

Dear SC Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Addiction Counselor or Psycho-educational Specialist:

The Board wants to make you aware of some significant changes related to your licensure regulations that were recently approved by the Legislature. The Board is in the process of putting these changes in place and wanted to let you know how they might affect you. Please visit the Board's website <https://www.llr.sc.gov/cou/> for detailed information.

Regulation changes pertinent to Continuing Education:

- Persons holding more than one license must complete 50 formal hours every two years. Of the 50 formal hours, 6 must be specific to ethical standards, and the remaining 44 must be divided as equally as possible among the related disciplines.
- For Counselors, MFTs and ACs: A first-time licensee is not required to obtain continuing education for the licensing period in which the initial license was obtained.

For those licensees who must meet continuing education requirements for license renewal, six (6) hours of ethics is required during this renewal cycle. This requirement can be met during this renewal cycle through the inclusion of the amount of time ethics topics were covered in regular continuing education courses, in addition to CE credit hours exclusively devoted to ethics.

Changes pertinent to new applicants:

- Education requirements: The number of graduate degree hours has increased from 48 to 60 hours for LPCAs and LMFTAs. This requirement takes effect two years from the effective date of the regulation, which was May 24, 2019. Students who have graduated from or are enrolled in a degree program prior to that effective date can meet the educational licensing requirements pursuant to the education licensing provisions in effect prior to the effective date.
- Licensure by endorsement now allows an applicant for a Counselor's, MFT, AC or PES license to meet the substantially equivalent education requirement if they have had five years of active, unrestricted licensure in that discipline in good standing within the 10-year period immediately preceding the application.
- Licensure by endorsement for supervisors is allowed if the individual holds a current, active and unrestricted supervisor license in good standing under the laws of another state or territory that had requirements that were, at the date of initial licensure, substantially equivalent to or higher than the requirements in effect in South Carolina at the date of initial licensure.

Changes pertinent to supervision:

- Of the 120 hours of required supervision, a maximum of 60 hours may now be obtained via group supervision (an increase from the previous 20 hours).
- Counselor Supervisor applicants who hold a current, unrestricted Counselor's license **and** hold a Doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision are now qualified for the Counselor Supervisor license without having to show five years of continuous clinical experience immediately preceding the application, 36 hours of supervision and 3 semester graduate hours in supervision.

- LPC Supervisors in training who do not have the Doctoral degree and MFT and AC Supervisors in training must have supervised supervision for a minimum two years, overseeing no fewer than 2 supervisees and no more than 6 supervisees during this training period.
- Supervisors may now supervise up to 12 supervisees including supervisors in training.

Changes pertinent to the Addictions License:

- Provisions were created for the licensing of Addiction Counselor Associates. Applicants must :
 - Submit an application on forms approved by the Board, along with the required fee; and
 - Complete a CACREP-accredited addictions counselor program; or
 - Complete a master's degree, specialist's degree, or doctoral degree with a minimum of 48 graduate semester hours in counseling or related field from a program accredited by NASAC, CACREP, or one that follows similar standards.
 - Of the 48 graduate hours, 27 must consist of courses in the following areas:
 - Human growth and development course; and/or
 - Social and cultural foundations course; and/or
 - Counseling Theory Course; and/or
 - Family System Theory Course; and/or
 - Career Theory; and/or
 - Group Dynamics; and/or
 - Screening, Assessment and Clinical Diagnosis within behavioral health; and/or
 - Research and evaluation; and/or
 - Professional orientation: coursework content providing an understanding of professional roles and functions, professional goals and objectives, professional organizations and associations, professional history and trends, ethical and legal standards, professional preparation standards, and professional credentialing; and
 - Complete 6 graduate hours of substance use disorder/addiction specific coursework; and
 - Complete a 100-hour supervised practicum; and
 - Complete 600 hours of internship with a minimum of 300 hours working primarily with the substance use disordered population with a minimum of 120 hours of direct client contact (however, if the 300/120 requirement is not met within the 600-hour internship post graduate experience may serve to meet the requirement); and
 - Submit a passing score on exams approved by the Board; and
 - Submit a supervision plan satisfactory to the Board, and
 - Submit a professional disclosure statement.
- Provisions were created for the licensing of Addiction Counselors. Applicants must :
 - Submit an application on forms approved by the Board, along with the required fee; and
 - Hold a current, active, and unrestricted addiction counselor associate license; and

- Submit, on forms approved by the Board, documentation of completion of a minimum of one thousand one hundred twenty (1120) hours of post-master's clinical experience and post-master's clinical supervision in the practice of professional counseling performed over a period of not fewer than two (2) years. Of the one thousand one hundred twenty (1120) hours, there must be a minimum of one thousand (1,000) hours of documented direct client contact and a minimum of one hundred-twenty (120) hours of documented supervision. Supervision must be provided by a licensed addiction counselor supervisor or other qualified licensed practitioner approved by the Board. At least sixty (60) hours of the supervision hours must be individual/triadic, and the remaining sixty (60) hours may be individual/triadic or group.
- Provisions were created for the licensing of Addiction Counselors Supervisors to include:
 - Submit an application on forms approved by the Board, along with the required fee; and
 - Hold a current, active, and unrestricted South Carolina Addiction Counselor License; and
 - Submit evidence acceptable to the Board of at least three (3) years of being in the practice of addiction counseling immediately preceding the application; and
 - Currently hold a LPC-S, LMFT-S or CCS by SCAADAC; or
 - Submit evidence of a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours of individual/triadic supervision over a period of no less than two years, by a licensed addiction counselor supervisor or supervisor approved by the Board, of the applicant's supervision of at least two (2) and maximum of six (6) licensed addiction counselor associates; and
 - Submit evidence of a minimum of three (3) semester hours of graduate study in supervision oriented to their discipline of training approved by the Board.

Changes pertinent to licensure by endorsement

- Applicants that do not meet substantially equivalent education may meet this requirement by documenting five years of active unrestricted licensure, in good standing, within the ten-year period immediately preceding the application.