

IC 25-23.6-8.5

Chapter 8.5. Mental Health Counselors

IC 25-23.6-8.5-1

Mental health counselor application requirements

Sec. 1. An individual who applies for a license as a mental health counselor must meet the following requirements:

(1) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has:

(A) received a master's or doctor's degree in an area related to mental health counseling from:

- (i) an eligible postsecondary educational institution that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter; or
- (ii) a foreign school that has a program of study that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter;

(B) completed the educational requirements under section 3 of this chapter; and

(C) completed the experience requirements under section 4 of this chapter.

(2) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual:

(A) except as provided in section 1.7 of this chapter, holds a mental health counselor associate license, in good standing, issued under section 7 of this chapter; or

(B) is licensed or certified to practice as a mental health counselor in another state and is otherwise qualified under this chapter.

(3) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to practice competently.

(4) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice as a mental health counselor without endangering the public.

(5) Pass an examination provided by the board.

(6) Pay the fee established by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.2-2007, SEC.340; P.L.84-2010, SEC.58; P.L.42-2011, SEC.56.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-1.5

Mental health counselor associate application requirements

Sec. 1.5. An individual who applies for a license as a mental health counselor associate must meet the following requirements:

(1) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has:

(A) received a master's or doctor's degree in mental health counseling therapy or in a related area as determined by the

board from an institution of higher education that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter or from a foreign school that has a program of study that meets the requirements under section 2(3)(A) or 2(3)(B) of this chapter; and

(B) completed the educational requirements under section 3 of this chapter.

(2) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to practice competently.

(3) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice as a mental health counselor associate without endangering the public.

(4) Pay the fee established by the board.

(5) Pass an examination provided by the board.

As added by P.L.84-2010, SEC.59.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-1.7

Requirements while in doctoral program

Sec. 1.7. An individual who receives a master's degree and enters a doctoral program may do either of the following:

(1) Apply for a mental health counselor associate license under section 1.5 of this chapter by meeting the requirements of this chapter.

(2) Elect not to apply for a mental health counselor associate license under section 1.5 of this chapter, accrue the clinical experience required under section 4 of this chapter, and apply for a mental health counselor license at the conclusion of the doctoral program.

As added by P.L.84-2010, SEC.60.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-2

Requirements for institution attended by applicant

Sec. 2. An applicant for a mental health counselor license under section 1 of this chapter or a mental health counselor associate license under section 1.5 of this chapter must have received a master's or doctor's degree in an area related to mental health counseling from an eligible postsecondary educational institution that meets the following requirements:

(1) If the institution was located in the United States or a territory of the United States, at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution was accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

(2) If the institution was located in Canada, at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution was a member in good

standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

(3) If the institution was located in a foreign country other than Canada, at the time of the applicant's graduation the institution:

(A) was recognized by the government of the country where the school was located as a program to train in the practice of mental health counseling or psychotherapy counseling; and

(B) maintained a standard of training substantially equivalent to the standards of institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.2-2007, SEC.341; P.L.84-2010, SEC.61.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-3

Educational requirements

Sec. 3. An applicant as a mental health counselor under section 1 of this chapter or a mental health counselor associate under section 1.5 of this chapter must complete the following educational requirements:

(1) Complete sixty (60) semester hours of graduate course work in counseling that must include either a master's degree that required not less than forty-eight (48) semester hours or a doctor's degree in counseling. The graduate course work must include the following content areas:

(A) Human growth and development.

(B) Social and cultural foundations of counseling.

(C) Helping relationship, including counseling theory and practice.

(D) Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consultation.

(E) Lifestyle and career development.

(F) Assessment and appraisal of individuals.

(G) Research and program evaluation.

(H) Professional orientation and ethics.

(I) Foundations of mental health counseling.

(J) Contextual dimensions of mental health counseling.

(K) Knowledge and skills for the practice of mental health counseling and psychotherapy.

(L) Clinical instruction.

(2) Not less than one (1) supervised clinical practicum, internship, or field experience in a counseling setting, which must include a minimum of one thousand (1,000) clock hours consisting of one (1) practicum of one hundred (100) hours, one (1) internship of six hundred (600) hours, and one (1) advanced internship of three hundred (300) hours with at least one hundred (100) hours of face to face supervision. This

requirement may be met by a supervised practice experience that took place away from an eligible postsecondary educational institution but that is certified by an official of the eligible postsecondary educational institution as being equivalent to a clinical mental health graduate level practicum or internship program at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education or the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.2-2007, SEC.342; P.L.84-2010, SEC.62.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-4

Clinical experience requirements

Sec. 4. (a) As used in this section, "first available examination" means the first examination after the date of an individual's:

- (1) graduation; or
- (2) moving into Indiana;

that has an application deadline that is at least thirty (30) days after the date of graduation or the date of moving into Indiana, unless the individual chooses to meet a deadline that is less than thirty (30) days after either of those events.

(b) The applicant must have at least three thousand (3,000) hours of post-graduate clinical experience over a two (2) year period. The clinical experience must consist of one hundred (100) hours of face to face supervision under the supervision of a licensed mental health counselor or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board.

(c) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised work experience requirement.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e), the clinical experience requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the premises of the supervising mental health counselor.

(e) The clinical work requirement may not be performed away from the supervising mental health counselor's premises if:

- (1) the work is the independent private practice of mental health counseling; and
- (2) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision of a licensed mental health counselor or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board.

(f) If an individual applies for, takes, and passes the first available examination, the individual may not count more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of the postdegree clinical experience that is:

- (1) required under subsection (b); and
- (2) accumulated before taking the examination toward licensure as a mental health counselor.

(g) If an individual does not pass the first available examination, the individual may:

- (1) retain the hours accumulated before taking the examination;

- (2) continue working; and
- (3) not accumulate any additional hours toward licensure as a mental health counselor until passing the examination.

(h) If an individual does not take the first available examination, the individual may not begin accumulating any postdegree clinical experience hours toward licensure as a mental health counselor until the individual passes the examination.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.84-2010, SEC.63.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-5

Eligibility for examination

Sec. 5. An individual who satisfies the requirements of:

- (1) section 1 or 1.5 of this chapter; and
- (2) section 2 of this chapter;

may take the examination provided by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.84-2010, SEC.64.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-6

Examination; times and places

Sec. 6. The board shall provide for examinations to be given at least once each year at times and places established by the board.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-7

Issuance of license

Sec. 7. (a) The board shall issue a license to an applicant as a mental health counselor under section 1 of this chapter or a mental health counselor associate under section 1.5 of this chapter who:

- (1) achieves a passing score, as determined by the board, on the examination provided under this chapter; and
- (2) is otherwise qualified under this article.

(b) A person issued a license under this section may engage in the practice of mental health counseling.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.84-2010, SEC.65.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-8

Duration of mental health counselor license; renewal

Sec. 8. (a) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a mental health counselor license issued by the board is valid for the remainder of the renewal period in effect on the date the license was issued.

(b) An individual may renew a mental health counselor license by:

- (1) paying a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of the license; and
- (2) completing at least twenty (20) hours of continuing education per licensure year.

(c) If an individual fails to pay a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of a mental health counselor license, the license becomes invalid.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.84-2010, SEC.66; P.L.177-2015, SEC.56.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-8.5

Duration of mental health counselor associate license; renewal

Sec. 8.5. (a) Subject to IC 25-1-2-6(e), a mental health counselor associate license issued by the board is valid for the remainder of the renewal period in effect on the date the license was issued.

(b) An individual may renew a mental health counselor associate license two (2) times by:

(1) paying a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of the license; and

(2) completing at least twenty (20) hours of continuing education per licensure year.

(c) The board may renew a mental health counselor associate license for additional periods based on circumstances determined by the board.

(d) If an individual fails to pay a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of a mental health counselor associate license, the license becomes invalid.

As added by P.L.84-2010, SEC.67. Amended by P.L.177-2015, SEC.57.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-9

Reinstatement of invalid license

Sec. 9. (a) The board may reinstate an invalid mental health counselor license up to three (3) years after the expiration date of the license if the individual holding the invalid license meets the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6.

(b) If more than three (3) years have elapsed since the date a mental health counselor license expired, the individual holding the license may reinstate the invalid license by satisfying the requirements for reinstatement established by the board and meeting the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6.

(c) The board may reinstate an invalid mental health counselor associate license up to one (1) year after the expiration date of the license if the individual holding the invalid license meets the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6. A mental health counselor associate license that has been expired for more than one (1) year may not be reinstated under IC 25-1-8-6.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71. Amended by P.L.269-2001, SEC.23; P.L.84-2010, SEC.68.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-10

Temporary permit

Sec. 10. (a) The board may issue a temporary permit to an individual to profess to be a mental health counselor if the individual pays a fee and the individual:

- (1) has a valid license or certificate to practice from another state and the individual has applied for a license from the board;
- (2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify mental health counselors, but is certified by a national association approved by the board and the individual has applied for a license from the board; or
- (3) has been approved by the board to take the examination and has graduated from a school or program approved by the board and the individual has completed any experience requirement.

(b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:

- (1) the date the individual holding the permit is issued a license under this article; or
- (2) the date the board disapproves the individual's license application.

(c) The board may renew a temporary permit if the individual holding the permit was scheduled to take the next examination and the individual:

- (1) did not take the examination; and
- (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.

(d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the individual holding the permit receives the results from the next examination given after the permit was issued.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-11

Notification of retirement from practice

Sec. 11. (a) An individual who is licensed under this article shall notify the board in writing when the individual retires from practice.

(b) Upon receipt of the notice, the board shall:

- (1) record the fact the individual is retired; and
- (2) release the individual from further payment of renewal fees and continuing education requirements.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-12

Exemption from examination requirement

Sec. 12. An individual who applies for a license under this article may be exempted by the board from the examination requirement under this chapter if the individual:

- (1) is licensed or certified to practice as a mental health counselor in another state; or
- (2) has engaged in the practice of mental health counseling for not less than three (3) of the previous five (5) years;
- (3) has passed a licensing examination substantially equivalent to the licensing examination required under this article;

(4) has passed an examination pertaining to the mental health counseling laws and rules of this state; and
(5) has not committed any act or is not under investigation for any act that constitutes a violation of this article;
and is otherwise qualified under sections 1 and 2 of this chapter and pays an additional fee.

As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.71.

IC 25-23.6-8.5-13

Expired

(As added by P.L.84-2010, SEC.69. Expired 6-30-2015 by P.L.84-2010, SEC.69.)