

AAMFT Certification & LMFT Licensure

Denver Family Institute offers a Post-Master's Degree Certification in Marriage and Family Therapy. The Certification program is accredited by the [Commission of Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy](#). The certification program centers on two years of clinically oriented coursework in family systems theory and relational therapies, along with intensive supervision and clinical work at the institute's low-fee clinic.

Clinical Training:

In order to graduate, you must complete 500 hours of face-to-face clinical contact hours. All of these hours must be earned after the receipt of a master's degree.

- No more than 250 hours of these same 500 hours may occur off site.
- 250 of the 500 hours must be relational in nature (two or more people must be in the room with the therapist).
- Students must complete a minimum of 10 live case presentations in supervision prior to graduation.
- The number of clinical contact hours for licensure and the way they are counted varies throughout Colorado. Contact your professional board to keep track of any changes, or call the [Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies](#) at (303) 894-7766.

Academic Requirements

To graduate with the MFT Certificate, students must have 12 Standard Didactic Units. One SDU is equal to 30 class contact hours. Students receive 8 SDUs while at Denver Family Institute (2 SDUs in Family Studies, 5.33 SDUs in Clinical Practice, and .66 SDUs in Professional Identity and Ethics). We are in the process of modifying our coursework to earn 5.00 SDUs in Clinical Practice and 1 SDU in Ethics and Professional Identity and Ethics. The remaining coursework in Individual Development/Family Relations, Ethics, Research and Additional Learning typically are met with graduate school coursework from the related master's degree. Students must complete the minimum courses prior to graduation.

- 2 SDUs – Theoretical Foundations/Family Studies
- 5 SDUs – Clinical Practice
- 2 SDUs – Individual Development & Family Relations
- 1 SDU – Professional Identity & Ethics
- 1 SDU – Research
- 1 SDU – Additional Learning

Students taking the coursework at DFI receive the following:

- Theoretical Foundations (2 SDUs) - Family Studies I and II and Couples I (60 contact hours divided by 30 hours per SDU)
- Clinical Practice (5.33 SDUs) – Family Therapy Assessment Course, Strategies and Techniques, Multi-Problem Families, Couples II, Couples & Sex Therapy (couples III), Applied Cultural Competence, Theoretical Integrity, Special Populations (160 hours divided by 30 hours per equals 5.33 SDUs)
- Ethics and Professional Identity (0.66 SDUs) - Applied Ethics course. Students needing a full Standard Didactic Unit to meet licensing requirements may earn 10 additional contact hours upon arrangement for independent study with the Ethics instructor.
- Individual Development and Family Relations - No SDUs are earned in the normal coursework at DFI (most students have this from their graduate degree).
- Research - Students typically meet this requirement in their graduate program. Independent study in this area may be arranged.
- Additional Learning - Coursework from the graduate degree typically may be used to meet this requirement.

If students have not yet met some of these requirements in their master's or other graduate programs, the coursework must be completed prior to graduation. Independent study to meet this requirement may be arranged. Summer and interim courses are offered occasionally. These courses are optional and do not count toward graduation, though they may help in licensure, etc.

Students must successfully pass these classes.

The academic requirements for the LMFT in Colorado currently differ from our COAMFTE graduation requirements. Students applying for the LMFT in Colorado who have graduated from DFI generally meet the LMFT academic requirements. However, we urge students to review those requirements with a faculty member prior to graduation from DFI. Additional coursework may be designed to assist students in meeting those requirements. We strongly encourage students to pursue the LMFT for their professional identity and success. Thus, DFI wants to assist you in determining those requirements. Graduation from DFI does not guarantee eligibility for the license as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

Licensing/Clinical Membership in AAMFT

Students maintain ultimate responsibility for knowing and meeting licensing requirements. These requirements are subject to change and are beyond the control of Denver Family Institute. For the

most current information on licensure in your profession in Colorado please go to <http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/index.htm>.

If you practice in Colorado, licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist is required to obtain clinical membership in AAMFT. To date, students who have met DFI's academic graduation requirements have also met the LMFT board's requirements for licensure. We cannot, however, guarantee this on an individual basis, as it depends on graduate courses taken. We will assist students in determining if they have adequate coursework to obtain the LMFT and offer independent study classes to meet these requirements.

Students must also pass a licensing exam. DFI students have passed this exam routinely, but again, individual results cannot be guaranteed. In addition, the number of clinical hours required by the licensing board differ from those of the Institute (1,500 hours required versus 500 hours).