



26 | the United States Department of Education or ~~has~~ received a  
27 | master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social  
28 | work which at the time the applicant graduated:

29 |       a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

30 |       b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools  
31 | of Social Work; or

32 |       c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent  
33 | to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by  
34 | the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
35 | Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program  
36 | at a university or college outside of the United States or  
37 | Canada must present documentation of the equivalency  
38 | determination from the council in order to qualify.

39 |       2. The applicant's graduate program must have emphasized  
40 | direct clinical patient or client health care services,  
41 | including, but not limited to, coursework in clinical social  
42 | work, psychiatric social work, medical social work, social  
43 | casework, psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's  
44 | graduate program must have included all of the following  
45 | coursework:

46 |       a. A supervised field placement which was part of the  
47 | applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during  
48 | which the applicant provided clinical services directly to  
49 | clients.

50 |       b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in

51 theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in  
52 clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course  
53 in psychopathology, and no more than one course in research,  
54 taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant  
55 to subparagraph 1.

56 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
57 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
58 coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
59 additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
60 syllabus or catalog description published for the course.

61 (c) ~~Has~~ Had at least 2 years of clinical social work  
62 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a  
63 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the  
64 accreditation requirements of this section, under the  
65 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the  
66 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
67 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
68 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant  
69 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's  
70 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct  
71 clinical patient or client health care services as described in  
72 subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience requirement must  
73 take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of 15  
74 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required. A  
75 doctoral internship may be applied toward the clinical social

76 work experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
 77 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
 78 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

79 (d) ~~Has~~ Passed a theory and practice examination  
 80 designated by the board ~~provided by the department for this~~  
 81 ~~purpose.~~

82 (e) ~~Has~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule  
 83 ~~of the board~~, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
 84 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
 85 and mental health counseling.

86 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of  
 87 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 88 board rule, ~~plus the actual cost of the purchase of the~~  
 89 ~~examination from the Association of Marital and Family Therapy~~  
 90 ~~Regulatory Board, or similar national organization,~~ the  
 91 department shall issue a license as a marriage and family  
 92 therapist to an applicant who the board certifies has met all of  
 93 the following criteria:

94 (a) ~~Has~~ Submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
 95 fee.

96 (b) 1. Attained one of the following:

97 a. A minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family  
 98 therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on  
 99 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education;

100 b. A minimum of a master's degree with a major emphasis in

101 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field from a  
102 university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of  
103 Counseling and Related Educational Programs and graduate courses  
104 approved by the board; or

105 c. ~~Has~~ A minimum of a master's degree with an major  
106 emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a closely related  
107 field, with a degree conferred before September 1, 2027, from an  
108 institutionally accredited college or university ~~from a program~~  
109 ~~accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and~~  
110 ~~Family Therapy Education or from a Florida university program~~  
111 ~~accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and~~  
112 ~~Related Educational Programs and graduate courses approved by~~  
113 ~~the board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy,~~  
114 ~~and Mental Health Counseling.~~

115 2. If the course title that appears on the applicant's  
116 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
117 coursework, the applicant must ~~shall~~ provide additional  
118 documentation, including, but not limited to, a syllabus or  
119 catalog description published for the course. The required  
120 master's degree must have been received in an institution of  
121 higher education that, at the time the applicant graduated, was  
122 fully accredited by an institutional ~~a regional~~ accrediting body  
123 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or  
124 its successor organization ~~Commission on Recognition of~~  
125 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~ or publicly recognized as a member

126 | in good standing with the Association of Universities and  
127 | Colleges of Canada, or an institution of higher education  
128 | located outside the United States and Canada which, at the time  
129 | the applicant was enrolled and at the time the applicant  
130 | graduated, maintained a standard of training substantially  
131 | equivalent to the standards of training of those institutions in  
132 | the United States which are accredited by an institutional ~~a~~  
133 | ~~regional~~ accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher  
134 | Education Accreditation or its successor organization ~~Commission~~  
135 | ~~on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~. Such foreign  
136 | education and training must have been received in an institution  
137 | or program of higher education officially recognized by the  
138 | government of the country in which it is located as an  
139 | institution or program to train students to practice as  
140 | professional marriage and family therapists or psychotherapists.  
141 | The applicant has the burden of establishing that the  
142 | requirements of this provision have been met, and the board  
143 | shall require documentation, such as an evaluation by a foreign  
144 | equivalency determination service, as evidence that the  
145 | applicant's graduate degree program and education were  
146 | equivalent to an accredited program in this country. An  
147 | applicant with a master's degree from a program that did not  
148 | emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the  
149 | coursework requirement in a training institution fully  
150 | accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and

151 Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States  
152 Department of Education.

153 (c) Completed ~~Has had~~ at least 2 years of clinical  
154 experience during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients  
155 were receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must  
156 be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a  
157 licensed marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of  
158 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as  
159 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
160 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
161 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
162 a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in  
163 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did  
164 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (b),  
165 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not  
166 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of  
167 the courses required by paragraph (b), as determined by the  
168 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the  
169 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage  
170 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years  
171 of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct  
172 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases  
173 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,  
174 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include  
175 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the

176 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
 177 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
 178 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

179 (d) ~~Has~~ Passed a theory and practice examination  
 180 designated provided by board rule ~~the department~~.

181 (e) ~~Has~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board  
 182 rule, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of  
 183 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental  
 184 health counseling.

185  
 186 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license  
 187 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the  
 188 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not  
 189 exceed those stated in this subsection.

190 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of  
 191 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 192 board rule, ~~plus the actual per applicant cost of purchase of~~  
 193 ~~the examination from the National Board for Certified Counselors~~  
 194 ~~or its successor organization,~~ the department shall issue a  
 195 license as a mental health counselor to an applicant who the  
 196 board certifies has met all of the following criteria:

197 (a) ~~Has~~ Submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
 198 fee.

199 (b)1. Attained ~~Has~~ a minimum of an earned master's degree  
 200 from a mental health counseling program accredited by the

201 Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related  
202 Educational Programs which consists of at least 60 semester  
203 hours or 80 quarter hours of clinical and didactic instruction,  
204 including a course in human sexuality and a course in substance  
205 abuse. If the master's degree is earned from a program related  
206 to the practice of mental health counseling which is not  
207 accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling  
208 and Related Educational Programs, then the coursework and  
209 practicum, internship, or fieldwork must consist of at least 60  
210 semester hours or 80 quarter hours and meet all of the following  
211 requirements:

212       a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of  
213 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester  
214 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of  
215 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and  
216 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment  
217 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and  
218 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and  
219 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social  
220 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,  
221 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental  
222 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation  
223 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied  
224 toward this requirement.

225       b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of

226 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,  
 227 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current  
 228 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American  
 229 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
 230 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the  
 231 common core curricular experience.

232 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least  
 233 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,  
 234 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours  
 235 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting  
 236 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
 237 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling  
 238 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-  
 239 master's clinical experience requirement.

240 2. ~~Has~~ Provided additional documentation if a course title  
 241 that appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly  
 242 identify the content of the coursework. The documentation must  
 243 include, but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog  
 244 description published for the course.

245  
 246 Education and training in mental health counseling must have  
 247 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the  
 248 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an  
 249 institutional ~~a regional~~ accrediting body recognized by the  
 250 Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor

251 organization or publicly recognized as a member in good standing  
252 with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, or  
253 an institution of higher education located outside the United  
254 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled  
255 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard  
256 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of  
257 training of those institutions in the United States which are  
258 accredited by an institutional ~~a regional~~ accrediting body  
259 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or  
260 its successor organization. Such foreign education and training  
261 must have been received in an institution or program of higher  
262 education officially recognized by the government of the country  
263 in which it is located as an institution or program to train  
264 students to practice as mental health counselors. The applicant  
265 has the burden of establishing that the requirements of this  
266 provision have been met, and the board shall require  
267 documentation, such as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency  
268 determination service, as evidence that the applicant's graduate  
269 degree program and education were equivalent to an accredited  
270 program in this country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant  
271 must have a master's degree from a program that is accredited by  
272 the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related  
273 Educational Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling  
274 Accreditation Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which  
275 consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to

276 | apply for licensure under this paragraph.

277 |       (c) Completed ~~Has had~~ at least 2 years of clinical  
 278 | experience in mental health counseling, which must be at the  
 279 | post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed mental  
 280 | health counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor  
 281 | as determined by the board. An individual who intends to  
 282 | practice in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience  
 283 | requirements must register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before  
 284 | commencing practice. If a graduate has a master's degree with a  
 285 | major related to the practice of mental health counseling which  
 286 | did not include all the coursework required under sub-  
 287 | subparagraphs (b)1.a. and b., credit for the post-master's level  
 288 | clinical experience may not commence until the applicant has  
 289 | completed a minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-  
 290 | subparagraphs (b)1.a. and b., as determined by the board, one of  
 291 | which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal  
 292 | psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the  
 293 | clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
 294 | professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
 295 | provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

296 |       (d) ~~Has~~ Passed a theory and practice examination  
 297 | designated ~~provided~~ by board rule ~~the department for this~~  
 298 | ~~purpose.~~

299 |       (e) ~~Has~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board  
 300 | rule, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of

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301 | clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental  
302 | health counseling.

303 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.