

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Professions & Public
 2 Health Subcommittee
 3 Representative Koster offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:
 7 Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 491.005,
 8 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 9 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

10 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.— Upon verification of
 11 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 12 board rule, ~~plus the actual cost of the purchase of the~~
 13 ~~examination from the Association of Marital and Family Therapy~~
 14 ~~Regulatory Board, or similar national organization,~~ the
 15 department shall issue a license as a marriage and family

Amendment No. 1

16 therapist to an applicant who the board certifies has met all of
17 the following criteria:

18 (a) ~~Has~~ Submitted an application and paid the appropriate
19 fee.

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

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

24 b. A minimum of a master's degree with a major emphasis in
25 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field from a
26 university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of
27 Counseling and Related Educational Programs and graduate courses
28 approved by the board; or

29 c. Has a minimum of a master's degree with an major
30 emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a closely related
31 field, with a degree conferred before September 1, 2027, from an
32 institutionally accredited college or university from a program
33 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
34 Family Therapy Education or from a Florida university program
35 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
36 Related Educational Programs and graduate courses approved by
37 the board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy,
38 and Mental Health Counseling.

39 2. If the course title that appears on the applicant's
40 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the

Amendment No. 1

41 coursework, the applicant must ~~shall~~ provide additional
42 documentation, including, but not limited to, a syllabus or
43 catalog description published for the course. The required
44 master's degree must have been received in an institution of
45 higher education that, at the time the applicant graduated, was
46 fully accredited by an institutional ~~a regional~~ accrediting body
47 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or
48 its successor organization ~~Commission on Recognition of~~
49 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~ or publicly recognized as a member
50 in good standing with the Association of Universities and
51 Colleges of Canada, or an institution of higher education
52 located outside the United States and Canada which, at the time
53 the applicant was enrolled and at the time the applicant
54 graduated, maintained a standard of training substantially
55 equivalent to the standards of training of those institutions in
56 the United States which are accredited by an institutional ~~a~~
57 ~~regional~~ accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher
58 Education Accreditation or its successor organization ~~Commission~~
59 ~~on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~. Such foreign
60 education and training must have been received in an institution
61 or program of higher education officially recognized by the
62 government of the country in which it is located as an
63 institution or program to train students to practice as
64 professional marriage and family therapists or psychotherapists.
65 The applicant has the burden of establishing that the

327989 - h0343-strike.docx

Published On: 1/12/2022 5:19:25 PM

Amendment No. 1

66 requirements of this provision have been met, and the board
67 shall require documentation, such as an evaluation by a foreign
68 equivalency determination service, as evidence that the
69 applicant's graduate degree program and education were
70 equivalent to an accredited program in this country. An
71 applicant with a master's degree from a program that did not
72 emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the
73 coursework requirement in a training institution fully
74 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
75 Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States
76 Department of Education.

77 (c) Completed ~~Has had~~ at least 2 years of clinical
78 experience during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients
79 were receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must
80 be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a
81 licensed marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of
82 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as
83 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
84 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
85 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
86 a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in
87 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did
88 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (b),
89 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not
90 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of

327989 - h0343-strike.docx

Published On: 1/12/2022 5:19:25 PM

Amendment No. 1

91 the courses required by paragraph (b), as determined by the
92 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the
93 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage
94 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years
95 of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct
96 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases
97 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,
98 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include
99 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
100 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
101 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
102 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

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

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

109
110 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license
111 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the
112 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not
113 exceed those stated in this subsection.

114 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of
115 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by

Amendment No. 1

116 | board rule, ~~plus the actual per applicant cost of purchase of~~
117 | ~~the examination from the National Board for Certified Counselors~~
118 | ~~or its successor organization,~~ the department shall issue a
119 | license as a mental health counselor to an applicant who the
120 | board certifies has met all of the following criteria:

121 | (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate
122 | fee.

123 | (b)1. Attained ~~Has~~ a minimum of an earned master's degree
124 | from a mental health counseling program accredited by the
125 | Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related
126 | Educational Programs which consists of at least 60 semester
127 | hours or 80 quarter hours of clinical and didactic instruction,
128 | including a course in human sexuality and a course in substance
129 | abuse. If the master's degree is earned from a program related
130 | to the practice of mental health counseling which is not
131 | accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling
132 | and Related Educational Programs, then the coursework and
133 | practicum, internship, or fieldwork must consist of at least 60
134 | semester hours or 80 quarter hours and meet all of the following
135 | requirements:

136 | a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of
137 | graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester
138 | hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of
139 | the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and
140 | practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment

327989 - h0343-strike.docx

Published On: 1/12/2022 5:19:25 PM

Amendment No. 1

141 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and
142 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and
143 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social
144 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,
145 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental
146 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation
147 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied
148 toward this requirement.

149 b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of
150 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,
151 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current
152 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American
153 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
154 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the
155 common core curricular experience.

156 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least
157 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,
158 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours
159 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting
160 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
161 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling
162 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-
163 master's clinical experience requirement.

164 2. ~~Has~~ Provided additional documentation if a course title
165 that appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly

327989 - h0343-strike.docx

Published On: 1/12/2022 5:19:25 PM

Amendment No. 1

166 identify the content of the coursework. The documentation must
167 include, but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog
168 description published for the course.

169

170 Education and training in mental health counseling must have
171 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the
172 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an
173 institutional ~~a regional~~ accrediting body recognized by the
174 Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor
175 organization or publicly recognized as a member in good standing
176 with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, or
177 an institution of higher education located outside the United
178 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled
179 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard
180 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of
181 training of those institutions in the United States which are
182 accredited by an institutional ~~a regional~~ accrediting body
183 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or
184 its successor organization. Such foreign education and training
185 must have been received in an institution or program of higher
186 education officially recognized by the government of the country
187 in which it is located as an institution or program to train
188 students to practice as mental health counselors. The applicant
189 has the burden of establishing that the requirements of this
190 provision have been met, and the board shall require

327989 - h0343-strike.docx

Published On: 1/12/2022 5:19:25 PM

Amendment No. 1

191 documentation, such as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency
192 determination service, as evidence that the applicant's graduate
193 degree program and education were equivalent to an accredited
194 program in this country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant
195 must have a master's degree from a program that is accredited by
196 the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related
197 Educational Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling
198 Accreditation Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which
199 consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to
200 apply for licensure under this paragraph.

201 (c) Completed ~~Has had~~ at least 2 years of clinical
202 experience in mental health counseling, which must be at the
203 post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed mental
204 health counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor
205 as determined by the board. An individual who intends to
206 practice in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience
207 requirements must register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before
208 commencing practice. If a graduate has a master's degree with a
209 major related to the practice of mental health counseling which
210 did not include all the coursework required under sub-
211 subparagraphs (b)1.a. and b., credit for the post-master's level
212 clinical experience may not commence until the applicant has
213 completed a minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-
214 subparagraphs (b)1.a. and b., as determined by the board, one of
215 which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal

327989 - h0343-strike.docx

Published On: 1/12/2022 5:19:25 PM

Amendment No. 1

216 psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
217 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
218 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
219 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

220 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination
221 designated by department rule ~~provided by the department for~~
222 ~~this purpose.~~

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

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

228

229

230

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

231

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

232

An act relating to mental health professional licensure;

233

amending s. 491.005, F.S.; revising licensing requirements for

234

marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors;

235

providing an effective date.