
SENATE BILL 6658

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau and Deccio

Read first time 01/18/2006. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to experience requirements for licensed mental
2 health counselors; and amending RCW 18.225.090.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.225.090 and 2003 c 108 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The secretary shall issue a license to any applicant who
7 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that the applicant
8 meets the following education and experience requirements for the
9 applicant's practice area.

10 (a) Licensed social work classifications:

11 (i) Licensed advanced social worker:

12 (A) Graduation from a master's or doctorate social work educational
13 program accredited by the council on social work education and approved
14 by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

15 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

16 (C) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.

17 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of three thousand two
18 hundred hours with ninety hours of supervision by a licensed
19 independent clinical social worker or a licensed advanced social worker

1 who has been licensed or certified for at least two years. Of those
2 hours, fifty hours must include direct supervision by a licensed
3 advanced social worker or licensed independent clinical social worker;
4 the other forty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental
5 health practitioner. Forty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and
6 fifty hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision.
7 Distance supervision is limited to forty supervision hours. Eight
8 hundred hours must be in direct client contact; and

9 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
10 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

11 (ii) Licensed independent clinical social worker:

12 (A) Graduation from a master's or doctorate level social work
13 educational program accredited by the council on social work education
14 and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized
15 standards;

16 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

17 (C) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.
18 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of four thousand hours
19 of experience, of which one thousand hours must be direct client
20 contact, over a three-year period supervised by a licensed independent
21 clinical social worker who has been licensed or certified for at least
22 five years and who has had at least one year of experience in
23 supervising the clinical social work practice of others, with
24 supervision of at least one hundred thirty hours by a licensed mental
25 health practitioner. Of the total supervision, seventy hours must be
26 with an independent clinical social worker meeting the qualifications
27 under this subsection (1)(a)(ii)(C); the other sixty hours may be with
28 an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Sixty hours
29 must be in one-to-one supervision and seventy hours may be in one-to-
30 one supervision or group supervision. Distance supervision is limited
31 to sixty supervision hours; and

32 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
33 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

34 (b) Licensed mental health counselor:

35 (i) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational
36 program in mental health counseling or a related discipline from a
37 college or university approved by the secretary based upon nationally
38 recognized standards;

1 (ii) Successful completion of an approved examination;

2 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.

3 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of thirty-six months
4 full-time counseling or three thousand hours of postgraduate mental
5 health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental
6 health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health
7 practitioner, in an approved setting. The three thousand hours of

8 required experience includes a minimum of one hundred hours spent in
9 immediate supervision with the qualified licensed mental health
10 counselor, and includes a minimum of one thousand two hundred hours of
11 direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups; and

12 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
13 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

14 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist:

15 (i) Graduation from a master's degree or doctoral degree
16 educational program in marriage and family therapy or graduation from
17 an educational program in an allied field equivalent to a master's
18 degree or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy approved by
19 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

20 (ii) Successful passage of an approved examination;

21 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.

22 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of two calendar years
23 of full-time marriage and family therapy. Of the total supervision,
24 one hundred hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist
25 with at least five years' clinical experience; the other one hundred
26 hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health
27 practitioner. Total experience requirements include:

28 (A) A minimum of three thousand hours of experience, one thousand
29 hours of which must be direct client contact; at least five hundred
30 hours must be gained in diagnosing and treating couples and families;
31 plus

32 (B) At least two hundred hours of qualified supervision with a
33 supervisor. At least one hundred of the two hundred hours must be one-
34 on-one supervision, and the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or
35 group supervision.

36 Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by the
37 commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education

1 of the American association for marriage and family therapy may be
2 credited with five hundred hours of direct client contact and one
3 hundred hours of formal meetings with an approved supervisor; and
4 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
5 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.
6 (2) The department shall establish by rule what constitutes
7 adequate proof of meeting the criteria.
8 (3) In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for
9 denial of a license or issuance of a conditional license under chapter
10 18.130 RCW.

--- END ---