
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 453D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§453D-7 Application for licensure as a mental health
4 counselor. (a) An applicant shall be issued a license by the
5 department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to
6 the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure
7 pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the
8 following qualifications:

9 (1) [A] Receipt of a master's degree or doctoral degree
10 from an accredited educational institution in
11 counseling or in an allied field related to the
12 practice of mental health counseling that includes, or
13 is supplemented by, graduate level course work in
14 counseling comprising a minimum of forty-eight
15 semester hours or seventy-two quarter hours in the
16 following course areas, with a minimum of three



1 semester hours or five quarter hours in each course
2 area as indicated below:

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

10 (B) Social and cultural foundations, including, but
11 not limited to, the study of issues and trends in
12 a multicultural and diverse society, including
13 characteristics of diverse groups that may
14 include, but are not limited to, age, race,
15 religious or sexual preference, physical
16 disability, ethnicity and culture, gender,
17 socioeconomics, intellectual ability, and
18 individual, family, and group strategies with
19 diverse populations;

20 (C) Counseling theories and applications, including,
21 but not limited to, counseling and consultation,



1 including both individual and systems
2 perspectives, interviewing, assessment, and
3 counseling skills, as well as applying
4 principles, methods, and theories of counseling,
5 treatment and counseling of mental and emotional
6 disorders, and educational techniques aimed at
7 preventing [~~such~~] these disorders with
8 individuals and families;

9 (D) Group theory and practice, including, but not
10 limited to, principles of group dynamics, group
11 process, group leadership styles, theories and
12 methods of group counseling, and the application
13 of theory to the group processes;

14 (E) Career and lifestyle development, including, but
15 not limited to, the study of vocational
16 development theories and decision-making models,
17 assessment instruments, and techniques, types,
18 sources, and uses of occupational and educational
19 information systems, career development
20 applications, and career counseling processes,
21 techniques, and resources;



- 1 (F) Appraisal of human behavior, including, but not
2 limited to, assessment and diagnosis of disorders
3 with an emphasis on [~~DSM-IV~~] DSM categories[~~7~~]
4 and an understanding of these disorders relative
5 to the counseling context;
- 6 (G) Tests and measurements, including, but not
7 limited to, theoretical and historical bases for
8 assessment techniques, as well as assessment
9 methods, including analysis of various types of
10 tests to select, administer, interpret, and use
11 assessment and evaluation instruments and
12 techniques in counseling;
- 13 (H) Research and program evaluation, including, but
14 not limited to, research design and methods,
15 statistical analysis, principles, practices, and
16 application of needs assessment, and program
17 evaluation; [~~and~~]
- 18 (I) Professional orientation and ethics, including,
19 but not limited to, the history of the helping
20 profession, professional roles and functions,
21 ethical standards, confidentiality, professional



1 organizations, and the public policy process,
 2 including advocacy on behalf of the profession
 3 and its clientele; and
 4 (J) At least two academic terms of supervised mental
 5 health practicum intern experience for graduate
 6 credit of at least six semester hours or ten
 7 quarter hours in a mental health counseling
 8 setting, with a total of three hundred hours of
 9 supervised client contact. The practicum
 10 experience shall be completed under the clinical
 11 supervision of a person who is licensed as a
 12 mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical
 13 social worker, advanced practice registered nurse
 14 with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
 15 family therapist, or physician with a specialty
 16 in psychiatry;

17 ~~[-(2) At least two academic terms of supervised mental~~
 18 ~~health practicum intern experience for graduate credit~~
 19 ~~of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours a~~
 20 ~~mental health counseling setting with three hundred~~
 21 ~~hours of supervised client contact; the practicum~~



1 ~~experience shall be completed under the clinical~~
2 ~~supervision of a person who is licensed as a mental~~
3 ~~health counselor, psychologist, clinical social~~
4 ~~worker, advanced practice registered nurse with a~~
5 ~~specialty in mental health, marriage and family~~
6 ~~therapist, or physician with a specialty in~~
7 ~~psychiatry,~~

8 (+3)] (2) Completion of not less than three thousand hours
9 of post-graduate experience in the practice of mental
10 health counseling, with one hundred hours of face-to-
11 face clinical supervision that shall be completed in
12 no less than two years and in no more than four years,
13 under the clinical supervision of a person who is a
14 licensed mental health counselor, psychologist,
15 clinical social worker, advanced practice registered
16 nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
17 family therapist, or physician with a specialty in
18 psychiatry[+]. In collaboration with the supervisor,
19 the applicant may elect to fulfill some or all of the
20 supervision requirements through face-to-face
21 supervision that is conducted electronically through a



1 videoconference service that complies with all federal
 2 and state privacy, security, and confidentiality laws,
 3 including the Health Insurance Portability and
 4 Accountability Act of 1996. Prior to making this
 5 election, it is incumbent upon the applicant to review
 6 the laws and rules of other jurisdictions to determine
 7 the impact, if any, that electronic supervision may
 8 have on licensure by endorsement or reciprocity in
 9 other states; and

10 [~~(4)~~ Passed] (3) Passage of the National Counselor
 11 Examination for Licensure and Certification.

12 (b) An individual [~~who~~] shall be deemed to have met the
 13 requirements of this section if the individual:

14 (1) Holds current, unencumbered certification as a
 15 national certified counselor or a national certified
 16 rehabilitation counselor prior to the effective date
 17 of this chapter;

18 (2) Has passed the National Counselor Examination for
 19 Licensure and Certification, National Clinical Mental
 20 Health Counselors Examination of the National Board
 21 for Certified Counselors, or Commission on



1 Rehabilitation Counselor Certification examination
2 after January 1, 2000, and before July 1, 2005; and

3 (3) Within one year of the effective date of this chapter,
4 applies for licensure and pays the applicable license
5 fee [~~shall be deemed to have met the requirements of~~
6 ~~this section~~].

7 (c) For an applicant who graduated from an accredited
8 educational institution as specified in subsection (a)(1) before
9 July 1, 2007, the department shall also deem acceptable:

10 (1) For practicum intern experience, written certification
11 from an official of the institution of higher
12 education attesting that the applicant has completed
13 the academic terms, graduate credit hours, and
14 supervised client contact hours in subsection [~~(a)(2)~~]
15 (a)(1)(J) and that the applicant's practicum intern
16 experience is equivalent to a mental health graduate
17 level practicum program; and

18 (2) For post-graduate experience, written certification
19 from an officer and the clinical supervisor of the
20 agency at which the applicant has earned experience
21 attesting that the applicant has completed the hours



1 of experience and supervision in subsection [~~(a)(3)~~]
2 (a)(2), within the time frame set forth in that
3 subsection, and that the applicant's post-graduate
4 experience is equivalent to the practice of mental
5 health counseling.

6 The license requirements for clinical supervisors under
7 subsections [~~(a)(2)~~] (a)(1)(J) and [~~(a)(3)~~] (a)(2) shall not
8 apply to this subsection."

9 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Mental Health Counselor; License Requirement; Practicum
Internship Experience; Post-graduate Experience Supervision;
Chapter 453D

Description:

Clarifies that the practicum internship experience requirement shall be included with the course work in counseling requirement for mental health counselors. Clarifies the supervision requirements of licensure for mental health counselors by permitting applicants to fulfill all or part of their face-to-face clinical supervision requirement by a videoconference service. (SD1)

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