Licensure requirements are of ever increasing importance to graduates in counseling. Even as this is being written, laws governing licensure and certification requirements throughout Tennessee and much of the country are being revised. These changes have left voids in licensure knowledge and many unanswered questions. To begin providing students with pertinent information, the following section has been written. However, the final word on the necessary requirements for licensure is with the state and the appropriate licensing bodies. Students should refer to their state licensing boards and the most current laws as the ultimate sources of information. As the current laws are written, those who plan to work in community agencies, private practice, or the schools and who are not specifically excluded from licensure by the law (e.g. ministers), will be required to obtain licensure in at least one area.

**Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)**

The requirements for licensure in Tennessee as a MFT are:

1. Complete a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy or related field that includes 3 courses in marriage and family therapy, 3 courses in family studies, 3 courses in human development and personality, a legal and ethical course, a psychopathology or DSM course, a research methods course, and a year of supervised practicum/internship that includes 300 client contact hours.
2. Work for 2 years doing marriage and family therapy under supervision, acquiring 1000 client contact hours and 200 hours of supervision by an approved MFT supervisor.
3. Take a written and an oral examination. The oral exam is given shortly after confirmation that one has successfully passed the written exam. The written exam consists of 200 multiple choice questions drawn from a knowledge base consistent with the educational requirements in (1) above. The oral exam usually covers legal and ethical issues, the laws governing marriage and family therapy in Tennessee, and a case study response.

The program at ETSU provides the educational course work required (as specified in (1) above), but graduates must fulfill requirements (2) and (3) following graduation. The professional organization for MFTs is called the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (Information regarding this organization may be obtained at www.aamft.org or by calling 1-800-99A-AMFT). The regulation and licensure of MFTs in Tennessee is the responsibility of the Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists, 227 French Landing, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37243. You may call (615) 532-3202 or visit http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/PC_MFT&CPT/index.htm.

Following receipt of a graduate degree and all educational requirements, one may apply for and receive a temporary license for up to three years. The person must be under the supervision of an approved supervisor, take the written exam within the first year, and take the oral exam following accumulation of the 1000 client contact hours and the 200 supervised hours. Receiving a temporary license after graduating may help students in obtaining employment while they complete the requirements for a regular license.

Marriage and Family Therapy option students who wish to seek LPC, MHSP licensure should note that the standards for what constitutes practicum/internship hours are different for LPC and LMFT. For LMFT, 300 direct client contact hours are required. For LPC, 500 hours of fieldwork are required of which 240 hours are direct client contact. Also note that of those hours, LPC requires 300 hours of internship in a community mental health setting.