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- 04/11/2019 Agency Withdrawal

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Document No. 4874

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION**

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LICENSURE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, ADDICTION COUNSELORS, AND PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS**

CHAPTER36

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 40-1-70 and 40-75-60

36-04. Licensing Provisions for Professional Counselor Interns.

36‑07. Licensing Provisions for Marriage and Family Therapy Interns.

36‑11. Licensing Provisions for Addiction Counselors. (New)

**Synopsis:**

The South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Addiction Counselors, and Psycho-Educational Specialists proposes to amend its regulations by supplementing the previously-filed proposed regulations to add language stating the requirement for completing a degree program with a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours takes effect two years after the effective date of the regulation and further stating students who have graduated from or are enrolled in a degree program prior to the effective date are licensed pursuant to the 48-hour licensing provisions.

A Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on December 28, 2018.

**Instructions:**

Replace regulation as shown below. All other items and sections remain unchanged.

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

**Text:**

36‑04. Licensing Provisions for Professional Counselor ~~Interns~~Associate.

An applicant for initial licensure as a professional counselor ~~intern~~associate must:

(1) submit an application on forms approved by the Board, along with the required fee; and

(2) show evidence of completion from a Clinical Mental Health counseling program accredited by the ~~Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (~~CACREP~~)~~ at the time of graduation; or

(3) submit evidence of successful completion of a master’s degree, specialist’s degree or doctoral degree ~~graduate degree~~ with a minimum of ~~forty‑eight (48)~~sixty (60) graduate semester hours primarily in counseling ~~or related discipline~~ from a program ~~college or university~~ accredited by a national educational accrediting body such as CACREP or one that follows similar educational standards and from a college or university accredited by the Commission on the Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of its transferring regional associations, the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, or a regionally‑accredited institution of higher learning subsequent to receiving the graduate degree~~,~~. ~~along with evidence of an earned master’s degree, specialist’s degree or doctoral degree.~~ On one’s graduate transcript the applicant must demonstrate successful completion of one (1) three‑hour graduate level course in each of the following areas:

(a) Human growth and development: coursework content providing an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels, normal and abnormal human behavior, personality theory, and learning theory (all) within cultural contexts; and

(b) Social and cultural foundations: coursework content providing an understanding of societal changes and trends, human roles, societal subgroups, social mores and interaction patterns, and differing lifestyles; and

(c) Helping relationships: coursework content providing an understanding of philosophic bases of helping processes, counseling theories and their applications, helping skills, consultation theories and applications, helper self‑understanding and self‑development, and facilitation of client or consultee change; and

(d) Groups: coursework content providing an understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group leadership styles, group counseling methods and skills, and other group approaches; and

(e) Lifestyle and career development: coursework content providing an understanding of career development theories, occupational and educational information sources and systems, career and leisure counseling, guidance, and education; lifestyle and career decision‑making; and career development program planning, resources, and evaluation; and

(f) Appraisal: coursework content providing an understanding of group and individual education and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal, data, and information gathering methods, validity and reliability, psychometric statistics, factors influencing appraisals, and use of appraisal results in helping processes; and

(g) Research and evaluation: coursework content providing an understanding of types of research, basic statistics, research report development, research implementation, program evaluation, needs assessment, and ethical and legal considerations; and

(h) Professional orientation: coursework content providing an understanding of professional roles and functions, professional goals and objectives, professional organizations and associations, professional history and trends, ethical and legal standards, professional preparation standards, and professional credentialing; and

(i) Psychopathology and/or diagnostics: coursework content providing an understanding of psychopathology, abnormal psychology, abnormal behavior, etiology dynamics, treatment of abnormal behavior and an understanding of the diagnostics of Psychopathology; and

(j) Practicum: a minimum of one (1) supervised one hundred (100) hour counseling practicum; and

(k) Internship: completed an internship, as part of a degree program, of at least six hundred (600) hours under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental health practitioner that included experience assessing and treating clients with more serious problems as categorized in standard diagnostic nomenclature; and

(4) submit evidence of a passing score on examinations approved by the Board; ~~and~~

(5) submit a supervision plan, satisfactory to the Board, designed to take effect after notice of licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor ~~Intern~~Associate~~.~~; and

(6) submit a disclosure statement as found in S.C. Code Section 40‑75‑270.

(7)The provisions in Reg. 36-04(3) regarding education requirements takes effect two years from the effective date of that regulation. Students who have graduated from or are enrolled in a degree program prior to that effective date can meet the education licensing requirements pursuant to the education licensing provisions in effect prior to the effective date.

36‑07. Licensing Provisions for Marriage and Family Therapy ~~Interns~~Associates.

An applicant for initial licensure as a marriage and family therapy ~~intern~~associate must:

(1) submit an application on forms approved by the Board, along with the required fee; and

(2) submit proof of graduating from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE); or

(3) submit evidence of successful completion of a master’s degree, specialist’s degree or doctoral degree with a minimum of ~~forty‑eight (48)~~ sixty (60) graduate semester hours in marriage and family therapy from a ~~college or university~~ program accredited by a national educational accrediting body such as COAMFTE or one that follows similar educational standards; or a post‑degree program accredited by COAMFTE or one that follows similar educational standards and from a college or university accredited by the Commission on the Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one ~~(1)~~ of its transferring regional associations, the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, ~~a post‑degree program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education,~~ or a regionally accredited institution of higher learning subsequent to receiving the graduate degree~~, along with evidence of an earned master’s degree, specialist’s degree, or doctoral degree~~. The applicant must demonstrate successful completion of:

(a) a minimum of six (6) graduate semester hours in foundations of relational/systemic practice, theories and models. This area facilitates students developing competencies in the foundations and critical epistemological issues of Marriage and Family Therapists. It includes the historical development of the relational/systemic perspective and contemporary conceptual foundations of Marriage and Family Therapists, and early and contemporary models of the Marriage and Family Therapist, including evidence‑based practice and the biopsychosocial perspective; and

(b) a minimum of six (6) graduate semester hours in clinical treatment with individuals, couples and families. This area facilitates students developing competencies in treatment approaches specifically designed for use with a wide range of diverse individuals, couples, and families, including sex therapy, same‑sex couples, working with young children, adolescents and elderly, interfaith couples, and includes a focus on evidence‑based practice. Coursework must include crisis intervention; and

(c) a minimum of three (3) graduate semester hours in diverse, multicultural and/or underserved communities. This area facilitates students developing competencies in understanding and applying knowledge of diversity, power, privilege, and oppression as these relate to race, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability, health status, religious, spiritual and/or beliefs, nation of origin or other relevant social categories throughout the curriculum. It includes practice with diverse, international, multicultural, marginalized, and/or underserved communities, including developing competencies in working with sexual and gender minorities and their families as well as anti‑racist practices; and

(d) a minimum of three (3) graduate semester hours in research and evaluation. This area facilitates students developing competencies in Marriage and Family Therapy research and evaluation methods, and in evidence‑based practice, including becoming an informed consumer of couple, marriage, and family therapy research. If the program’s mission, goals and outcomes include preparing students for doctoral degree programs, the program must include an increased emphasis on research; and

(e) a minimum of three (3) graduate semester hours in professional identity, law, ethics and social responsibility. This area addresses the development of a Marriage and Family Therapy identity and socialization, and facilitates students developing competencies in ethics and Marriage and Family Therapy practice, including understanding and applying the AAMFT Code of Ethics and understanding legal responsibilities; and

(f) a minimum of three (3) graduate semester hours in biopsychosocial health and development across the life span. This area addresses individual and family development, human sexuality, and biopsychosocial health across the lifespan; and

(g) a minimum of three (3) graduate semester hours in systemic/relational assessment and psychopathology, diagnosis and treatment. This area facilitates students developing competencies in traditional psychodiagnostic categories, psychopharmacology, the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of major mental health issues as well as a wide variety of common presenting problems including addiction, suicide, trauma, abuse, intra‑familial violence, and therapy for individuals, couples, and families managing acute chronic medical conditions, utilizing a relational/systemic philosophy; and

(h) a minimum of five hundred (500) clinical contact hours with individuals, couples, families, and other systems physically present, at least forty (40%) percent of which must be relational. The five hundred (500) hours must occur over a minimum of twelve (12) months of clinical practice. A minimum of one hundred (100) hours of clinical supervision must be provided by a marriage and family therapy supervisor, that included experience assessing and treating clients with the more serious problems as categorized in standard diagnostic nomenclature; and

(4) submit evidence of a passing score on examinations approved by the Board; and

(5) submit a supervision plan, satisfactory to the Board, designed to take effect after notice of licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy ~~Intern~~Associate~~.~~; and

(6) submit a professional disclosure statement as found in S.C. Code Section 40‑75‑270.

(7) The provisions in Reg. 36-07(3) regarding education requirements takes effect two years from the effective date of that regulation. Students who have graduated from or are enrolled in a degree program prior to that effective date can meet the education licensing requirements pursuant to the education licensing provisions in effect prior to the effective date.

36‑11. Licensing Provisions for Addiction Counselors.

An applicant for licensure as an addiction counselor must:

(1) submit an application on forms approved by the Board, along with the required fee; and

(2) hold a current, active, and unrestricted addiction counselor associate license; and

(3) submit, on forms approved by the Board, documentation of completion of a minimum of one thousand one hundred twenty (1120) hours of post‑master’s clinical experience and post master’s supervision in addiction counseling performed over a period of not fewer than two (2) years. Of the one thousand one hundred twenty (1120) hours, there must be a minimum of one (1,000) hours of documented direct client contact with clients presenting with addiction issues, and a minimum of one hundred‑twenty (120) hours of documented supervision by a licensed addiction counselor supervisor or other qualified licensed practitioner approved by the Board. At least sixty (60) hours of the supervision hours must be individual/triadic, and the remaining sixty (60) hours may be individual/triadic or group. The Board may consider accepting supervised experience hours required pursuant to Reg. 36-11 that were obtained within a reasonable time prior to the effective date of that regulation, where the supervision was with an appropriately qualified supervisor, as determined by the Board. However, no more than 50% of the required hours may be obtained under this carryover provision.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

There will be no cost incurred by the State or any of its political subdivisions for these regulations.

**Statement of Rationale:**

The board has previously filed proposed amendments to its regulation to add licensure qualifications, educational requirements, a code of ethics, and other associated criteria for the regulation of addiction counselors to conform to the requirements of Act 249 of 2018 and to update existing regulations. The proposed regulation herein would supplement the previously-filed proposed amendments to the regulations to include a delayed implementation date and a grandfathering provision for students currently enrolled in a degree program.