

Overview - California has one State Licensing Boards for Psychologists, the California Board of Psychology. The Board of Psychology only accepts degrees obtained in foreign countries outside of the United States and Canada if you have Doctorate equivalency certified by a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). The web site for the Board of Psychology is www.psychboard.ca.gov. The Board of Behavioral Sciences licenses Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Educational Psychologists (requires three years experience as school psychologist in a public school). The best option for most foreign trained psychologists is to follow the process of obtaining a Marriage and Family Therapist License (MFT). The process is as follows:

- 1. International Education Research Foundation (IERF)** - IERF is the foreign credential evaluation service required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences in order to start the process of acquiring a license as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). Their phone number is (310) 258-9451; fax is (310) 342-7086. You can go to their website at www.ierf.org. You can download the application from their website. The type of report you need is a "Detail Report." In 2002, the cost for this report was \$150. You will need to send them copies of your transcripts and diploma. If the transcripts/diploma are not in English, you must send a "certified" translation of them. IERF will send you two copies of the evaluation. One copy is for you and the other copy will be in a sealed envelope. You will then mail the copy in the sealed envelope (do not open it) to the Board of Behavioral Sciences with your application.
- 2. Board of Behavioral Sciences** - Once you have your report from IERF, contact the Board of Behavioral Sciences to obtain the Marriage and Family Therapist Intern Registration Application Packet. You do not need to send the "Program Certification" form as part of your application. Their address is 400 R Street, Suite 3150, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 445-4933. Website- <http://www.bbs.ca.gov>. You can download the application from their website. The cost for this application was \$75 in 2002. The Board will issue you an "intern registration number." After you have this number, you can continue your licensing process.
- 3. Supervised Experience** - Once you receive your "intern registration number" from the Board, you must obtain 3,000 hours of supervised experience. You must be supervised by a person licensed for at least two years in California as a Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, Clinical Social Worker, Psychologist, or Physician who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. You have six years from the time you register as an intern to obtain this experience. The supervised experience can be paid experience; however, you cannot receive payment as an independent contractor.
- 4. Additional Training** - There are five additional educational requirements that you must obtain before submitting your application for a license. These are: 1) Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting (7 hours); 2) Human Sexuality (10 hours); 3) Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency (15 hours); 4) California Law and Professional Ethics (no number of hours specified) and 5) Spousal or Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection, and Intervention (no number of hours specified). You can look in the National Association of Social Workers (California Chapter) website for a listing of pre-licensing courses offered. Click on their CE (continuing education) Catalog. <http://www.naswca.org/ce.html>.
- 5. Board of Behavioral Sciences** – After completing your 3,000 hours of supervised practice and the additional training required, contact the Board of Behavioral Sciences to obtain the Application for State License as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Their address is 400 R Street, Suite 3150, Sacramento, CA 95814-6240. Telephone: (916) 445-4933. Website- <http://www.bbs.ca.gov>. The fee for this application is \$200. After the Board reviews your application, they will inform you that you are eligible to take the Written Examination. Once you pass the written examination, you will be required to complete an application for the Oral Examination and submit it with a \$200 fee. After you pass the oral examination, you will submit a Request for Initial Licensure with a fee and get your license.

San Francisco Welcome Back Center

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