Licensed Mental Health Counselor Application Packet

Contents:

Important Social Security Number Information:

If you have a Social Security Number, the law requires you to disclose it on your application for a professional or occupational license. 42 U.S.C. § 666(a)(13); RCW 26.23.150. It will be used under the state's child support enforcement program to locate individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing support obligations. You are not required to have or obtain a Social Security Number to apply for or obtain a license from the Department of Health. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you are still eligible to apply for and obtain a credential if you meet the requirements. Please see the Declaration of No Social Security Number Form. Please call the Customer Service Center at 360-236-4700 if you have questions.

In order to process your request:

Mail your application with initial documentation and your check or money order payable to:

Department of Health
P.O. Box 1099
Olympia, WA 98507-1099

Send other documents not sent with initial application to:

Mental Health Counselor Credentialing
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877

Contact us:

360-236-4700

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

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Application Instructions Checklist

Important background check Information: Washington State law authorizes the Department of Health to obtain fingerprint-based background checks for licensing purposes. This check may be through the Washington State Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This may be required if you have lived in another state or if you have a criminal record in Washington State. This would be at your own expense.

All information should be printed clearly in blue or black ink. It is your responsibility to submit the required forms.

☐ **Application Fee.** This fee is non-refundable. You can check the online **fee page** for current fees.

☐ **Select if the following applies:**
Spouse or Registered Domestic Partner of Military Personnel

☐ **1. Demographic Information:**
Social Security Number: You must list your social security number on your application. You are not required to have or obtain a Social Security Number to apply for or obtain a license from the Department of Health. Please see the Declaration of No Social Security Number Form. Please call the Customer Service Center at 360-236-4700 if you do not have one.

National Provider Identifier Number (NPI): The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a standard unique identifier for health care professionals available from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The NPI is a 10 digit numeric identifier. If you have a NPI number, provide this on your application.

Legal Name: List your full name: first, middle, and last.

Definition of legal name: "Legal name" is the name appearing on your official certificate of birth or, if your name has changed since birth, on an official marriage certificate or an order by a court. The court must have the legal authority to change your name. We may ask you to prove your legal name. If you use any name other than your legal name on this form, your application may be denied.

Birth date: Provide the month, day, and year of your birth.

Address: List the address we should use to deliver any information about your credential. Be sure to include the city, state, zip code, and country. This will be your permanent record with Department of Health until we have been notified of a change.

Phone, Fax, and Cell Numbers: Enter your phone, fax, and cell numbers.

Email: Enter your email address, if you have one.

Other Name(s): Indicate whether you are known or have been known under any other names. If you have a name change, you must notify the Department of Health in writing. You must include proof of this change. See WAC 246-12-300.

☐ **2. Personal Data Questions:**
All applicants must answer the same personal data questions. They are focused on your fitness to practice the essential skills of this profession.

If you answer “yes” to any questions in this section, you must provide an appropriate explanation. You must also provide the documentation listed in the note after the question. If you do not provide this, your application is incomplete and will not be considered.

- Question 5 includes misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and felonies. You do not have to answer yes if you have been cited for traffic infractions. You can get copies of court records through the county courthouse where the conviction, plea, deferred sentence, or suspended sentence was entered.
- If you have been granted certificate(s) of restoration of opportunity, please provide a certified copy of each certificate.
- Another jurisdiction means any other country, state, federal territory, or military authority.

☐ **3. Other License, Certification, or Registration:**
List all states, including Washington, where credentials are or were held. Attach additional completed pages if you need more space. You must also print the Verification Form and provide it to each state or jurisdiction that you have listed, requesting that they complete and submit the form directly to the Department of Health.

☐ **4. Examination Data:**
If you have taken the NCE or NCMHCE examinations, you are considered to have met the examination requirement. You must get written verification from NBCC, sent **directly** to the department.

☐ **5. Education:**
Graduation from a master’s or doctoral level educational program in mental health counseling or a related field, from an approved college or university. Please request official transcripts to be sent directly from your college or university to us.

If you have a mental health counselor associate credential, you do not need to resubmit your transcripts.

☐ **6. Experience:**
Beginning with current employment, list all activities and account for all periods of time from graduation to the present. A resume will not substitute for completion of the application. Please use the initials N/A (not applicable) if you have not had professional training and experience.

☐ **7. Course Content Identification for Licensed Mental Health Counselor:**
Requirement: A master’s or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a behavioral sciences master’s or doctoral degree in a field relating to mental health counseling. (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 meet the program equivalencies as listed in WAC 246-809-221.

Program must include a core of study relating to counseling theories and counseling philosophy. Either a counseling practicum or counseling internship, or both, must be included in the core of study. The core of study must include seven content from the list below (1) through (17). At least five of the content area must be in (1) through (8).

☐ **8. Continuing Education Attestation:**
Complete 36 hours of continuing education, with six hours in professional ethics. See RCW 18.225.090.

☐ **9. Applicant's Attestation and Signature:**
You must sign and date this for us to process the application.

We appreciate your interest in obtaining a credential. You will be notified if further documentation is required. If your application is incomplete, you will be mailed or emailed a letter regarding the deficiencies.

- The application is considered incomplete if requested information is left blank. Put N/A or place a line through a section instead of leaving it blank.
- You must keep your address up to date in order to receive a courtesy renewal notice. Any renewal postmarked or presented to the department after midnight on the expiration date is late.

For Spouses and Registered Domestic Partners of Military Personnel Being Transferred or Stationed in Washington:

Under state law, if you are the spouse or state-registered domestic partner of a servicemember of any branch of the U.S. Military, to include Guard or Reserve, and are applying for a health care professional credential in this state, you may be eligible to have the processing of your application expedited to receive your credential more quickly.

Documents to submit with your application should include the following:

- A copy of your spouse's or registered domestic partner's military transfer orders to Washington State.
- One of the following:
  - A copy of your marriage certificate to show proof of marriage; or
  - A copy of a state's declaration or registration showing you are in a state registered domestic partnership with a member of the U.S. military.

Experience Requirement

A minimum of thirty-six months of full-time counseling or three thousand hours of postgraduate mental health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner who meets the qualifications of an approved supervisor. See WAC 246-809-234.

The Verification of Mental Health Supervised Postgraduate Experience Forms must be sent to approved supervisors that can verify a minimum of 36 months of full-time counseling or 3000 hours of postgraduate supervised work experience:

- 1200 of the 3000 hours must be direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups and
- 100 hours must be spent in immediate supervision with a qualified licensed mental health counselor.
- If you had more than one supervisor, a separate form must be used for each supervisor.

Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) Policy

Practitioners who have graduated from a CACREP accredited program at a master's or doctoral level will be granted credit for 50 hours of postgraduate supervision and 500 hours towards postgraduate experience.

Examination Information

- It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE), which is an affiliate of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) to register to take the examination.
- The department accepts the National Counselor Examination for Certification and Licensure (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) to meet the licensure requirements.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that NBCC sends official verification of the applicant's successful completion of the examination.

Note: Probationary license with **RCW 18.225.140** An applicant holding a credential in another state may be certified to practice in this state without examination if the secretary determines that the other state's credentialing standards are substantially equivalent to the standards in this state.

- Verification of holding or have held within the past twelve months a credential in good standing from another state/territory of the United States which has a scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or greater than the scope of practice for Mental Health counselor
- Have no disciplinary record or disqualifying criminal history
- The department must determine what deficiencies, if any, exist between the education and experience requirements of the other state's credential. **(Full application and supporting documents must be received prior to the issuance of the Probationary certificate)**

Washington State Department of HEALTH

Date Stamp Here

Revenue: 0207030000

Mental Health Counselor License Application

Please print clearly. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit or request all required supporting documents be submitted. Failure to do so may result in a delay in processing your application.

Select if the following applies:

☐ Spouse or Registered Domestic Partner of Military Personnel ☐ Probationary License

1. Demographic Information

Social Security Number (SSN) (If you do not have a SSN, see instructions)	**National Provider Identifier Number (NPI)** (Enter 10 digit number)	☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to answer ☐ X

Name First Middle Last

Birth date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Address

City	State	Zip Code	County

Country

Phone (enter 10 digit #)	Fax (enter 10 digit #)	Cell (enter 10 digit #)

Email address

Mailing address if different from above address of record

City	State	Zip Code	County

Country

Note: The mailing and email addresses you provide will be your addresses of record. It is your responsibility to maintain current contact information on file with the department.

Have you ever been known under any other name(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, list name(s):

Will documents be received in another name? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, list name(s):

2. Personal Data Questions

Yes No

1. Do you have a medical condition which in any way impairs or limits your ability to practice your profession with reasonable skill and safety? If yes, please attach explanation. ☐ ☐

   "Medical Condition" includes physiological, mental or psychological conditions or disorders, such as, but not limited to orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disabilities, emotional or mental illness, specific learning disabilities, HIV disease, tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

   If you answered yes to question 1, explain:

   1a. How your treatment has reduced or eliminated the limitations caused by your medical condition.

   1b. How your field of practice, the setting or manner of practice has reduced or eliminated the limitations caused by your medical condition.

   Note: If you answered "yes" to question 1, the licensing authority will assess the nature, severity, and the duration of the risks associated with the ongoing medical condition and the ongoing treatment to determine whether your license should be restricted, conditions imposed, or no license issued.

   The licensing authority may require you to undergo one or more mental, physical or psychological examination(s). This would be at your own expense. By submitting this application, you give consent to such an examination(s). You also agree the examination report(s) may be provided to the licensing authority. You waive all claims based on confidentiality or privileged communication. If you do not submit to a required examination(s) or provide the report(s) to the licensing authority, your application may be denied.

2. Do you currently use chemical substance(s) in any way which impair or limit your ability to practice your profession with reasonable skill and safety? If yes, please explain. ☐ ☐

   "Currently" means within the past two years.

   "Chemical substances" include alcohol, drugs, or medications, whether taken legally or illegally.

3. Have you ever been diagnosed with, or treated for, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism or frotteurism? ☐ ☐

4. Are you currently engaged in the illegal use of controlled substances? ☐ ☐

   "Currently" means within the past two years.

   Illegal use of controlled substances is the use of controlled substances (e.g., heroin, cocaine) not obtained legally or taken according to the directions of a licensed health care practitioner.

   Note: If you answer "yes" to any of the remaining questions, provide an explanation and certified copies of all judgments, decisions, orders, agreements and surrenders. The department does criminal background checks on all applicants.

5. Have you **ever** been convicted, entered a plea of guilty, no contest, or a similar plea, or had prosecution or a sentence deferred or suspended as an adult or juvenile in any state or jurisdiction? ☐ ☐

   Note: If you answered "yes" to question 5, you must send certified copies of all court documents related to your criminal history with your application. If you do not provide the documents, your application is incomplete and will not be considered.

   If you have been granted certificate(s) of restoration of opportunity, please provide a certified copy of each certificate.

   To protect the public, the department considers criminal history. A criminal history may not automatically bar you from obtaining a credential. However, failure to report criminal history may result in extra cost to you and the application may be delayed or denied.

2. Personal Data Questions (Cont.)

	Yes	No
6. Have you ever been found in any civil, administrative or criminal proceeding to have:		
a. Possessed, used, prescribed for use, or distributed controlled substances or legend drugs in any way other than for legitimate or therapeutic purposes?	☐	☐
b. Diverted controlled substances or legend drugs?	☐	☐
c. Violated any drug law?	☐	☐
d. Prescribed controlled substances for yourself?	☐	☐
7. Have you ever been found in any proceeding to have violated any state or federal law or rule regulating the practice of a health care profession? If "yes", please attach an explanation and provide copies of all judgments, decisions, and agreements?	☐	☐
8. Have you ever had any license, certificate, registration or other privilege to practice a health care profession denied, revoked, suspended, or restricted by a state, federal, or foreign authority?	☐	☐
9. Have you ever surrendered a credential like those listed in number 8, in connection with or to avoid action by a state, federal, or foreign authority?	☐	☐
10. Have you ever been named in any civil suit or suffered any civil judgment for incompetence, negligence, or malpractice in connection with the practice of a health care profession?	☐	☐
11. Have you ever been disqualified from working with vulnerable persons by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)?	☐	☐

3. Other License, Certification, or Registration

List all states (including Washington State) where licenses, certifications and registrations are or were held.

State/ Jurisdiction	Credential Type	Method Licensed			Credential	
		Exam	Endorsement	Grandfathered	Year Issued	Number

An Out-of-State Credential Verification form is enclosed and must be sent to each state listed above. Enter your full name and birth date at the top of the form so the state may identify you. Also contact each state board listed for any fees they might charge you for processing the verification form.

4. Examination Data

Have you taken and passed the National Board of Certified Counselors?

NCE ☐ Yes ☐ No Year? _____ NCMHCE ☐ Yes ☐ No Year? _____

Are you currently nationally certified through the NBCC? ☐ Yes ☐ No Year? _____

Official verification in the form of scores or certificate must be sent directly from NBCC to the Department of Health.

5. Education

List in date order, most recent to later, your graduate school(s) attended, major, and month and year the degree was granted. A transcript is to be requested from the graduate school(s) and sent **directly** from the graduate school to the Department of Health, Mental Health Counselor Program.

Graduate School	Degree and Major	Degree Granted	
		Month	Year

6. Experience

List in date order, most recent to later, all your experience.

Indicate Type of Experience or Practice and Location	Inclusive Dates of Experience	
	Entrance Date (mm/yyyy)	Leaving Date (mm/yyyy)

7. Course Content Identification for Licensed Mental Health Counselors

Requirement: A master's or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a behavioral sciences master's or doctoral degree in a field relating to mental health counseling. (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 meet the program equivalencies as listed in WAC 246-809-221.

Program must include a core of study relating to counseling theories and counseling philosophy. Either a counseling practicum or counseling internship, or both, must be included in the core of study. The core of study must include seven content from the list below (1) through (17). At least five of the content area must be in (1) through (8)

Content Area	Course #	Course Title
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. Abnormal psychology/psychopathology		
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		

8. Continuing Education Attestation

I, _____, declare I completed 36 hours of continuing education, with six hours in professional ethics.

Applicants Initials	Date

9. Applicant's Attestation

I,_____, declare under penalty of perjury under the
(Name of Applicant)

laws of the state of Washington that the following is true and correct:

- I am the person described and identified in this application.
- I have read RCW 18.130.170 and RCW 18.130.180 of the Uniform Disciplinary Act.
- I have answered all questions truthfully and completely.
- The documentation provided in support of my application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I have read all laws and rules related to my profession.

I understand the Department of Health may require more information before deciding on my application. The department may independently check conviction records with state or federal databases.

I authorize the release of any files or records the department requires to process this application. This includes information from all hospitals, educational or other organizations, my references, and past and present employers and business and professional associates. It also includes information from federal, state, local or foreign government agencies.

I understand that I must inform the department of any past, current or future criminal charges or convictions. I will also inform the department of any physical or mental conditions that jeopardize my ability to provide quality health care. If requested, I will authorize my health providers to release to the department information on my health, including mental health and any substance abuse treatment.

Dated _____ at _____
(mm/dd/yyyy) (City, state)

by: _____
(Original Signature of Applicant)

Washington State Department of HEALTH
Mental Health Credentialing
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877
360-236-4700

Verification of Mental Health Counselor Supervised Postgraduate Experience

Applicant:

Use a separate form for each supervisor verifying your postgraduate supervision and professional experience for each practice setting. This form may be duplicated. Fill out Section one and forward to the supervisor for completion.

1. Print Clearly:

Name Last	First	Middle	Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
Address			
City	State		Zip Code

2. Approved Supervisor: (An approved licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner)

The above individual seeks verification of supervised mental health counselor postgraduate experience for licensure as a mental health counselor. Please complete the following:

Supervisor Name	Current Phone
Credential State	First Issuance Date
Current Street Address	
City / State / Zip Code	

3. Supervised Postgraduate Experience:

Applicants must have a minimum of **thirty-six months** of full time counseling **or 3,000 hours** of supervised postgraduate experience under the supervision of an approved licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner. Please complete the actual months in the space provided below.

Months of Supervision	From: mm	dd	yyyy	To: mm	dd	yyyy

		Hours Required	**Total Hours Verified**
A.	**Immediate Supervision,** means a meeting with an approved supervisor, involving one supervisor and no more than two licensing consultants.	At least 100	
B.	**Direct Counseling,** with individual couples, families, or groups.	At least 1,200	
C.	**All other hours,** hours not listed in section A or B may be listed here	Unlimited	
D.	**Total Hours required**	**A+B+C = D Total of 3,000**	

Supervisor

I certify that the above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete. I understand that the Department may request additional information, if it is needed, to evaluate the application of the individual named on this document. I also attest I meet or exceed the educational and supervision requirements to be an approved supervisor.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this form to the address above.

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Mental Health Credentialing
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877
360-236-4700

Accommodation Request

If you have a disability and require accommodation in taking the examination, please complete and submit this form. The information requested below and any documentation regarding your disability and your need for accommodation in testing will be considered strictly confidential and will not be shared with any outside source without your express written permission. [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 USC 12101)].

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (enter 10 digit #): _____ Social Security Number: _____

Accommodations requested for the: _____ License Examination
Date

Type of Disability: _____

Requesting the following accommodation(s) at the testing site: _____

_____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Documentation of Disability Related Needs

If you have a learning disability, a psychological disability, or other hidden disability that requires an accommodation in testing, please have this section completed by an appropriate professional (learning specialist, doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist) to certify that your disabling condition requires the requested test accommodation.

If you have existing documentation of having the same or similar accommodation provided to you in another test situation, you may submit such documentation instead of having this portion of the form completed.

I have known _____ since _____
Test Applicant Date

The applicant has the disability: _____

Diagnosed by the following tests or studies: _____

I recommend the following accommodation(s) be provided for this individual: _____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Title: _____ Phone: _____

Date: _____ License Number: _____

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Washington State Department of HEALTH
Mental Health Credentialing
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877
360-236-4700

Approved Supervisor
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

To the Supervisor:

Please review WAC 246-809-234. To supervise a license candidate, you shall hold a license without restrictions that has been in good standing for at least two years.

You shall not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the license candidate, license candidate's peer, or someone who has acted as the license candidate's therapist within the last two years.

Prior to the commencement of any supervision you shall provide the license candidate this declaration, stating that you have met the requirements of WAC 246-809-234 and that you qualify as an approved supervisor.

As an approved supervisor, I attest that I have completed the following:

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

- A supervision course
- Continuing education credits on supervision
- Supervision of supervision
- Or any combination of these

And twenty-five hours of experience in supervision of clinical practice

I attest that I will gain full knowledge of the supervisee's practice activities including:

- Practice setting
- Recordkeeping
- Financial management
- Ethics of clinical practice
- A backup plan for coverage

Declaration of Supervision—must be completed by Supervisor and provided to license candidate prior to the commencement of supervision in accordance with WAC 246-809-234.

I, _____ a licensed _____ in the
Name of Supervisor

State of _____ with license number _____ attests to _____
Name of License Candidate

that I have read and met all the requirements in connection with WAC 246-809-234.

_____
Signature of Supervisor

_____
Date

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RCW/WAC and Online Website Links

RCW and WAC Links

Uniform Disciplinary Act, RCW 18.130

Administrative Procedure Act, RCW 34.05

Administrative Procedures and Requirements, WAC 246-12

Standards of professional conduct, WAC 246-16

Licensed Mental Health Counselor Laws, RCW 18.225

Licensed Mental Health Counselor Rules, WAC 246-809

Online

Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Web Page

Get important information about your credential type by subscribing to email alerts.