the first requirement on the course worksheet is for Marital and Family Therapy Theory. This is fulfilled by courses focused on different systems theories (i.e., Strategic, Structural, Psychoanalytic Family Therapies, etc.) and the application of those theories (i.e., Fundamental Therapy Skills, Advanced Therapy Skills, Family Systems in Culture, etc.). The second requirement on the course worksheet is for Marital and Family Studies. These are a bit broader than the first and can be fulfilled by a multitude of classes that focus on family studies (i.e., Sex and the Relationship, Parenting, Addictions in the Family, Family Life Cycle, etc.). The third section is Human Development. Courses that fulfill the Statute obviously must be about human development (i.e., Child Development, Family Life Cycle, Psychopathology, etc.). To meet the minimum requirements of the Statute, you must have at least 9 semester or 12 quarter credit hours in each of these three areas. Although these are not all of the course requirements for the Statute, others are rarely a problem on applications.

Due to the differences in schools and the many different names of the courses, the class name on your transcript may not clearly correspond with the legal requirements established (i.e., Placing a course called "Crisis Situations" in the Marital and Family Studies section). In such cases, the course description can be provided with your application so that the board has more information in which to make its decision. It is important to note that if the course description does not indicate that it focuses on the requirement of the Statute, then the board cannot grant approval. For instance, the course description for Crisis Situations must indicate something like, "Crisis situations will be discussed from a family perspective" and not something like, "Impact of crisis situations on the family will be considered." If you find that you are short of the minimum requirements, you will save yourself a great deal of time by taking the missing course(s) vs. trying to press the square peg into a round hole.

Again, congratulations on your progress thus far. You've obviously worked hard to get to this point in your career, and the Board of Marital and Family Therapy is excited to help you take this next step. If you complete the required coursework and then fill out your application using the guidelines above, then approval should be relatively quick. We look forward to seeing your application.