

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 6658**

59th Legislature  
2006 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 10, 2006  
YEAS 41 NAYS 0

---

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 1, 2006  
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

---

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

---

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 6658** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

---

**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

SENATE BILL 6658

---

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

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 ---