



Overview of proposed changes to the Chemical Dependency Professional rules for alternative training

This document summarizes the proposed changes to chapter 246-811 WAC implementing alternative training. At this time, changes have only been proposed. Please provide any additional comments by March 10, 2015. Provide all comments to Betty Moe at Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov.

Below is a summary of the significant changes to the proposed rules:

The alternative training is available only for following healthcare professionals:

- Advanced registered nurse practitioners under chapter 18.79 RCW;
- Marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, advanced social workers, or independent clinical social workers under chapter 18.225 RCW;
- Psychologists under chapter 18.83 RCW;
- Osteopathic physicians under chapter 18.57 RCW;
- Osteopathic physician assistants under chapter 18.57A RCW;
- Physicians under chapter 18.71 RCW; or
- Physician assistants under chapter 18.71A RCW.

WAC 246-811-046 – Number of experience hours required for certification as a chemical dependency professional.

The proposed amendments clarify that applicants applying by alternative training must complete 1,000 hours of chemical dependency counseling. The proposed rule is amended to require that applicants who apply on or after June 1, 2016, must be able to document that 500 hours of the required 1,000 hours were completed in a state-approved facility. The proposed rules require supervision within a state-approved facility, which is currently not required.

Discussion – Applicants who are dually credentialed would need to obtain employment for at least 500 hours within a state-approved agency in order to gain the hours needed to be a chemical dependency professional (CDP).

WAC 246-811-049 – Approved supervisors

Under the proposed rule, the approved supervisor is required to hold a current CDP certificate. The current rule allows a person who meets or exceeds the requirements of a certified CDP in the state of Washington, and who would be able to take the examination required for certification.

The supervisor must be credentialed in the state in which the supervisee is practicing.

The supervisor may not be a blood or legal relative; significant other, cohabitant of the supervisee, or someone who has acted as the supervisee's primary counselor.

The number of clock hours of supervisory training that can be used to count toward the supervised experience hours was reduced from 28 to 24. The rule was also clarified to indicate that the training must be provided by an industry-recognized local, state, national, or international organization, or institution of higher learning as defined in WAC 246-811-200(5).

The supervisory requirements for a CDP who applied by alternative training are:

- Documenting completion of 1,500 hours of experience in a state-approved chemical dependency treatment agency. These hours are in addition to the hours required to become a CDP, and
- Complete 36 hours of education specific to:
 - Counselor development;
 - Professional and ethical standards;
 - Program development and quality assurance;
 - Performance evaluation;
 - Administration;
 - Treatment knowledge; and
 - Washington State law regarding substance use disorder treatment.

Discussion – The proposed changes would no longer allow people who meet the current requirements, by being equally qualified to provide supervision. Supervisors who aren't CDPs would no longer be able to provide supervision. This may decrease the number of qualified supervisors, especially for those who provide services within a private practice setting.

The rules also require those who obtained their credential by alternative training to obtain an additional 1,500 hours of experience in a state-approved treatment agency, and to complete specific training in order to be an approved supervisor.

New Section – WAC 246-811-077 Educational requirements to apply for chemical dependency certification with alternative training – (this section establishes the educational requirements.)

The proposed rules require the successful completion of 15 quarter or 10 semester college credits in courses from an approved school.

Coursework on each on the following topics specific to alcohol- and drug-addicted people is required:

- Survey of addiction;
- Treatment of addiction;
- Pharmacology;
- Physiology of addiction;
- American Society of Addiction Management (ASAM) criteria;

- Individual group, including family addiction counseling; and
- Substance use disorder law and ethics.

Coursework must be completed for credit.

Applicants shall verify course completion by submitting official transcripts to the department. If the course title doesn't clearly identify the content area, applicants shall provide the course syllabi.

Applicants who meet the educational requirements of this section are considered to meet the educational requirements of WAC 246-811-030.

New Section – WAC 246-811-078 National Certification acceptable for alternative training.

This section allows national certification to meet the educational and experience requirements for licensure. Applicants would still be required to complete the national examination in order to obtain certification as a CDP. The national certification must be active and in good standing. The proposed rules would accept the following:

- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) or the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM);
- Addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology;
- Master addiction counselor (MAC) from the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors;
- Master addiction counselor (MAC) from the National Board of Certified Counselors;
- Certified addictions registered nurse or a certified addictions registered nurse – advanced practice from the International Nurses Society on Addictions ;
- Certified addiction specialist (CAS) from the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders;
- Certificate of proficiency in the treatment of psychoactive substance abuse disorders from the American Psychological Association;
- Advanced alcohol and drug counselor (AADC) from the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium;
- American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology certificate of added qualification in addiction medicine;
- American Osteopathic Board of Family Medicine certificate of added qualification in addiction medicine;
- American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine certificate of added qualification in addiction medicine; and
- American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry certificate of added qualification in addiction medicine.