

Rule 4.2: Education Requirements

The following is a list of education requirements that all applicants must meet in order to be licensed:

- A. Sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours of graduate study.
Effective 2017 the Board will only accept sixty (60) hour masters degree programs, and those programs shall be CACREP degree programs or degree programs with the word counseling in its title, and meet the structure of CACREP as it specifically pertains to the twelve (12) courses specified in Rule 4.2.C, as part of sixty (60) semester hours that are required for completion of the degree or having earned a doctoral or educational specialist degree primarily in a counseling, guidance, or related field, which meets similar standards as specified above.
- B. A graduate program related to counselor education is defined as one that contains course work in all of the following areas. Each applicant must have completed a three (3) hour semester course or its equivalent in each of the following areas:
1. Human Growth and Development - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all levels of development, normal and abnormal human behavior, personality theory, life-span theory, and learning theory within cultural contexts. Emphasis is placed on psychological approaches used to explain, predict, and modify human behavior.
 2. Social and Cultural Foundations - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends in human roles, societal subgroups, social mores, interaction patterns, and multicultural and pluralistic trends in differing lifestyles, and major societal concerns including stress, person abuse, substance abuse, discrimination, and methods for alleviating these concerns.
 3. Counseling and Psychotherapy Skills - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of philosophic bases of helping processes, counseling theories and their applications, basic and advanced helping skills, consultation theories and their application, client and helper self-understanding and self-development, and facilitation of client or consultee change.
 4. Group Counseling - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group leadership styles; basic and advanced group counseling methods and skills; and other group approaches.
 5. Lifestyle and Career Development - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of career development theories; occupational and educational information sources and systems; career and leisure counseling guidance and education; lifestyle and career decision-making; career development program planning resources and effectiveness evaluation.
 6. Testing and Appraisal - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group and individual educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal, data, and information gathering methods, validity and reliability, psychometric statistics, factors, influencing appraisals, and use of appraisal results in helping process. Additionally, the specific ability to administer and interpret tests and inventories to assess interests and abilities and to identify career options is important.

7. Research and Evaluation - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of different types of research, basic statistics, research-report development, research implementation, program evaluation needs assessment, publication of research information, and legal considerations.
 8. Professional Orientation to Counseling or Ethics - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of professional roles and functions of counselors, professional goals and objectives, professional counseling organizations and associations, professional history and trends, ethical and legal standards, professional standards, and professional credentialing.
 9. Theories of Counseling Psychotherapy and Personality – Course work includes studies in basic theories, principles and techniques of counseling, and their application to professional counseling settings.
 10. Marriage and/or Family Counseling/Therapy – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of marriage and family theories and approaches to counseling with families and couples. This includes appraisal of family and couples systems and the application of these to counseling families and/or couples in pre-marriage, marriage and/or divorce situations.
 11. Abnormal Psychology and Psychopathology – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of individuals' current mental/emotional states consistent with accepted classifications such as those provided in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV or DSM-5 or most recent edition), as published by the American Psychiatric Association; and the ICD—10-CM (or most recent edition of ICD) and the development of planned, diagnosed - relevant interventions, including the goals of counseling, methods of treatment, and means of monitoring progress.
 12. Internship – Supervised, planned, practical, advanced experience obtained in a clinical setting observing and applying principles, methods, and techniques learned in training and/or educational settings.
- C. Courses completed by applicants that were not part of a counselor education or related counseling graduate program are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine applicability.
- D. All applicants must provide official transcripts of all graduate work. Unopened official transcripts shall be submitted in the application packet or submitted to the Board directly from the approved educational institution.

Source: *Miss Code Ann.* § 73-30-7 (6) & 73-30-9 (Rev. 2008)

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12. Internship – Supervised, planned, practical, advanced experience obtained in a clinical setting observing and applying principles, methods, and techniques learned in training and/or educational settings. ~~NOTE: The internship involves a longer period of time than a practicum. For graduate degree programs begun after July 1, 2015, this course requirement must be met as indicated by transcript. Add the definition of Internship to match that stated in other areas of the Rules and Regulations.~~

~~C. Individuals applying for licensure with a graduate degree of less than sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours may complete the additional course work required without earning an additional degree. All graduate counselor education courses or counselor related courses from an approved educational institution completed by the applicant may be counted toward the sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hour’s requirement.~~

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