

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND CLINICAL
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

LCB File No. R163-12

Explanation- Matter that is *underscored* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: NRS 641A.160

A REGULATION relating to the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors; adding the provisions governing licensing, continuing education, interns, professional conduct and administrative proceedings related to clinical professional counselors; amending the provisions governing licensing, continuing education, interns, professional conduct and administrative proceedings related to marriage and family therapists; and providing other matters properly related thereto.

Section 1. NAC 641A.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 641A.085 Qualifications of applicant; Courses of study. (NRS 641A.160, 641A.210)

1. To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist intern, an applicant’s graduate education in marriage and family therapy must include the following areas of study:

Area of Study	Minimum Number of Courses	Minimum Number of Semester Hours of Credit	Minimum Number of Quarter Hours of Credit
Human Development, including Issues of Sexuality	2	6	8
Marital and Family Systems	2	6	8
Marital and Family Therapy	3	9	12
Ethical and Legal Issues in MFT	1	3	4
Supervised Clinical Practice of MFT (<i>including clinical experience working with individuals, couples and families</i>)	3	9	12
Diagnosis and Assessment (including the use of	1	3	4

the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders)			
Research	1	3	4
Abuse of Alcohol or Controlled Substances	1	3	4

2. To qualify for licensure as a clinical professional counseling intern or clinical professional counselor, an applicant's graduate education in clinical professional counseling must include the following areas of study:

Area of Study	Minimum Number of Courses	Minimum Number of Semester Hours of Credit	Minimum Number of Quarter Hours of Credit
Human Growth and Development	1	3	4
Individual Counseling Theories	1	3	4
Individual Counseling Techniques and Practice	1	3	4
Lifestyle and Career Development	1	3	4
Group Dynamics, Counseling, and Consulting	1	3	4
Ethics and Professional Studies	1	3	4
Supervised Practice of Clinical Professional Counseling	3	9	12
Diagnosis and Assessment (including the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders)	1	3	4
Social and Cultural Foundations	1	3	4
Research and Evaluation	1	3	4
Abuse of Alcohol or Controlled Substances	1	3	4

3. The courses in supervised clinical practice in MFT or CPC required pursuant to subsection 1 must include three courses taken during three semesters or four courses taken during four quarters over a minimum of 1 year.
4. For a graduate degree to fulfill the educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or intern pursuant to this section, the degree must require at least 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours.
5. The Board will consider only courses completed at the graduate level for fulfillment of the educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or intern.
6. A course may not be used to satisfy the requirements for more than one area of study set forth in subsection 1 or 2.
7. The Board may consider:
 - (a) Graduate degrees in fields related to mental health which are comparable to degrees in marriage and family therapy, counseling or mental health counseling and which meet the requirements for course content listed in subsection 1 or 2, regardless of the terminology used in the degree granted by the educational institution, as fulfilling the educational requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or intern.
 - (b) Years of clinical experience as a *licensed* marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor in lieu of specific academic courses ~~[in the supervised practice of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling, in diagnosis and assessment, or in the abuse of alcohol or controlled substances.]~~

Sec. 2. NAC 641A.146 of is hereby amended to read as follow:

NAC 641A.146 Experience required for license; written reports from supervisor. (NRS 641A.160, 641A.287, 641A.288)

1. An internship must be:
 - (a) Approved by the Board before the applicant begins the internship; and
 - (b) Completed within 3 years after the Board approves the internship.
 - (c) If an Intern does not complete an internship within three years, the intern must request an extension from the Board.*
 - (d) The Board may extend an internship only once for three years.*
 - (e) If an intern fails to complete the internship successfully by the end of the internship, they must submit to the Board reasons for failure and reapply for a new internship. They must meet all requirements according to the current regulations and statutes at the time of application.*
2. An intern shall, on or before September 15 and March 15 of each year, submit to the Board a written report from the approved supervisor evaluating his or her internship. The Board may terminate the license of any intern who fails to file such a written report.
Those interns who have had their licenses revoked shall be required to submit to the Board reasons for failure and reapply for a new internship meeting all requirements according to the current regulations and statutes at the time of application.
3. To obtain the hours of supervised experience required pursuant to NRS 641A.220 or 641A.231, an intern must complete:
 - (a) At least 1,500 hours of direct contact with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable;

- (b) At least 300 hours of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling, as applicable, that is supervised by the primary approved supervisor or secondary approved supervisor of the intern, including:
 - (1) At least 160 hours supervised by the primary approved supervisor of the intern; and
 - (2) At least 40 hours supervised by the secondary approved supervisor of the intern; and
- (c) At least 1,200 hours of work related to the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable, including:
 - (1) Not more than 500 hours which consist of direct contact with clients in the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable, that is performed in conjunction with a graduate program of study;
 - (2) Not more than 300 hours of leading group therapy or counseling sessions;
 - (3) Not more than 200 hours of teaching, including, but not limited to, leading sessions for parent or family education, leading workshops or participating in other teaching activities, which are:
 - (I) Approved by the primary approved supervisor of the intern; and
 - (II) Documented;
 - (4) Not more than 150 hours of individual counseling or therapy which the intern personally receives from a licensed mental health professional who is not the approved supervisor of the intern; and
 - (5) Not more than 50 hours of training approved by the primary approved supervisor of the intern, including, but not limited to:
 - (I) Graduate course work at a university; or
 - (II) Attendance at a workshop related to the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling.

4. Credit must not be given for experience gained by a person before the person was licensed as an intern pursuant to the provisions of NAC 641A.156.

5. As used in this section, “mental health professional” means a person licensed in the State of Nevada as a psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical professional counselor or clinical social worker.

Sec. 3. NAC 641A.178 of is hereby amended to read as follow:

NAC 641A.178 Supervision of interns: Primary and secondary approved supervisors; limitation on number of interns; time required for supervision; approved use of conference calls; responsibilities of supervisors and interns; termination of approved supervision. (NRS 641A.160, 641A.287, 641A.288)

1. Before beginning an internship, each intern must have at least two supervisors approved by the Board. During the course of the supervision of the intern:
 - a) The primary approved supervisor shall meet with the intern for at least 160 hours to discuss and evaluate the performance of the intern; and
 - b) The secondary approved supervisor shall meet with the intern for at least 40 hours.
2. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board, not more than:
 - a) Six interns may be placed under the supervision of any primary approved supervisor at one time; and
 - b) Ten interns may be placed under the supervision of any secondary approved supervisor at one time.
3. The time required for supervision includes the time devoted to:

- a) Meetings between the approved supervisor and the intern where videotapes or audiotapes are reviewed;
 - b) Therapy sessions in which the approved supervisor participates;
 - c) Therapy sessions in which the approved supervisor observes the session from a location whereby the approved supervisor is neither seen nor heard; or
 - d) The presentation of a case by the intern and a discussion by the approved supervisor of the proper management and treatment of the case.
4. The time required for supervision does not include the time devoted to attendance at seminars, workshops or classes.
 5. The Board will approve the use of conference calls for supervision of an intern in extenuating circumstances.
 6. *Either the primary approved supervisor or the intern may request approval from the Board to terminate supervision. Termination of supervision shall be accomplished in a way that prevents hardship to clients, ensures compliance with regulations, minimizes risks to the supervisor and affords the intern reasonable time to initiate a new supervision proposal approved by the Board.*
 - (a) *The approved primary supervisor shall notify the intern and the Board as soon as possible of the intent to terminate supervision. Unless there are special circumstances, as listed below, termination occurs after Board approval has been granted at the next Board meeting; when the intern has had the opportunity to initiate a new supervision proposal.*
 - (b) *The approved primary supervisor shall provide guidance regarding the termination of the therapeutic relationship with clients should the intern be unable to establish a new supervision agreement.*
 - (c) *Once approved by the Board, each party shall, upon termination of a supervision agreement, notify the Board in writing not more than 5 days after the date of termination. In addition, a completed Six Month Intern Report Form should accompany this documentation showing experiential hours claimed up until date of termination.*
 - (d) *Either party may immediately suspend a supervision agreement when the supervisor is unable to perform supervision due to personal reasons such as serious illness, in which case, the terminating party shall inform the Board within five business days. The Board will consider for approve this termination at the next Board meeting.*
 - (e) *The approved primary supervisor may immediately suspend a supervision agreement if the intern is unable or unwilling to perform clinical duties or participate in supervision in a manner that is in compliance with the supervision contract or applicable administrative code.*

Sec. 4. NAC 641A.182 of is hereby amended to read as follow:

NAC 641A.182 Approved supervisors: Qualifications. (NRS 641A.160, 641A.287, 641A.288)

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, an approved supervisor of an intern must be a marriage and family therapist or clinical professional counselor. Each potential supervisor must offer evidence satisfactory to the Board of his or her training or experience, or both, which qualifies him or her to supervise.
2. In extenuating circumstances, the Board may approve as a secondary supervisor a person who is a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker who has received training in supervision.

3. Each supervisor must:
 - (a) Have been licensed *in Nevada* for at least 3 years.
 - (b) Not be related to the intern by closer than the fourth degree of consanguinity.
 - (c) Have never professionally provided mental health therapy to the intern.
 - (d) Maintain liability insurance covering the supervision.
 - (e) Be approved by the Board.
 - (f) Agree to be available to consult with the Board concerning the professional record, competence in practice, and emotional and mental stability or professional and ethical conduct of the intern.
4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, each potential primary supervisor must provide evidence satisfactory to the Board of completion of:
 - (a) Supervisory training that consists of:
 - (1) At least one graduate-level course taught by an instructor deemed appropriate by the Board, which includes at least 45 ~~[semester]~~ *clock* hours on the supervision of the practice of marriage and family therapy or the practice of clinical professional counseling, as applicable; or
 - (2) A professional training program on supervision taught by an instructor deemed appropriate by the Board, which is provided by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy or the National Board for Certified Counselors, as applicable; and
 - (b) At least 25 hours of *mentored* supervision ~~[supervisory]~~ experience.
5. In lieu of providing evidence satisfactory to the Board of the completion of supervisory training and supervisory experience as required pursuant to subsection 4, a potential supervisor may provide evidence satisfactory to the Board that he or she has obtained and maintained, as applicable:
 - (a) A designation as an “Approved Supervisor” or “Supervisor Candidate” from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; or
 - (b) A credential as an “Approved Clinical Supervisor” from the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Sec. 5. NAC 641A.252 of is hereby amended to read as follow:

NAC 641A.252 Code of Ethics: **Adoption by reference; effect of violation.** (NRS 641A.160, 641A.310)

1. The Board hereby adopts by reference:
 - a) The AAMFT Code of Ethics of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as it existed on July 1, ~~[2001]~~ *2012*, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada for marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapist interns, excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.
 - b) The Code of Ethics of the National Board for Certified Counselors as it existed on October 8, 2005, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada for clinical professional counselors and clinical professional counselor interns, excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the National Board for Certified Counselors.
2. The AAMFT Code of Ethics is available, free of charge, from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy by mail at 112 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3061, by telephone at (703) 838-9808 or on the Internet at ~~[http://www.aamft.org/resources/LRM_Plan/Ethics/ethicscode2001.asp]~~ <http://www.amft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/>.

- 2) The Code of Ethics of the National Board for Certified Counselors is available, free of charge, from the National Board for Certified Counselors by mail at 3 Terrace Way, Greensboro, North Carolina 27403-3660, by telephone at (336) 547-0607 or on the Internet at **<http://www.nbcc.org/ethics>**.
- 3) A violation of the provisions of a code of ethics adopted by reference pursuant to this section constitutes cause for disciplinary action.