Rules Workshop

During the February 26 meeting, the Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (advisory committee) will review the attached recommended changes to chapter 246-809 WAC. The Record Retention Subcommittee and the Clinical Supervision Subcommittee developed the recommended changes.

Current Status

The Department of Health (department) began the rulemaking in August 2014 when it filed with the Office of the Code Reviser a preproposal statement of inquiry, or CR-101. The subject was to consider establishing requirements to implement House Bill 1213 (Chapter 73, Laws of 2013) regarding continuing education and other licensing standards; clarifying terms and conditions; deleting obsolete sections, and making general housekeeping changes.

Since the filing of the CR-101, the advisory committee has been drafting recommended rule language changes to present to the department.

Recent Work

- Both subcommittees met separately on January 15, 2016, to consider new questions posed by the full advisory committee from the last meeting and to consider any remaining questions the subcommittees had about the recommended changes.
- Department staff members compiled the recommended changes from each subcommittee into one document. The full committee will review the document at the meeting.
- Thom Field, PhD, LMHC, NCC, ACS, Associate Professor, City University of Seattle, has graciously compiled data concerning supervision requirements in other states and has provided information about the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs' (CACREP) current education program standards. He will present this information at the meeting.

Next Steps

- The advisory committee will review the recommended changes to chapter 246-809 WAC during the February 26 meeting and decide whether to send them back to the subcommittees or complete the work at this and/or future meetings of the full advisory committee.
- Once the advisory committee has finished developing the recommended changes, the department's program manager and staff members from the Office of the Assistant Secretary will brief department managers and the assistant secretary of the advisory committees' recommended changes.
- The authority to move forward with the rulemaking rests with the secretary of health.
- Once the go-ahead is given, staff members will begin to develop documents associated with the next step of the rulemaking, which is to develop the proposed changes and prepare to submit the CR-102.

Chapter 246-809 WAC

LICENSURE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS

Last Update: 9/22/15

WAC

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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

246-809-061 Health care institutions. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-061, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.] Repealed by WSR 09-15-039, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW.

246-809-062 Licensed counselor associations or societies. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-062, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.] Repealed by WSR 09-15-039, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW.

246-809-063 Health care service contractors and disability insurance carriers. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-063, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.] Repealed by WSR 09-15-039, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW.

246-809-064 Professional liability carriers. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-064, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.] Repealed by WSR 09-15-039,

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filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW.

246-809-065 Courts. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-065, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.] Repealed by WSR 09-15-039, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW.

246-809-066 State and federal agencies. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-066, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.] Repealed by WSR 09-15-039, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW.

LICENSED COUNSELORS AND ASSOCIATE COUNSELORS—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

WAC 246-809-010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Associate" means a prelicensure candidate who is working towards full licensure in their profession, has a graduate degree in a mental health field under RCW 18.225.090 and is gaining the supervision and supervised experience necessary to become a licensed independent clinical social worker, a licensed advanced social worker, a licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed marriage and family therapist. Associates may not independently provide social work, mental health counseling, or marriage and family therapy for a fee, monetary or otherwise. Associates must work under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

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(2) "Independent social work, mental health counseling, or marriage and family therapy" means the practice of these disciplines without being under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

(3) "Licensed counselor" means a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, licensed advanced social worker, or licensed independent clinical social worker regulated under chapter 18.225 RCW.

(4) “Client” means a recipient of services from a licensed counselor or associate. A corporate entity or other organization can be a client when the professional contract is to provide services of primary benefit to the organization rather than to individuals.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-010, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-010, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.]

WAC 246-809-035 Recordkeeping and retention. (1) The licensed counselor or associate providing professional services to a client or providing services billed to a third-party ~~payor~~ payer, must document

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services, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The documentation includes:

(a) The following business information:

(i) Client name;

(~~b~~ii) The fee arrangement and record of payments;

(~~c~~iii) Dates counseling was received;

(iv) Start and end times for each date of counseling; and

(~~d~~v) Disclosure ~~form~~statement, signed and dated by licensed counselor and client or associate and client on or before the initial session;

(b) The following treatment information:

(~~e~~i) The presenting problem(s), purpose or diagnosis;

(~~f~~ii) Notation and results of formal consults, including information obtained from other persons or agencies through a release of information; and

(~~g~~iii) Progress notes from each session which, at a minimum, include observable data, assessment and a plan. The progress notes must be sufficient to support responsible clinical practice for the type of theoretical orientation/therapy the licensed counselor or associate uses. The responsible clinical practice includes consistently identi-

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fying on the disclosure statement as well as in the progress notes the type of theoretical orientation and therapy being used.

(iv) The associate must also provide ~~adequate~~ all relevant information about their clinical work to the approved supervisor. This ~~can be in the form of progress~~includes session notes, the associate's notes from supervision, consultation notes, case discussions~~/~~ and analysis, or reports from collaborating professionals. The approved supervisor must review the associate's written records and have a thorough ~~an~~ understanding of the clinical work that the associate is doing.

(2) An associate must keep written records identified in subsection (1) of this section. An associate shall not agree to a request by a client that no treatment records be kept. If a client being treated by the licensed counselor requests in writing that no treatment records be kept, and the licensed counselor ~~or associate~~ agrees to the request, ~~the request must be in writing and~~then the licensed counselor ~~or associate~~ must retain only the following documentation:

(a) The following business information:

(i) Client name;

(~~b~~ii) The ~~Fee~~ fee arrangement and record of payments;

(~~c~~iii) Dates counseling was received;

(iv) Start and end times for each date of counseling; and

(~~d~~v) Disclosure ~~form~~statement, signed and dated by licensed counselor or associate and client on or before the initial session; and

(~~e~~b) The client's written request that no treatment records be kept. ~~Written request that no records be kept~~.

(3) The licensed counselor ~~or associate may~~shall not agree to the request if maintaining client records is required by other state or federal law.

(4) The licensed counselor or associate or the associate's supervisor must keep all client records for a period of five years following the last visit. Within this five-year period, all records must be maintained safely, with properly limited access.

(5) The licensed counselor or associate or the associate's supervisor ~~must~~ shall make provisions for retaining or transferring records in the event of going out of business, death or incapacitation. These provisions may be made in the practitioner's will, an office policy, or by ensuring another licensed counselor is available to review records with a client and recommend a course of action; or other appropriate means as determined by the licensed counselor or associate.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-035, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW

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18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-035, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.]

WAC 246-809-040 Reporting of suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult. As required by chapter 26.44 RCW, all licensed counselors and associates ~~must~~ shall report abuse or neglect of a child if the counselor has reasonable cause to believe that an incident has occurred.

As required by chapter 74.34 RCW, all licensed counselors and associates ~~must~~ shall report suspected abandonment, abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, when there is reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect has occurred.

The licensed counselor or associate shall report to the local law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services at the first opportunity, but no longer than twenty-four hours after deciding there is reasonable cause to believe that the child or vulnerable adult has suffered abandonment, abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

The associate will inform their approved supervisor of their filling any report made by the associate.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-040, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-040, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.]

WAC 246-809-049 Sexual misconduct. (1) The definitions and prohibitions on sexual misconduct described in ~~chapter~~ WAC 246-16-100 ~~WAC~~ apply to licensed counselors and associates except for WAC 246-16-100 (3) and (4).

(2) A licensed counselor or associate shall never engage, or attempt to engage, in the activities listed in WAC 246-16-100 (1) and (2)~~with a former patient, former client or former key party~~.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-049, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.155.040, 18.19.050, 18.225.040, 18.205.060, 18.130.050. WSR 08-07-090, § 246-809-049, filed 3/19/08, effective 4/19/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-049, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.]

WAC 246-809-060 Mandatory reporting. (1) All reports required by this chapter shall be submitted to the department~~ as soon as possible~~

as required by chapter 246-16 WAC, but no later than twenty days after a determination is made.

(2) ~~Reports made in accordance with WAC 246-809-061, 246-809-062, 246-809-063, and 246-809-064 should contain the following information if known:~~

~~(a) The name, address, and telephone number of the person making the report.~~

~~(b) The name, address, and telephone number of the licensed counselor being reported.~~

~~(c) The case number of any client or patient whose treatment is a subject of the report.~~

~~(d) A brief description or summary of the facts which gave rise to the issuance of the report, including dates of occurrences.~~

~~(e) If court action is involved, the name of the court in which the action is filed along with the date of filing and docket number.~~

~~(f) Any further information which would aid in the evaluation of the report.~~

~~(3)~~ Mandatory reports are exempt from public inspection and copying to the extent permitted under chapter 42.17 RCW.

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(~~4~~3) A person is immune from civil liability, whether direct or derivative, for providing information to the department under RCW 18.130.070.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040, 18.130.050. WSR 06-09-032, § 246-809-060, filed 4/12/06, effective 5/13/06.]

WAC 246-809-080 AIDS prevention and information education requirements. Applicants must complete four clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8. Training courses may be taken any time prior to initial licensure as an associate or a licensed counselor.

[Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-080, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY ASSOCIATES

~~**WAC 246-809-100 One year exemption option.** Persons who submit an application for licensure as a marriage and family therapist by July 1, 2010, and who have held a registered counselor credential issued under chapter 18.19 RCW in good standing for five consecutive years since obtaining their master's degree in an approved field, are deemed to have met the supervised postgraduate experience requirements of WAC~~

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~~246-809-130. Applicants must meet the education requirements in WAC 246-809-120 and the examination requirements of WAC 246-809-140. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-100, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09.]~~

WAC 246-809-110 Definitions. The following terms apply to the licensure of marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapist associates.

(1) "Approved educational program" means:

(a) Any college or university accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or its successor; or

(b) A program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), at the time the applicant completed the required education.

(2) "Approved supervisor" means a licensed marriage and family therapist, or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

(3) "Equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" means a licensed mental health counselor, licensed clinical social worker,

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licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner, who has completed:

(a) Three hundred clock hours in graduate or postgraduate marriage and family education, or continuing education in marriage and family therapy or supervision by an approved marriage and family therapist supervisor in marriage and family therapy or any combination of these; and

(b) Five years of clinical practice that includes the equivalent of one year of clinical practice working with couples and families.

(4) "Group supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

(5) "Licensure candidate" means an individual that is accruing supervised clinical experience required for licensure.

(6) "One-on-one supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensure candidates.

(7) "Supervised experience requirement" means experience that is obtained under an approved supervisor who meets the requirements described in WAC 246-809-134.

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(8) "Supervision of supervision" means supervision by an approved supervisor for the purpose of training and qualifying a license holder to act as an approved supervisor for purposes of chapter 18.225 RCW and WAC 246-809-134.

(9) "Peer" means a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate's employer or supervisor.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-110, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-110, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06.]

WAC 246-809-120 Education requirements—Degree equivalents. (1) To meet the education requirement for full licensure or associate licensure an applicant must have a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree with equivalent course work from an approved school. An official transcript must be provided as evidence of fulfillment of the course work required.

(2) The following are considered to be equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from an approved school:

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(a) A doctoral or master's degree from an approved school in any of the behavioral sciences that shows evidence of fulfillment of the course work requirements set out in WAC 246-809-121; or

(b) A doctoral or master's degree in any of the behavioral sciences from an approved school that shows evidence of partial fulfillment of the equivalent course work requirements set out in WAC 246-809-121, plus supplemental course work from an approved school to satisfy the remaining equivalent course work requirements set out in WAC 246-809-121.

(3) Applicants who held a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree and are completing supplemental course work through an approved school to satisfy any missing program equivalencies may count any postgraduate experience hours acquired concurrently with the additional course work.

(4) Anyone who has obtained American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) clinical membership status is considered to have met the education requirements of this chapter. Verification must be sent directly to the department from the AAMFT.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-120, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251,

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RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-120, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-121 Program equivalency. (1) Course work equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in ~~marriage and family therapy must include graduate level courses in marital and family systems, marital and family therapy, individual development psychopathology, human sexuality, research, professional ethics and law, and supervised clinical practice and electives~~each area of study described in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) A total of forty-five semester credits ~~and~~ or sixty quarter credits are required in ~~all~~ the nine areas of study as described in this subsection. A minimum of twenty-seven semester credits or thirty-six quarter credits are required in the first ~~five~~ six areas of study: Marital and family systems, marital and family therapy, individual development, psychopathology, human sexuality, and research. Distribution of the course work is as follows:

(~~1~~a) Marital and family systems.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken ~~at least two courses~~a minimum of six semester or eight quarter credits in marital and family sys-

tems. ~~Course work required is a minimum of six semester credits or eight quarter credits.~~

(~~b~~ii) Marital and family systems is a fundamental introduction to the systems approach to intervention. The student should learn to think in systems terms on a number of levels across a wide variety of family structures, and regarding a diverse range of presenting problems. While the most intense focus may be on the nuclear family (in both its traditional and alternative forms), models should be taught which integrate information regarding the marital, sibling, and individual subsystems, as well as the family of origin and external societal influences. Developmental aspects of family functioning should also be considered of the family system; it also provides a theoretical basis for treatment strategy. Some material may be drawn from familiar sources such as family sociology, but it should be integrated with recent clinically oriented systems concepts. Supplemental studies may include family simulation, the observation of well families, and study of the student's family of origin.

(~~2~~b) Marital and family therapy.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken a minimum of six semester or eight quarter credits ~~at least two courses~~ in marital and family ther-

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apy. ~~Course work required is a minimum of six semester credits or eight quarter credits.~~

(~~b~~ii) Marital and family therapy is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change and the applied practices evolving from each orientation. Major theoretical approaches to be surveyed might include strategic, structural, experiential, neoanalytical (e.g., object relations), communications, and behavioral. Applied studies should consider the range of technique associated with each orientation, as well as a variety of treatment structures, including individual, concurrent, collaborative, conjoint marital, marital group, transgenerational, and network therapies.

(~~3~~c) Individual development.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken a minimum of two semester credits or three quarter credits ~~at least one course~~ in individual development. ~~Course work required is a minimum of two semester credits or three quarter credits.~~

(~~b~~ii) A course in this area is intended to provide a knowledge of individual personality development and its normal and abnormal manifestations. The student should have relevant course work in human development across the life span, and in personality theory. An attempt should be made to integrate this material with systems concepts. Sev-

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eral of the courses in this category may be required as prerequisites for some degree programs.

(~~4~~d) Psychopathology.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken at least one course in psychopathology. Course work required is a minimum of two semester credits or three quarter credits.

(~~b~~ii) Psychopathology is the assessment and diagnosis including familiarity with current diagnostic nomenclature, diagnostic categories and the development of treatment strategies.

(~~5~~e) Human sexuality.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken at least one course in human sexuality. Course work required is a minimum of two semester credits or three quarter credits.

(~~b~~ii) Human sexuality includes normal psycho-sexual development, sexual functioning, ~~and its~~ physiological aspects, ~~and~~ sexual dysfunction and its treatment.

(~~6~~f) Research.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken at least one course in research methods. Course work required is a minimum of three semester credits or four quarter credits.

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(~~b~~ii) The research area is intended to provide assistance to students in becoming informed consumers of research in the marital and family therapy field. Familiarity with substantive findings, together with the ability to make critical judgments as to the adequacy of research reports, is expected.

(~~7~~g) Professional ethics and law.

(~~a~~i) An applicant must have taken at least one course in professional ethics and law. Course work required is a minimum of three semester credits or four quarter credits.

(~~b~~ii) This area is intended to contribute to the development of a professional attitude and identity. Areas of study will include professional socialization, ~~and~~ the role of the professional organization, licensure or certification legislation, legal responsibilities, ~~and~~ legal liabilities, ethics and family law, confidentiality, independent practice and interprofessional cooperation.

(~~8~~h) Electives.

(~~a~~i) An individual must take one course in an elective area. Course work required is a minimum of three semester credits ~~and~~ or four quarter credits.

(~~b~~ii) This area will vary with different institutions but is intended to provide supplemental and/or specialized supporting areas.

(~~9~~i) Supervised clinical practice.

(~~a~~i) An applicant may acquire up to nine semester credits or twelve quarter credits through supervised clinical practice in marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a qualified marriage and family therapist as determined by the school.

(~~b~~ii) ~~If an applicant~~Applicants who completed a master's or doctoral degree program in marriage and family therapy, or a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree with equivalent course work, ~~prior to~~before January 1, 1997~~; ~~, may substitute the supervised clinical practice educational component by documenting a minimum of three years of postgraduate experience in marriage and family therapy. These hours are ~~and if that degree did not include a supervised clinical practice component, the applicant may substitute the clinical practice component with proof of a minimum of three years postgraduate experience in marriage and family therapy, ~~in addition to the two years supervised postgraduate experience required under RCW 18.225~~section 9(1), chapter 251, Laws of 2001~~.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-121, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-121, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

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WAC 246-809-130 Supervised postgraduate experience. (1) The experience requirements for the marriage and family therapist applicant's practice area include successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of two calendar years of full-time marriage and family therapy. ~~Of the total supervision, one hundred hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist with at least five years' clinical experience; the other one hundred hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.~~ Total experience requirements include:

~~(1) A~~a minimum of three thousand hours of experience~~,~~ that includes one thousand hours of ~~which must be~~ direct client contact~~;~~ wth at least five hundred hours ~~must be~~ gained in diagnosing and treating couples and families; ~~plus~~

(~~2~~b) At least two hundred hours of qualified supervision with an approved supervisor.

(i) Of the two hundred hours, one hundred hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist with at least five years of clinical experience; the other one hundred hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

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(ii) At least one hundred of the two hundred hours must be one-on-one supervision~~,~~; and

(iii) the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or group supervision.

(~~3~~c) Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Boards will~~may~~ be credited with five hundred hours of direct client contact and one hundred hours of~~ formal meetings~~ qualified supervision with an approved supervisor.

(~~4~~d) Licensed marriage and family therapist associate applicants are not required to have supervised postgraduate experience prior to becoming an associate.

(~~5~~e) Licensed marriage and family therapist associate applicants must declare on the associate application they are working towards full licensure.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-130, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-130, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW

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43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-130, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-134 Approved supervisor. (1) The approved supervisor must hold a license as defined by section 246-809-110(2). The license must be without restrictions and have ~~that has~~ been in good standing for ~~at least~~the previous two years.

(?) The approved supervisor must be licensed in the same state where the licensure candidate is providing services.

(2) The approved supervisor must not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has provided psychological services to ~~acted as~~ the licensure candidate~~'s~~ ~~therapist~~ within the past ~~two~~ five years.

(3) Before beginning supervision, the ~~The~~ approved supervisor~~, prior to the commencement of any supervision,~~ must provide the licensure candidate with a declaration stating that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-134 and qualifies as an approved supervisor~~,~~. The declaration will be on a form provided by the department~~, that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-134 and qualify as an approved supervisor~~.

(4) The approved supervisor must have completed the following:

(a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through:

(i) A supervision course; or

(ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or

(iii) ~~Supervision of supervision; or~~

~~(iv)~~ Any combination of these; and

(b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice shall be obtained under Supervision of Supervision from an approved supervisor who has a minimum of 100 hours of experience as an approved supervisor.~~; or~~

(c) An American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) approved supervisor meets the qualifications of this subsectionabove.

(5) The approved supervisor must attest to having thorough knowledge of the licensure candidate's ~~supervisee's~~ practice activities including:

(a) Practice setting;

(b) Recordkeeping;

(c) Financial management;

(d) Ethics of clinical practice; and

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(e) ~~A backup plan for coverage~~ The licensure candidate's backup plan for coverage in times when the licensure candidate is not available to their clients.

(6) The supervisor and licensure candidate must have a written supervisory agreement.

(7) Applicants whose supervised postgraduate experience began before September 30, 2006, are exempt from the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-134, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-134, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06.]

WAC 246-809-140 Examination. ~~Examination required.~~ Applicants for full licensure must take and pass the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) examination. The passing score on the examination is established by the testing company in conjunction with the AMFTRB.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-140, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251,

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RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-140, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR ASSOCIATES

~~**WAC 246-809-200 One year exemption option.** Persons who submit an application for licensure as a mental health counselor by July 1, 2010, and who have held a registered counselor credential issued under chapter 18.19 RCW in good standing for five consecutive years since obtaining their master's degree in an approved field, are deemed to have met the supervised postgraduate experience requirements of WAC 246-809-230. Applicants must meet the education requirements in WAC 246-809-220 and the examination requirements of WAC 246-809-240. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-200, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09.]~~

WAC 246-809-210 Definitions. The following definitions apply to the licensure of mental health counselors and mental health counselor associates.

(1) "Approved educational program" means any college or university accredited by an accreditation body recognized by the Council for

Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or its successor, at the time the applicant completed the required education.

(2) "Approved setting" includes facilities, agencies or private practice where an applicant works with individuals, families, couples or groups under the supervision of an approved supervisor.

(3) "Approved supervisor" means a qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner who has been licensed without restrictions for at least two years.

(4) "Equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" means a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner.

(5) "Group supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

(6) "Immediate supervision" means a meeting with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensure candidates.

(7) "Licensure candidate" means an individual that is accruing supervised clinical experience required for licensure.

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(8) "Supervision of supervision" means supervision by an approved supervisor for the purpose of training and qualifying a licensee to act as an approved supervisor for purposes of chapter 18.225 RCW and WAC 246-809-234.

(9) "Peer" means a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate's employer or supervisor.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-210, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-210, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06.]

WAC 246-809-220 Education requirements. (1) To meet the education requirement for licensure as a mental health counselor or mental health counselor associate, an applicant must have a master's or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a master's or doctoral degree in a behavioral science ~~master's or doctoral degree in a~~ field relating to mental health counseling from an approved school. Fields recognized as relating to mental health counseling include counseling, psychology, social work, nursing, education, pastoral counseling, rehabilitation counseling, or social sciences. Any field of study qualifying as related to mental health counseling must satisfy course work

equivalency requirements included in WAC 246-809-221. An official transcript must be provided as evidence of fulfillment of the course work required.

(2) Any supplemental course work ~~required~~ must be from an approved school.

(3) Applicants who ~~held~~ hold a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree in a related field may~~and are~~ ~~completing~~ complete supplemental course work through an approved educational program ~~school~~ to satisfy any missing program equivalencies. The course work must be at a master's or doctoral level. ~~may count any postgraduate~~Postgraduate experience hours acquired concurrently with the additional course work shall count toward the supervised postgraduate experience under WAC 246-809-230.

(4) A person who is a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) or a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) is considered to have met the education requirements of this chapter. Verification must be ~~sent directly to~~received by the department directly from NBCC.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-220, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251,

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RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-220, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-221 Behavioral sciences—Program equivalency. (1) Behavioral science in a field relating to mental health counseling includes a core of study relating to counseling theory and counseling philosophy.

(2) Either a counseling practicum, or a counseling internship, or both, must be included in the core of study. Exclusive use of an internship or practicum used for qualification must have incorporated supervised direct client contact.

(3) This core of study must include seven of the content areas ~~from the entire list~~listed in subsections (1) through (17). ~~of this section, five~~ Five ~~of which~~ must be from the first eight content areas ~~in subsections (1) through (8) of this subsection~~:

(1) Assessment/diagnosis.

(2) Ethics/law.

(3) Counseling individuals.

(4) Counseling groups.

(5) Counseling couples and families.

(6) Developmental psychology (may be child, adolescent, adult or life span).

(7) Psychopathology/abnormal psychology.

(8) Research and evaluation.

(9) Career development counseling.

(10) Multicultural concerns.

(11) Substance/chemical abuse.

(12) Physiological psychology.

(13) Organizational psychology.

(14) Mental health consultation.

(15) Developmentally disabled persons.

(16) Abusive relationships.

(17) Chronically mentally ill.

[Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-221, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-230 Supervised postgraduate experience. (1) The experience requirements for the mental health counselor applicant's practice area include successful completion of a supervised experience requirement. The experience requirement consists of a minimum of thirty-six months full-time counseling or three thousand hours of postgradu-

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ate mental health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner in an approved setting. ~~The~~ Of the three thousand hours:

(a) ~~of required experience includes a minimum of one~~One hundred hours spent in immediate supervision with the qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner as defined in WAC 246-809-210(3), and ~~includes a minimum of~~

(b) At least one thousand two hundred hours ~~of~~ must be direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups.

(2) Applicants who have completed a master's or doctoral program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) will be credited with fifty hours of postgraduate supervision and five hundred hours of postgraduate experience.

(3) Applicants for licensed mental health counselor associate are not required to have supervised postgraduate experience prior to becoming an associate.

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(4) Licensed mental health counselor associate applicants must declare they are working toward full licensure.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-230, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-230, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-230, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-234 Approved supervisor. (1) The approved supervisor must hold a license as defined by section 246-809-210(3). The supervisor must be licensed without restrictions ~~that has~~ and have been in good standing for ~~at least~~the previous two years.

(?)The approved supervisor must be licensed in the same state where the licensure candidate is providing services.

(2) The approved supervisor must not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has provided psychological services to ~~acted as~~ the licensure candidate~~'s therapist~~ within the past ~~two~~ five years.

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(3) Before beginning supervision, the ~~The~~ approved supervisor~~,~~ must provide prior to the commencement of any supervision, must provide the licensure candidate a declaration stating~~, on a form provided by the department,~~ that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-234 and ~~qualify~~ qualifies as an approved supervisor. The declaration must be on a form provided by the department.

(4) The approved supervisor must have completed the following:

(a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through:

(i) A supervision course; or

(ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or

(iii) Graduate level clinical supervision courses;~~Supervision of supervision~~; and

(b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice obtained under Supervision of Supervision from an approved supervisor who has a minimum of 100 hours of experience as an approved supervisor.

(5) The approved supervisor shall attest to having thorough ~~have full~~ knowledge of the licensure candidate's practice activities including:

(a) Recordkeeping;

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(b) Financial management;

(c) Ethics of clinical practice;

(d) Practice setting; and

(~~d~~e) The licensure candidate's backup plan for coverage in times when the licensure candidate is not available to their clients.

(6) The supervisor and the licensure candidate must have a written supervisory agreement.

(7) Applicants whose supervised postgraduate experience began before September 30, 2006, are exempt from the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-234, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-234, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06.]

WAC 246-809-240 Examination for licensed mental health counselors. (1) Applicants for licensure as a mental health counselor must pass an examination administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Applicants who pass the National Certification Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE), as administered by the NBCC, meet the examination

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requirements to be licensed as mental health counselors. ~~Each applicant must cause the NBCC to send verification of the applicant's examination passage directly to the~~ The department of health must receive passing exam results directly from NBCC before licensure can be granted.

(2) The department of health shall accept the passing score established by the NBCC for licensed mental health counselor examinations.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-240, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and 18.225.090. WSR 08-08-092, § 246-809-240, filed 4/1/08, effective 5/2/08. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-240, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS AND LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER ASSOCIATES

~~**WAC 246-809-300 One year exemption option.** Persons who submit an application for licensure as an advanced social worker or independent clinical social worker by July 1, 2010, and who have held a registered counselor credential issued under chapter 18.19 RCW in good standing for five consecutive years since obtaining their master's degree in an approved field, are deemed to have met the supervised postgraduate experience requirements of WAC 246-809-320. Applicants must meet the ed-~~

~~ucation requirements in WAC 246-809-320 and the examination requirements of WAC 246-809-340.~~

~~[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-300, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09.]~~

WAC 246-809-310 Definitions. The following definitions apply to the licensure of independent clinical and advanced social workers and independent clinical and advanced social work associates.

(1) "Approved educational program" means a master's or doctoral educational program in social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(2) "Approved supervisor" means a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW), licensed advanced social worker (LASW) (for LASWs only), or an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

(3) "Equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner" means a licensed mental health counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed psychologist, licensed physician practicing as a psychiatrist, or licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner.

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(4) "Group supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than six licensure candidates.

(5) "Licensure candidate" means an individual that is accruing supervised clinical experience required for licensure.

(6) "Nationally recognized standards" means the *Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards*, revised October 2004 published by the Council on Social Work Education revised October 2004 or any future revisions.

(7) "One-on-one supervision" means face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and one licensure candidate.

(8) "Supervision of supervision" means supervision by an approved supervisor for the purpose of training and qualifying a licensee to become an approved supervisor for purposes of chapter 18.225 RCW and WAC 246-809-334.

(9) "Peer" means a co-worker who is not the licensure candidate's employer or supervisor.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-310, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW

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18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-310, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06.]

WAC 246-809-320 Education requirements~~ and supervised postgraduate experience~~. (1) The following are the education requirements for the social worker applicant's practice area:

(a) Licensed advanced social worker or licensed social worker associate-advanced~~.~~ must have graduated ~~Graduation~~ from a master's or doctoral social work educational program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education~~ and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards~~.

(b) Licensed independent clinical social worker or licensed social worker associate-independent clinical must have graduated~~. Graduation~~ from a master's or doctorate level social work educational program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education~~ and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards~~.

WAC 246-809-XXX(320A) Supervised postgraduate experience requirements.

(~~2~~1) ~~The following are the supervised postgraduate experience requirements for the social worker applicant's practice area:~~

~~(a)~~ Licensed advanced social worker~~. Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.~~ The supervised experience requirement consists of a minimum of three thousand two hundred hours with ninety hours of supervision by a licensed independent clinical social worker or a licensed advanced social worker who has been licensed or certified for at least two years. Of those hours~~,~~

(a) Eight hundred hours must be in direct client contact;

(b) Ninety hours must be in direct supervision as follows:

(i) ~~fifty~~ Fifty hours must include direct supervision by a licensed advanced social worker or licensed independent clinical social worker; ~~the other~~ these hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group su-pervision;

(ii) ~~forty~~ Forty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner as defined in section 246-809-310(3). ~~Forty~~ These hours must be in one-to-one supervision~~ and fifty hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision~~.

(c) Distance supervision is limited to forty supervision hours. ~~Eight hundred hours must be in direct client contact.~~

(~~b~~2) Licensed independent clinical social worker~~.~~ : ~~Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.~~ The experience requirement consists of a minimum of four thousand hours of experience,

over a period of not less than three years. Of those four thousand hours:

(a) ~~of which one~~ One thousand hours must be direct client contact supervised by an approved ~~, over a three-year period supervised by a~~ licensed independent clinical social worker, ~~with supervision of at least~~

(b) ~~one~~ One hundred thirty hours of direct supervision as follows:

(i) ~~by a licensed mental health practitioner. Of the total supervision, seventy~~ Seventy hours must be with an independent clinical social worker; ~~the other sixty~~

(ii) Sixty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner as defined in section 246-809-310(3);~~.~~

(iii) Sixty hours must be in one-to-one supervision ~~and seventy hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision.~~

(iv) Distance supervision is limited to sixty supervision hours.

(3) Licensed social worker associate-advanced and licensed social worker associate-independent clinical applicants are not required to have supervised postgraduate experience prior to becoming an associate.

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(4) Licensed social worker associate-advanced and licensed social worker associate-independent clinical applicants must declare they are working toward full licensure.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-320, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-320, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-320, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-321 Education and experience equivalency. (1)(a) Persons who obtained the Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work from the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (ABECSW) shall be considered to have met the education and postgraduate experience requirements to be eligible for Washington state licensure examination.

(b) Documentation of ABECSW Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work must be sent directly to the department from the ABECSW.

(2)(a) Persons who obtained the Diplomate in Clinical Social Work (DCSW) or Qualified Clinical Social Work (QCSW) from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) shall be considered to have met the

education and postgraduate experience requirements to be eligible for Washington state licensure examination.

(b) Documentation of DCSW or QCSW must be sent directly to the department from NASW.

[Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-321, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

WAC 246-809-334 Approved supervisor standards and responsibilities. (1) The approved supervisor must hold a license as defined by section 246-809-310(2). The license is without restrictions ~~that~~ and has been active and in good standing for ~~at least~~the previous two years.

(??) The approved supervisor must be licensed in the same state where the supervisee is providing services.

(2) The approved supervisor must not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the licensure candidate, licensure candidate's peer, or someone who has acted as the licensure candidate's therapist within the past ~~two~~ five years.

(3) Before beginning supervision, t~~T~~he approved supervisor~~, prior to the commencement of any supervision,~~ must provide the licensure candidate with a declaration~~, on a form provided by the department,~~

that the supervisor has met the requirements of WAC 246-809-334 and ~~qualify~~ qualifies as an approved supervisor. The declaration must be on a form provided by the department.

(4) The approved supervisor must have completed the following:

(a) A minimum of fifteen clock hours of training in clinical supervision obtained through:

(i) A supervision course; or

(ii) Continuing education credits on supervision; or

(iii) Supervision of supervision; and

(b) Twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice. Practice shall be obtained under supervision of supervision from an approved supervisor who has a minimum of 100 hours of experience as an approved supervisor.; and

(c) Has had two years of clinical experience postlicensure.

(5) The approved supervisor must attest to having thorough knowledge of the licensure candidate's practice activities including:

(a) Specific practice setting;

(b) Recordkeeping;

(c) Financial management;

(d) Ethics of clinical practice; and

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(e) The licensure candidate's backup plan for coverage in times when ~~he/she~~the licensure candidate is not available to their clients.

(6) Licensure candidates whose supervised postgraduate experience began before September 30, 2006, are exempt from the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-334, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040 and [18.225.]090. WSR 06-18-043, § 246-809-334, filed 8/30/06, effective 9/30/06.]

WAC 246-809-340 Examination required. (1) Either the American Association of State Social Work Board's advanced or clinical examination is approved for use as the state examination for licensure of social workers.

(2) The department accepts the passing scores established by the testing company~~passing score established by the testing company is the passing score accepted by the department of health~~.

[Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-340, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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WAC 246-809-600 Professions required to ~~have~~ complete continuing education. All professions licensed under this chapter and chapter 18.225 RCW must complete ~~Licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors, and licensed social workers are required to have~~ continuing education as required in WAC 246-809-630 and WAC 246-809-632.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.442(7). WSR 14-09-102, § 246-809-600, filed 4/22/14, effective 4/22/14. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-600, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.19 RCW. WSR 02-11-108, § 246-809-600, filed 5/20/02, effective 6/20/02.]

WAC 246-809-610 Eligible continuing education activities. (1) The continuing education (CE) program or course for licensed counselors and associates must:

(a) Be relevant to the profession; and ~~licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors and licensed social workers and must~~

(b) ~~c~~Contribute to the advancement, extension and enhancement of their professional competence ~~of the licensed marriage and family~~

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~~therapist, licensed mental health counselor, and licensed social worker.~~

(2) Courses or workshops primarily designed to increase practice income or office efficiency are not eligible for CE credit.

(~~1~~3) Acceptable CE courses (including distance learning), seminars, workshops and postgraduate institutes are those which are:

(a) Programs having a featured instructor, speaker(s) or panel approved by an industry-recognized local, state, national, international organization or institution of higher learning; or

(b) Distance learning programs, approved by an industry-recognized local, state, national or international organization or institution of higher learning. These programs must require tests of comprehension upon completion. Distance learning programs are limited to twenty-six hours per reporting period.

(~~2~~4) Training programs sponsored by the agency where a licensed counselor or associate is employed are acceptable but are limited to twenty-six hours per reporting period~~if:~~.

~~(a) The experience can be shown to contribute to the advancement, extension and enhancement of the professional competence of the licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor and/or the licensed social worker; and~~

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~~(b) The training programs are limited to twenty-six hours per reporting period.~~

(3) Other learning experience, such as serving on a panel, board or council, community service, research, peer consultation, or publishing articles for professional publications are acceptable but are limited to six hours per reporting period.~~if:~~

~~(a) The experience can be shown to contribute to the advancement, extension and enhancement of the professional competence of the licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor and/or the licensed social worker; and~~

~~(b) The experience is limited to six hours per reporting period.~~

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.442(7). WSR 14-09-102, § 246-809-610, filed 4/22/14, effective 4/22/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040. WSR 04-06-010, § 246-809-610, filed 2/20/04, effective 3/22/04. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.19 RCW. WSR 02-11-108, § 246-809-610, filed 5/20/02, effective 6/20/02.]

WAC 246-809-615 Suicide training standards. (1) An approved training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management must:

(a) Be approved by an industry-recognized local, state, national, international organizations or institutions of higher learning listed

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in WAC 246-809-620 or an equivalent organization, educational institution or association which approves training based on observation and experience or best available practices;

(b) Cover training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management; and

(c) Be provided by a single provider and must be at least six hours in length, which may be provided in one or more sessions.

(2) A licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, ~~or~~ licensed social worker, or licensed social worker associate who is a state or local government employee is exempt from the requirements of this section if he or she receives a total of at least six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management from his or her employer every six years. For purposes of this subsection, the training may be provided in one six-hour block or may be spread among shorter training sessions at the employer's discretion.

(3) A licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, ~~or~~ licensed social worker, or licensed social worker associate who is an employee of a community mental health agency licensed under chapter 71.24 RCW or a chemical dependency program certified under chapter 70.96A RCW is exempt from the requirements of this

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section if he or she receives a total of at least six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management from his or her employer every six years. For purposes of this subsection, the training may be provided in one six-hour block or may be spread among shorter training sessions at the employer's discretion.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.442(7). WSR 14-09-102, § 246-809-615, filed 4/22/14, effective 4/22/14.]

WAC 246-809-620 Industry-recognized local, state, national, international organizations or institutions of higher learning. Local, state, national, and international organizations that are industry-recognized and institutions of higher learning include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;

(2) Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work;

(3) Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Work;

(4) American Mental Health Counselors Association;

(5) American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;

(6) Clinical Social Work Association;

(7) National Association of Social Workers;

(8) Washington Mental Health Counselors Association;

(9) National Board for Certified Counselors;

(10) Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care; and

(11) Institutions of higher learning that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.442(7). WSR 14-09-102, § 246-809-620, filed 4/22/14, effective 4/22/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040. WSR 04-06-010, § 246-809-620, filed 2/20/04, effective 3/22/04. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.19 RCW. WSR 02-11-108, § 246-809-620, filed 5/20/02, effective 6/20/02.]

WAC 246-809-630 Continuing education requirements. (1) An associate must complete eighteen hours of continuing education as required in WAC 246-809-632.

(2) A licensed counselor~~marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor and licensed social worker~~ must complete thirty-six hours of continuing education (CE) every two years.

(~~2~~a) At least six of the thirty-six hours must be in professional ethics and law, which may include topics under RCW 18.130.180.

(~~3~~b) Beginning January 1, 2014, at least once every six years a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, and licensed social worker must complete at least six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

(~~a~~i) The first training must be completed during the first full CE reporting period after January 1, 2014, or the first full CE period after initial licensure, whichever occurs later.

(~~b~~ii) The hours spent completing training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management count toward the total thirty-six hours of CE.

(~~c~~iii) An individual applying for initial licensure as a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, or licensed social worker on or after January 1, 2014, may delay completion of the first training required for six years after initial licensure if he or she can demonstrate completion of six hours of training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that:

(~~i~~A) Was completed no more than six years prior to the application for initial licensure; and

(~~ii~~B) Meets the qualifications listed in WAC 246-809-615.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.442(7). WSR 14-09-102, § 246-809-630, filed 4/22/14, effective 4/22/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040.

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WSR 04-06-010, § 246-809-630, filed 2/20/04, effective 3/22/04. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.19 RCW. WSR 02-11-108, § 246-809-630, filed 5/20/02, effective 6/20/02.]

WAC 246-809-632 Licensed associate continuing education.

(1) All licensed associates must complete eighteen hours of continuing education (CE) every year in order to renew their license. All CEs must be completed in accordance with WAC 246-809-610 and WAC 246-809-620.

(2) Beginning with the second renewal and every two years after, all associates must complete six hours of professional ethics, which may include topics under RCW 18.130.180. The six CE hours in professional law and ethics may be obtained anytime within the two years renewal period. These six hours contribute to the total eighteen hours of CE requirement.

(3) Licensed social worker associate – advance and licensed social worker associate independent clinical must complete six hours of suicide assessment, treatment, and management within the first renewal. This training must be completed every six years and be in accordance with the suicide training standards outlined in WAC 246-809-615.

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(a) The hours spent completing training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management count toward the total eighteen hours of CE.

(b) The licensed social worker associate – advance and licensed social worker independent clinical may delay completing the first training if he or she can demonstrate completion of the training no more than six years before gaining their initial license.

Review the chart below for additional clarification;

Continuing Education (CE) hours required by CE renewal due date		
License Type	• Marriage and Family Therapist Associate • Mental Health Counselor Associate	• Social Worker Associate – Advanced • Social Worker Associate – Independent Clinical
At Initial Licensure		
First Renewal	18 Total Hours	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management **
Second Renewal	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be in professional ethics and law*	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be in professional ethics and law*
Third Renewal	18 Total Hours	18 Hours Total
Fourth Renewal	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be in professional ethics and law*	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be in professional ethics and law*
Fifth Renewal	18 Total Hours	18 Hours Total
Sixth Renewal	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be in professional ethics and law*	18 Hours Total • 6 of which must be in professional ethics and law*
* 6 hours of ethics CE may be obtained anytime within 2 years before the CE due date **Unless obtained 6 years prior to initial licensure		

(4) The CE requirement for associates will take effective immediately upon filing of this rule. All associates are expected to complete CEs outlined before renewing their license for the upcoming renewal.

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WAC 246-809-640 Credit hours for preparation and presentation of a lecture or educational course. A licensed counselor who presents at an eligible continuing education (CE) activity under WAC 246-809-630 may receive the same CE credit hours as a licensee who attends the presentation. The hours for preparing and presenting a specific topic lecture or education may only be used for CE credit once during each reporting period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.442(7). WSR 14-09-102, § 246-809-640, filed 4/22/14, effective 4/22/14. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.19 RCW. WSR 02-11-108, § 246-809-640, filed 5/20/02, effective 6/20/02.]

WAC 246-809-650 How do I document my courses? Acceptable documentation shall include transcripts, letters from course instructors, certificate of completion, or other formal certification, as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 7.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.19 RCW. WSR 02-11-108, § 246-809-650, filed 5/20/02, effective 6/20/02.]

WAC 246-809-700 Client disclosure information. Licensees must provide disclosure information to each client in accordance with chapter 18.225 RCW prior to implementation of a treatment plan. The dis-

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closure information must be specific to the type of treatment service offered; in a language that can be easily understood by the client; and contain sufficient detail to enable the client to make an informed decision whether or not to accept treatment from the disclosing licensee.

Firms, agencies, or businesses having more than one licensee involved in a client's treatment, may provide disclosure information general to that agency. In these cases, the licensee would not be required to duplicate the information disclosed by the agency.

The disclosure information may be printed in a format of the licensee's choosing, but must include all required disclosure information per WAC 246-809-710.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040. WSR 04-06-011, § 246-809-700, filed 2/20/04, effective 3/22/04.]

WAC 246-809-710 Required disclosure information. (1) The following information shall be provided to each client or patient at the commencement of any program of treatment:

(a) Name of firm, agency, business, or licensee's practice;

(b) Licensee's business address and telephone number;

(c) Washington state license number;

(d) The licensee's name;

(e) The methods or treatment modality and therapeutic orientation the licensee uses;

(f) The licensee's education, and training;

(g) The course of treatment, when known;

(h) Billing information, including:

(i) Client's cost per each treatment session; and

(ii) Billing practices, including any advance payments and refunds;

(i) Clients are to be informed that they as individuals have the right to refuse treatment and the right to choose a practitioner and treatment modality which best suits their needs;

(j) This subsection does not grant (clients) new rights and is not intended to supersede state or federal laws and regulations, or professional standards;

(k) The licensee must provide department of health contact information to the client so the client may obtain a list of or copy of the acts of unprofessional conduct listed under RCW 18.130.180. Department of health contact information must include the name, address, and telephone number for the health professions complaint process.

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(2) Associates must provide each client or patient, during the first professional contact, with a disclosure form disclosing that he or she is an associate under the supervision of an approved supervisor. Associates may not independently provide clinical social work, mental health counseling, or marriage and family therapy for a fee, monetary or otherwise.

(3) Signatures are required of both the licensee providing the disclosure ~~information~~ and the client following a statement that the client ~~had~~ has been provided a copy of the required disclosure information and that the client has read and understands the information provided. The date of signature by each party is to be included at the time of signing.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-710, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040. WSR 04-06-011, § 246-809-710, filed 2/20/04, effective 3/22/04.]

WAC 246-809-720 Failure to provide client disclosure information. Failure to provide the client disclosure information required under WAC 246-809-700 and 246-809-710, and required under RCW 18.225.100,

constitutes an act of unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW 18.130.180(7).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.225.040. WSR 04-06-011, § 246-809-720, filed 2/20/04, effective 3/22/04.]

WAC 246-809-730 Retired active credential. (1) To obtain a retired active license a licensed counselor must comply with chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 5.

(2) A licensed counselor with a retired active license may practice no more than ninety days each year in Washington, or practice only in emergency circumstances such as earthquakes, floods, time of declared war or other states of emergency; and

(3) A licensed counselor with a retired active license must renew yearly on their birthday, and must report ~~thirty-six~~eighteen hours of continuing education including six hours in professional law and ethics as required under WAC 246-809-630 every two years.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130.250, chapter 18.225 RCW, and 2012 c 58. WSR 13-16-034, § 246-809-730, filed 7/29/13, effective 8/29/13.]

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WAC 246-809-990 Licensed counselor, and associate—Fees and renewal cycle. (1) Licenses must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) Associate licenses are valid for one year and must be renewed every year on the date of issuance. The associate license may be renewed no more than six times.

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title	Fee
Licensed marriage and family therapist	
Original application	
Application	$150.00
License	75.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	140.00
Late renewal penalty	70.00
Expired license reissuance	85.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Retired active license renewal	
Renewal	70.00
Late renewal penalty	35.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	10.00
Licensed marriage and family therapy associate	
Original application	
Application	50.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Renewal	
Renewal	40.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Late renewal penalty	40.00
Expired license reissuance	40.00
Duplicate license	15.00
Verification of license	15.00
Licensed mental health counselor	
Original application	
Application	95.00
Initial license	80.00

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Title	Fee
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	90.00
Late renewal penalty	50.00
Expired license reissuance	65.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Retired active license renewal	
Renewal retired active	70.00
Late renewal penalty	35.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	10.00
Licensed mental health counselor associate	
Original application	
Application	35.00
Renewal	
Renewal	25.00
Late renewal penalty	25.00
Expired license reissuance	40.00
Duplicate license	15.00
Verification of license	15.00
Licensed advanced social worker and licensed independent clinical social worker	
Original application	
Application	100.00
Initial license	100.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Active license renewal	
Renewal	100.00
Late renewal penalty	50.00
Expired license reissuance	72.50
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Retired active license renewal	
Renewal retired active	65.00
Late renewal penalty	30.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)	16.00
Duplicate license	10.00
Verification of license	10.00
Licensed advanced social worker associate and licensed independent clinical social worker associate	
Original application	
Application	35.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)*	16.00
Renewal	
Renewal	25.00
Late renewal penalty	25.00
UW online access fee (HEAL-WA)*	16.00
Expired license reissuance	40.00
Duplicate license	15.00

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Title	Fee
Verification of license	15.00

* Surcharge applies to independent clinical social worker associate only.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.280 and 18.225.145. WSR 15-19-149, § 246-809-990, filed 9/22/15, effective 1/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130.250, 18.225.170, 43.70.110, and 43.70.250. WSR 13-24-097, § 246-809-990, filed 12/3/13, effective 2/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110 (3)(c) and 43.70.250. WSR 12-19-088, § 246-809-990, filed 9/18/12, effective 11/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.112. WSR 11-19-098, § 246-809-990, filed 9/20/11, effective 1/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 2010 c 37. WSR 10-19-071, § 246-809-990, filed 9/16/10, effective 10/15/10. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.225 RCW. WSR 09-15-039, § 246-809-990, filed 7/8/09, effective 7/8/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250 and 2008 c 329. WSR 08-16-008, § 246-809-990, filed 7/24/08, effective 7/25/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250, [43.70.]280 and 43.70.110. WSR 05-12-012, § 246-809-990, filed 5/20/05, effective 7/1/05. Statutory Authority: 2001 c 251, RCW 43.70.250. WSR 01-17-113, § 246-809-990, filed 8/22/01, effective 9/22/01.]

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