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**PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**BLPCT 6-2024**

CHAPTER 833

MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY

OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

**FILED**

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& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Amendment to experience requirements for regionally accredited programs; clarifying couples and family work.

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RULES:

833-030-0011, 833-040-0011, 833-040-0021, 833-050-0071

AMEND: 833-030-0011

RULE TITLE: Educational Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Counselor

NOTICE FILED DATE: 08/22/2024

RULE SUMMARY: Amends methods of remediating deficiencies in unaccredited program supervised practicum or internship experience as required for professional counselor licensure.

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 clock hours for graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014;
  - (B) Included at least 700 total clock hours, including 280 direct client contact clock 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) Post-degree clinical experience completed in a Board-approved associate registration pursuant to OAR Chapter 833, Division 50, credited on an hour-for-hour basis for up to the full 700 total clock hours and 280 required hours of direct client contact. This remedial experience is in addition to, and not a substitute for, the experience requirements (clock hours and duration) set forth on OAR 833-030-0021 or OAR 833-050-0071; or
  - (B) At least five years of active licensure issued by another state credentialing entity to practice professional counseling.

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: 08/22/2024

RULE SUMMARY: Amends methods of remediating deficiencies in unaccredited program supervised practicum or internship experience as required for marriage and family therapist licensure.

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 240 direct client contact clock 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) Post-degree clinical experience completed in a Board-approved associate registration pursuant to OAR Chapter 833, Division 50, credited on an hour-for-hour basis for up to the full 700 total clock hours and 280 required hours of direct client contact, with at least 40% of the deficient hours working with couples and families in the same session. This remedial experience is in addition to, and not a substitute for, the experience requirements (clock hours and duration) set forth in OAR 833-040-0021 or OAR 833-050-0071; or
  - (B) At least five years of active licensure issued by another state credentialing entity to practice marriage and family therapy.
  - (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: 08/22/2024

RULE SUMMARY: Adds clarification to the direct client contact hours required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, that work with couples and families must be in the same session.

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 in the same session. 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

AMEND: 833-050-0071

RULE TITLE: Direct Client Contact

NOTICE FILED DATE: 08/22/2024

RULE SUMMARY: Adds clarification to the direct client contact hours required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, that work with couples and families must be in the same session.

RULE TEXT:

(1) Registered associates must complete at least three years, defined as 36 months, of supervised clinical experience which must include no less than 1,900 hours of supervised direct client contact to qualify for licensure.

(2) Registered associates may count direct client contact hours acquired outside an associate registration plan only as follows:

(a) Up to one year of full-time supervised clinical experience and 400 direct client contact hours accrued as part of a graduate degree internship;

(b) Post-graduate degree supervised direct client contact hours completed in Oregon prior to June 30, 2002; and

(c) Post-graduate degree supervised direct client contact hours completed in another jurisdiction pursuant to the jurisdiction's laws and rules that meet the direct application method experience requirements.

(3) Applicants for LMFT must accrue 1,900 hours of supervised direct client contact with at least 750 of those hours working with couples and families in the same session to qualify for licensure.

(4) Applications for dual licensure as professional counselor and marriage and family therapist must meet the requirements for both licenses.

(5) Direct client contact must be face to face with a client or clients and/or contact via electronic communication.

(6) Registered associates must receive and document supervision for and report all direct client contact hours at places of practice listed as part of their Board-approved plan.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.785 - 675.835, 676.160 - 676.180

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.785 - 675.835