

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION**

BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY  
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

December 1, 2020  
DATE OF POLICY

20-002  
POLICY NO.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**CLARIFICATION OF BOARD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

It is the position of the D.C. Board of Marriage and Family Therapy that an applicant for licensure pursuant to Board rule 7702.1(a) shall also meet the requirements of Board rule 7202.2. The requirements of Board rule 7202.2 will not be applicable to an applicant seeking licensure pursuant to Board rule 7702.1(b) since most allied field programs would not have Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) accreditation.

**7702.1** An applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board in accordance with § 831(a) of the Act, (D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.31(a) (2004 Supp.)) that the applicant: **(a)** Has successfully completed a master's degree or a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a recognized educational institution; or **(b)** Possesses a graduate degree in an allied field as defined in section 7799, from a recognized educational institution and has successfully completed graduate level course work which is equivalent to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, as determined by the Board.

**7202.2** For the purposes of Subsection 7702.1, qualifying degrees shall consist of at least sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter credits in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE).

To meet the professional education requirement for licensure as a marriage and family therapist in the District of Columbia, one must present evidence of A or B below.

- A. A master's or doctoral degree from a program in marriage and family therapy that is:
- registered by the Board as licensure qualifying; or
  - accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) or another acceptable accrediting agency; or
  - determined by the Board to be the substantial equivalent of such a registered or accredited program.

**OR**

- B. A master's or higher degree from a program in an allied mental health field acceptable to the Board (including but not limited to social work, psychology and mental health counseling) and additional graduate level coursework, if needed, determined by the Board to provide the substantial equivalent professional education of a licensure qualifying program in Marriage and Family Therapy.

The Board supports the effort to amend and update its current statutes and regulations to bring further clarification.

All inquiries pertaining to the practice of marriage and family therapy, including this policy, may be directed to the Board's Health Licensing Specialist, Ms. Thelma Ofosu-Mensah, at (202) 478-5791 or [thelma.ofosu-mensah@dc.gov](mailto:thelma.ofosu-mensah@dc.gov).