



Mississippi State Board of Examiners For Licensed Professional Counselors

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CHAPTER 4: Licensure Requirements (excerpts)

Rule 4.1: General Requirements

An applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

The applicant is a resident of or pays income tax in the State of Mississippi or has an immigration document to verify legal alien work status in the United States.

An applicant must be of good moral character. The Board may request endorsements attesting to the applicant's character, professional integrity, and professional competence.

Licensure by the Board will be by examination.

Applicants must meet all education and experience requirements.

The Board must receive a complete application packet and official transcript(s) and background check results by the established application deadline for the application to be considered for licensure at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

An applicant may not be in violation of any of the provisions of Section 73-30-1 et seq., of the *Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated* (See Appendix) or any of the rules and regulations adopted by the Board.

The Board shall require each first time applicant for licensure and may require applicants for license renewal to apply to the Department of Public Safety for a state and national background check, which will include consulting sex offender registries. This includes, but is not limited to, that for purposes of these background checks, "good moral character" shall be established by an absence of felony convictions or convictions for misdemeanors involving moral turpitude.

Source: Miss Code Ann. § 73-30-9 & 73-30-21 (Rev. 2008)

Rule 4.2: Education Requirements

A doctoral degree primarily in counseling, guidance, or a related counseling field, an educational specialist's degree or master's degree in counselor education or a related counseling program. The degree must be from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university program and is subject to Board approval.

Sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours of graduate study. Individuals applying for licensure with a graduate degree of less than sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours may complete the additional course work required without earning an additional degree. All graduate

counselor education courses or counselor related courses from an approved educational institution completed by the applicant may be counted toward the sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hour's requirement.

A graduate program related to counselor education is defined as one that contains course work in all of the following areas. Each applicant must have completed a three (3) hour semester course or its equivalent in each of the following areas:

1. Human Growth and Development
2. Social and Cultural Foundations
3. Helping Relationships
4. Groups
5. Lifestyle and Career Development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and Evaluation
8. Professional Orientation
9. Marriage and/or Family Counseling/Therapy
10. Diagnosis and Treatment

All applicants must provide official transcripts of all graduate work. Unopened official transcripts may be submitted in the application packet or may be submitted to the Board directly from the approved educational institution.

Source: Miss Code Ann. § 73-30-9 (Rev. 2008)

Rule 4.3: Experience Requirements

Supervision Requirements - An applicant must document the following supervised experience requirements prior to applying for licensure. Supervision must be provided by an LPC. After July 1, 2008 the supervisor must be a Board approved Qualified Supervisor. The art of supervision is defined as assisting the counselor in developing expertise in methods of the professional mental health counseling practice and in developing self-appraisal and professional development strategies.

A total of three thousand five hundred (3,500) supervised hours of counseling (approximately 2 years) in a clinical setting post bachelor's degree comprised of the following:

A maximum of forty (40) supervised hours may be obtained per workweek.

Up to one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) hours may be obtained while enrolled in a Graduate Degree program, including internship/practicum and, although not required, where possible the Board would prefer LPC Supervision during internship/practicum.

A minimum of one thousand one hundred sixty-seven (1,167) supervised hours must be in direct counseling services (CACREP definition of direct services: Interaction with clients that includes the application of counseling, consultation, or human development skills. In general the term is used to refer to time that practicum or internship students or supervisees work directly with clients) and/or psychotherapy service to clients to include counseling related activities (i.e. case notes, staffing, case consultation, or testing/assessment of clients).

One hundred (100) hours of individual face to face supervision are required. Up to 50 hours may be obtained while enrolled in a Graduate Degree program, including internship/practicum. This is based on at least (a minimum of) 1 hour of supervision for every 25 hours of supervisee's direct service with clients. (After January 1, 2008 supervision must be by a Board Qualified Supervisor.) No more than 50 hours of individual supervision received during a Graduate Degree Program will be accepted.

Group supervision will be acceptable for not more than fifty (50) hours of the required one hundred (100) hours of individual supervision. This is based on two (2) hours of group supervision being equivalent to one (1) hour of individual supervision.

Individual supervision provided by multiple supervisors regarding the same direct client service hours at the same site during the same time frame will not be accepted.

Supervision Verification forms must be submitted in sealed, signed envelopes in the application packet.

Source: Miss Code Ann. § 73-30-9 (Rev. 2008)

Rule 4.6: Examination Requirements

Prior to licensure, all applicants must pass the National Counselor Examination or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination for Licensure or Certification (NCE or NCMHCE) published by the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. After July 1, 2015 only the NCMHCE will be accepted.

Source: Miss Code Ann. § 73-30-7 (Rev. 2008)

Rule 4.7: Agreement of Reciprocity

The Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors does not presently have an agreement of reciprocity with any other state.

Source: Miss Code Ann. § 73-30-15 (Rev. 2008)