
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the current
2 educational requirements for application for licensure as a
3 mental health counselor are overly specific, which has prevented
4 some otherwise qualified individuals from gaining licensure.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the
6 practicum experience qualifications for licensure as a mental
7 health counselor to accommodate different coursework structures,
8 while ensuring the overall educational requirements remain at an
9 appropriate level.

10 SECTION 2. Section 453D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

12 "(a) An applicant shall be issued a license by the
13 department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to
14 the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure
15 pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the
16 following qualifications:



(1) A master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited educational institution in counseling or in an allied field related to the practice of mental health counseling that includes or is supplemented by graduate level course work in counseling comprising a minimum of forty-eight semester hours or seventy-two quarter hours in the following course areas, with a minimum of three semester hours or five quarter hours in each course area as indicated below:

(A) Human growth and development, including but not limited to the study of life span development, strategies to facilitate that development and transitions, theories of learning and personality development, and human behavior to include crisis, disabilities, addictive behavior, and environmental factors;

(B) Social and cultural foundations, including but not limited to the study of issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society, including characteristics of diverse groups that may include but are not limited to age, race,



1 religious or sexual preference, physical
2 disability, ethnicity and culture, gender,
3 socioeconomic, intellectual ability, and
4 individual, family, and group strategies with
5 diverse populations;

6 (C) Counseling theories and applications, including
7 but not limited to counseling and consultation,
8 including both individual and systems
9 perspectives, interviewing, assessment, and
10 counseling skills, as well as applying
11 principles, methods, and theories of counseling,
12 treatment and counseling of mental and emotional
13 disorders, and educational techniques aimed at
14 preventing such disorders with individuals and
15 families;

16 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not
17 limited to principles of group dynamics, group
18 process, group leadership styles, theories and
19 methods of group counseling, and the application
20 of theory to the group processes;



- 1 (E) Career and lifestyle development, including but
2 not limited to the study of vocational
3 development theories and decision-making models,
4 assessment instruments, and techniques, types,
5 sources, and uses of occupational and educational
6 information systems, career development
7 applications, and career counseling processes,
8 techniques, and resources;
- 9 (F) Appraisal of human behavior, including but not
10 limited to assessment and diagnosis of disorders
11 with an emphasis on DSM-IV categories, and an
12 understanding of these disorders relative to the
13 counseling context;
- 14 (G) Tests and measurements, including but not limited
15 to theoretical and historical bases for
16 assessment techniques, assessment methods,
17 including analysis of various types of tests to
18 select, administer, interpret, and use assessment
19 and evaluation instruments and techniques in
20 counseling;



(H) Research and program evaluation, including but not limited to research design and methods, statistical analysis, principles, practices, and application of needs assessment, and program evaluation; and

(I) Professional orientation and ethics, including but not limited to the history of the helping profession, professional roles and functions, ethical standards, confidentiality, professional organizations, and the public policy process, including advocacy on behalf of the profession and its clientele;

(2) At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least [~~three~~] six semester hours or [~~five~~] ten quarter hours [~~per academic term~~] in a mental health counseling setting with three hundred hours of supervised client contact; the practicum experience shall be completed under the clinical supervision of a person who is licensed as a mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical social worker, advanced



1 practice registered nurse with a specialty in mental
2 health, marriage and family therapist, or physician
3 with a specialty in psychiatry;

4 (3) Completion of not less than three thousand hours of
5 post-graduate experience in the practice of mental
6 health counseling with one hundred hours of face-to-
7 face clinical supervision that shall be completed in
8 no less than two years and in no more than four years,
9 under the clinical supervision of a person who is a
10 licensed mental health counselor, psychologist,
11 clinical social worker, advanced practice registered
12 nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
13 family therapist, or physician with a specialty in
14 psychiatry; and

15 (4) Passed the National Counselor Examination for
16 Licensure and Certification."

17 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Mental Health Counselors; Licensure; Qualifications; Practicum Experience

Description:

Amends the practicum experience requirements for qualification for licensure as a mental health counselor. (SB2647 HD1)

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