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CHAPTER 833

MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY

OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

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RULES:

833-020-0051, 833-030-0011, 833-030-0021, 833-040-0011, 833-040-0021

AMEND: 833-020-0051

RULE TITLE: Reciprocity Method

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/07/2024

RULE SUMMARY: Amends qualification and documentation requirements for licensure as a professional counselor or marriage and family therapist for those who hold a comparable license in another state. Removes detailed information gathered from and about other state. Clarifies requirement for and meaning of primary source verification of applications materials.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) The reciprocity method requires applicants to document that they obtained a comparable license in another state in which the requirements are equivalent to the standards required for Oregon licensure as a professional counselor or as a marriage and family therapist.
- (2) Applicants for licensure by reciprocity must possess a current, active license to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy issued by another state credentialing entity.
- (3) Application for licensure must be submitted to the Board office in accordance with OAR 833-020-0011.
- (4) The application must also include an official verification of each healthcare professional license, registration or certification held, current or expired.
- (5) To be considered equivalent, the applicant's license in the state upon which reciprocity is based must have:
 - (a) Required at least a graduate degree in counseling, a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy, or a related degree; and
 - (b) Been issued to an applicant whose qualifying degree meets the educational requirements specified in:
 - (A) OAR 833-030-0011 for licensure as a professional counselor; or
 - (B) OAR 833-040-0011 for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.
- (6) The applicant must meet the supervised clinical experience requirements specified in:

- (a) OAR 833-030-0021 for licensure as a professional counselor; or
- (b) OAR 833-040-0021 for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.
- (7) The applicant must meet the examination requirements specified in:
 - (a) OAR 833-020-0081 and 833-030-0041 for licensure as a professional counselor; or
 - (b) OAR 833-020-0081 and 833-040-0041 for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.
- (8) Primary source verification is required for application materials. Transcripts, competency examination verification, and supervised clinical experience documentation required in Sections (5) to (7) above is considered primary source verified when received by the Board directly from the following sources:
 - (a) Supervisor Reference Form from the supervisor (or successor or representative of the employer at which the supervision took place);
 - (b) Transcript from the degree-granting institution;
 - (c) File copy from the other jurisdiction(s) in which the applicant is licensed.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

AMEND: 833-030-0011

RULE TITLE: Educational Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Counselor

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/07/2024

RULE SUMMARY: For reciprocity applicants, amends educational requirements for licensure as a professional counselor by expanding the existing substitution provision to allow three years (reduced from five years) of active licensure in another state to substitute for all specific coursework and supervised experience requirements of non-programmatically accredited programs that are at regionally accredited institutions or foreign programs.

RULE TEXT:

To qualify for licensure as a professional counselor under ORS 675.715(1)(b), an applicant must hold a graduate degree from one of the following:

- (1) A counseling program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) as of the date the degree was conferred;
- (2) A counseling program approved by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) as of the date the degree was conferred;
- (3) A program at an institution of higher learning that was accredited by a regional accrediting agency as of the date the degree was conferred; or
- (4) A foreign program that has been evaluated by a credentialing body recognized by the Board. Submission of foreign degree evaluation and cost of the foreign degree qualification determination are the responsibility of the applicant.
- (5) A graduate degree under sections (1) or (2) must have included at least two semester credit hours or three credit quarter hours of coursework in the diagnosis of mental disorders.
- (6) A graduate degree under sections (3) or (4) must have included all of the following requirements:
 - (a) At least two years in duration, including at least:
 - (A) 48 semester credit hours or 72 quarter hours for graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014; or
 - (B) 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter credit hours for graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014.
 - (b) At least two semester credit hours or three credit quarter hours in each of the following coursework:
 - (A) Counseling Theory;
 - (B) Human Growth and Development;
 - (C) Social and Cultural Foundations;
 - (D) The Helping Relationship;
 - (E) Group Dynamics Processing and Counseling;
 - (F) Lifestyle and Career Development;
 - (G) Diagnosis of mental disorders;
 - (H) Research and Evaluation; and
 - (I) Professional Orientation (Ethics).
 - (c) At least 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours of supporting coursework for specialty areas; and
 - (d) A supervised clinical practicum or internship experience that:
 - (A) Included at least 600 total clock hours, including 240 direct client contact hours, for graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014;
 - (B) Included at least 700 total clock hours, including 280 direct client contact hours, for graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014;
 - (C) Had supervisory staff with a minimum of a master's degree in the program emphasis and with pertinent professional experience;
 - (D) Made provision for faculty monitoring of operations;
 - (E) Kept records of student-client contact hours including summary of student progress by the supervisor;
 - (F) Had a written agreement with the program and student specifying learning objectives; and
 - (G) Had a mechanism for program evaluation.

(e) Deficiencies in the credit hour requirements of sections (a), (b) or (c) may be remedied by completing graduate level coursework in the deficient area(s) at a regionally accredited institution.

(f) For reciprocity applicants only, three years or more of active licensure to practice professional counseling in another U.S. state may substitute the requirements of Sections (a) through (d) above.

(g) Deficiencies in the supervised experience requirement of section (d) may be remedied by completion of:

(A) At least 700 clock hours of supervised clinical experience, including 280 direct client contact hours; or

(B) At least five years of full-time post-degree clinical experience.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

AMEND: 833-030-0021

RULE TITLE: Experience Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Counselor

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/07/2024

RULE SUMMARY: For reciprocity applicants, amends experience requirements for licensure as a professional counselor by expanding the existing substitution provision to allow three years (reduced from five years) of active licensure in another state to be presumed to meet the experience requirements with no further documentation required.

RULE TEXT:

(1) To qualify for licensure as a professional counselor under ORS 675.715(1)(c) and 675.720, an applicant must have completed at least three years, defined as 36 months, of supervised clinical counseling experience.

(2) To qualify for licensure through the associate registration method, supervised clinical experience must meet the requirements of OAR chapter 833, divisions 50 and 130.

(3) To qualify for licensure through direct or reciprocity method, supervised clinical experience must have consisted of no less than 1,900 supervised direct client contact hours of counseling. The supervised clinical counseling experience must have included any combination of the following:

(a) Post-graduate degree supervised experience completed in Oregon prior to June 30, 2002;

(b) Post-graduate degree supervised experience completed in another jurisdiction pursuant to the jurisdiction's laws and rules;

(c) Experience completed while a registered associate (or formerly "registered intern") with the Board; or

(d) Up to one year of full-time supervised clinical experience and 400 hours of supervised direct client contact completed during the clinical portion of the qualifying graduate degree program.

(4) For reciprocity method applicants only:

(a) Up to two years of post-license clinical experience may substitute for a maximum of 200 hours of required supervised direct client contact, credited at a rate of 100 hours per full year (12 months) of experience.

(b) Applicants who have held an active license as described in OAR 833-020-0051(2) for three or more years in any U.S. state are presumed to have met the experience requirements and no further documentation is required.

(5) For direct and reciprocity methods, the experience must be a formal arrangement under the supervision of a person who holds a graduate-level state-issued license or registration, as a professional counselor or equivalent as determined by the Board such as a clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

AMEND: 833-040-0011

RULE TITLE: Educational Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/07/2024

RULE SUMMARY: For reciprocity applicants, amends educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist by allowing three years of active licensure in another state to substitute for all specific coursework and supervised experience requirements of non-programmatically accredited programs that are at regionally accredited institutions or foreign programs. Makes minor rule reference correction.

RULE TEXT:

To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist under ORS 675.715(1)(b), an applicant must hold a graduate degree from one of the following:

- (1) A marriage and family therapy program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) or a marital and family therapy program fully accredited by the Counsel for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP);
- (2) A program at an institution of higher learning that was accredited by a regional accrediting agency as of the date the degree was conferred; or
- (3) A foreign program that has been evaluated by a credentialing body recognized by the Board. Submission of foreign degree evaluation and cost of the foreign degree qualification determination are the responsibility of the applicant.
- (4) A graduate degree under section (1) must have included at least two semester credit hours or three credit quarter hours of coursework in the diagnosis of mental disorders.
- (5) A graduate degree under sections (2) or (3) must have included all of the following requirements:
 - (a) For graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014:
 - (A) At least two years in duration, including at least 48 semester credit hours or 72 quarter credit hours;
 - (B) At minimum, the following coursework:
 - (i) Human Development- four semester hours or six quarter hours;
 - (ii) Marital and Family Theoretical Foundation Studies- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (iii) Marital and Family Therapy Diagnosis and Assessment, Treatment, Principles and Techniques Studies- eight semester hours or 12 quarter hours;
 - (iv) Professional Studies- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (v) Research Methods or Statistics- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (vi) Supporting Coursework Focusing on the Systems Paradigm for Specialty Areas- 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours; and
 - (C) A supervised clinical practicum or internship experience of at least 600 clock hours, including 240 direct client contact hours.
 - (b) For graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014:
 - (A) At least two years in duration, including at least 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate-level credit;
 - (B) At minimum, the following graduate-level coursework:
 - (i) Individual and Family Development- four semester hours or six quarter hours;
 - (ii) Couple and Family Theoretical Foundation Studies- six semester hours or nine quarter hours;
 - (iii) Couple and Family Therapy, Treatment, and Techniques Studies- six semester hours or nine quarter hours;
 - (iv) Diagnosis of mental disorders- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (v) Diversity studies that include issues related to diversity, power and privilege- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (vi) Ethical and Professional Studies- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (vii) Research Methods or Statistics- two semester hours or three quarter hours;
 - (viii) Supporting coursework focusing on counseling and/or systems approaches- 36 semester hours or 54 quarter hours; and

(C) A supervised clinical practicum or internship experience of at least 700 clock hours with 280 hours of direct client contact.

(c) The program's clinical practicum or internship experience must have:

(A) Had supervisory staff with a minimum of a master's degree in the program emphasis and with pertinent professional experience;

(B) Made provision for faculty monitoring of operations;

(C) Kept records of student-client contact hours including summary of student progress by the supervisor;

(D) Had a written agreement with the program and student specifying learning objectives; and

(E) Had a mechanism for program evaluation.

(d) Deficiencies in the credit hour requirements of sections (a) or (b) may be remedied by completing graduate level coursework in the deficient area(s) at a regionally accredited institution.

(e) Deficiencies in the supervised experience requirement of section (c) may be remedied by completion of:

(A) At least 700 clock hours of supervised clinical experience, including 280 direct client contact hours; or

(B) At least five years of full-time post-degree clinical experience, the majority of which must consist of work in relationship issues.

(f) For reciprocity applicants only, three years or more of active licensure to practice marriage and family therapy in another U.S. state may substitute for the requirements of Sections (a) through (c) above.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

AMEND: 833-040-0021

RULE TITLE: Experience Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist

NOTICE FILED DATE: 02/07/2024

RULE SUMMARY: For reciprocity applicants, amends experience requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist by expanding the existing substitution provision to allow three years (reduced from five years) of active licensure in another state to be presumed to meet the experience requirements with no further documentation required.

RULE TEXT:

(1) To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist under ORS 675.715(1)(c) and 675.720, an applicant must have completed at least three years, defined as 36 months, of supervised clinical experience.

(2) To qualify for licensure through the associate registration method, supervised clinical experience must meet the requirements of OAR chapter 833, divisions 50 and 130.

(3) To qualify for licensure through direct or reciprocity method, supervised clinical experience must have consisted of no less than 1,900 supervised direct client contact hours of therapy with at least 750 of those hours working with couples and families. The supervised clinical therapy must have included any combination of the following:

(a) Post-graduate degree supervised experience completed in Oregon prior to June 30, 2002;

(b) Post-graduate degree supervised experience completed in another jurisdiction pursuant to the jurisdiction's laws and rules;

(c) Experience completed while a registered associate (or formerly "registered intern") with the Board; or

(d) Up to one year of full-time supervised clinical experience and 400 hours of supervised direct client contact completed during the clinical portion of the qualifying graduate degree program.

(4) For reciprocity method applicants only:

(a) Up to two years of post-license clinical experience may substitute for a maximum of 200 hours of required supervised direct client contact, credited at a rate of 100 hours per full year (12 months) of experience.

(b) Applicants who have held an active license as described in OAR 833-020-0051(2) for three or more years in any U.S. state are presumed to have met the experience requirements and no further documentation is required.

(5) For direct and reciprocity methods, the experience must be a formal arrangement under the supervision of a person who is trained specifically in the systemic approach to couples and family therapy and holds a graduate-level state-issued license or registration, as a marriage and family therapist or equivalent as determined by the Board such as a clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional counselor.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.715 - 675.835

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.715 - 675.835