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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**  
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 833  
MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY  
OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

**FILED**

08/22/2024 10:36 AM  
ARCHIVES DIVISION  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 09/24/2024 5:00 PM

*The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.*

*A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.*

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Filed By:  
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NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

The Board determined that the educational requirements being considered for amendment have caused confusion and need revision. General "clock hours" for supervised experience is undefined and inconsistent with other rules, and the rules lack specification on the allowable methods of completion for remedial supervised experience when the pre-degree program is deficient. The Board also determined that clarification of couples and families work would add transparency to expectations.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

OAR Chapter 833 and ORS Chapter 675 are available on the OBLPCT website at <https://www.oregon.gov/OBLPCT/Pages/LawsRules.aspx>.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

This rule amendment is likely to promote racial equity in the state. The Board is pursuing changes that make licensure requirements transparent and concise. Ensuring that the Board's policies and practices are clear, accessible, and fair to all individuals ensures that they are easier for everyone to understand, including marginalized communities that might not have the same access to information or resources as others. This reduces the likelihood of misinterpretation or exclusion due to vague language, and holds the Board accountable when everyone understands the expectations and criteria clearly. Fairness and consistency in the rules will reduce the potential for arbitrary or biased decision-making that could disproportionately affect protected classes. Additionally, efforts towards transparency helps to build trust within Board processes, which helps to promote engagement.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

None expected.

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**COST OF COMPLIANCE:**

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

None. Businesses are not subject to this rule. The Board will absorb the minimal costs required to implement these changes within its current staffing levels and budgeted resources.

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**DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):**

Small businesses were not explicitly involved.

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**WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

The proposed amendments are uncomplicated, do not result in fiscal impact, and were openly discussed during several Education / Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee meetings and two public session full Board meetings and where public feedback was solicited. The Board did not determine that an additional committee beyond the eight-member Board and its staff was necessary to develop the rules.

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**RULES PROPOSED:**

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

AMEND: 833-030-0011

**RULE SUMMARY:** Removes total clock hour requirement for supervised practicum or experience completed as part of regionally accredited institution as required for professional counselor licensure, but retains direct client contact hours requirement. Amends methods of remediating deficiencies in such experience.

**CHANGES TO RULE:**

833-030-0011

Educational Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Counselor ¶¶

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) ~~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 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 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 SUMMARY: Removes total clock hour requirement for supervised practicum or experience completed as part of regionally accredited institution as required for marriage and family therapist licensure, but retains direct client contact hours requirement. Amends methods of remediating deficiencies in such experience.

CHANGES TO RULE:

833-040-0011

### Educational Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist ¶

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 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) At least 700 clock hours of supervised clinical experience, including 280 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 280 required hours of 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, 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 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 in the same session.

CHANGES TO RULE:

833-040-0021

Experience Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist ¶¶

(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 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 in the same session.

CHANGES TO RULE:

833-050-0071

Direct Client Contact ¶¶

(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