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Kansas Secretary of State

Agency 102

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Article 5.—Licensing of Marriage and Family Therapists

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102-5-3. Education requirements. (a) Definitions. For purposes of this regulation, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(1) Core faculty member means an individual who is part of the programs teaching staff and who meets the following conditions:

(A) Is an individual whose education, training, and experience are consistent with the individual's role within the program and are consistent with the published description of the goals, philosophy, and educational purpose of the program;

(B) is an individual whose primary professional employment is at the institution in which the program is housed; and

(C) is an individual who is identified with the program and is centrally involved in program development, decision making, and student training as demonstrated by consistent inclusion of the individual's name in public and departmental documents.

(2) In residence, when used to describe a student, means that the student is completing coursework during which the student and one or more core faculty members are in face-to-face contact either in person or by synchronous, real-time videoconferencing.

(3) Primary professional employment means a minimum of 20 hours per week of instruction, research, any other service to the institution in the course of employment,

and the related administrative work.

(b) Each applicant for licensure shall have earned a masters or doctoral degree that meets the standards in subsection (c), (e), or (f).

(c) To qualify for licensure with a masters or doctoral degree from a marriage and family therapy program, both of the following requirements shall be met:

(1) The college or university at which the applicant completed a masters or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy shall be regionally accredited, with accreditation standards equivalent to those in Kansas.

(2) The marriage and family therapy program through which the applicant completed a masters or doctoral degree either shall be accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education or shall meet the standards set out in subsection (d).

(d) Each marriage and family therapy program that is not accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education shall meet all of these conditions:

(1) The program requires satisfactory completion by the applicant of a marriage and family therapy practicum, or its equivalent, that is provided by the program and that fulfills these conditions:

(A) Is a part-time clinical experience that integrates didactic learning with clinical experience and that is completed concurrently with didactic coursework at a typical rate of five to 10 hours of direct client contact per week;

(B) consists of at least 300 total hours of client contact; and

(C) includes at least 60 total hours of supervision that is provided by the programs core faculty and off-site supervisors. The practicum shall provide a minimum of 30 supervised hours in an individual format and no more than 30 supervised hours in a group format. Supervision shall occur at least once a week.

(2) The program requires that each marriage and family therapy student successfully complete a minimum of nine graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, in each of the following substantive content areas:

(A) Human development and family study courses in which the interplay between interpersonal and intrapersonal development is stressed and issues of gender, ethnicity, and ecosystems are addressed as they relate to human development. These courses may include studies in sexuality, sexual functioning, sexual identity, sexism, stereotyping, and racism;

(B) theoretical foundations of marital and family functioning courses, including an overview of the historical development of systems theory and cybernetics, a study of the life cycle of the family, and a study of family processes and the modification of family structures over time. These courses may include studies in the birth of the first child, adolescent sexual development, death of a family member, and issues of context, including gender and ethnicity; and

(C) marital and family assessment and therapy courses that underscore the interdependence between diagnosis or assessment and treatment by ensuring that students can use appropriate assessment instruments and methods within a systemic context. These courses shall provide a thorough understanding of the major theoretical models of systemic change, including structural, strategic, intergenerational, contextual, experiential, systemic, and behavioral theories. These courses also shall teach the principles and techniques evolving from each theory. In addition, the courses shall identify the indications and contraindications for use of each theory or technique, and shall address the rationale for intervention, the role of the therapist, and the importance of considering gender and ethnicity in selecting and using assessment and treatment methods.

(3) The program requires that each marriage and family therapy student successfully complete a minimum of three graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, in each of the following substantive content areas:

(A) A professional study course that contributes to the development of a professional attitude and identity by examining the role of professional socialization, professional organizations, licensure and certification, the code of ethics, the legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, and interprofessional cooperation, as these topics relate to the profession and practice of marriage and family therapy. A generic course in ethics shall not be considered appropriate for this area of study; and

(B) a research course in which students gain an understanding of research methodology, data analysis, computer research skills, and evaluation and critical examination of professional research reports. The emphasis of the course shall be placed on the quantitative and qualitative research that is relevant to marriage and family therapy.

(4) The program requires that at least 50% of the coursework for the degree be completed in residence at one institution, and the required practicum shall be completed at the same institution.

(e) To qualify for licensure with a masters or doctoral degree in a related field, both of the following requirements shall be met:

(1) The college or university at which the applicant completed a masters or doctoral degree in a related field shall be regionally accredited, with accreditation standards equivalent to those in Kansas.

(2) To be considered equivalent to a marriage and family therapy program, the related-field degree program shall have provided and the applicant shall have completed the requirements of subsection (d).

(f) To qualify for licensure with a masters or doctoral degree in a related field with additional coursework in marriage and family therapy, both of the following requirements shall be met:

(1) The college or university at which the applicant completed a masters or doctoral degree in a related field shall be regionally accredited, with accreditation standards equivalent to those in Kansas.

(2) The marriage and family therapy program through which the applicant obtained additional coursework in marriage and family therapy either shall be accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education or shall meet the standards approved by the board as set out in subsection (d).

(g) Each applicant for licensure as a clinical marriage and family therapist whose masters or doctoral degree is earned on or after July 1, 2003 shall meet the following education requirements:

(1) A graduate degree as required by the board for licensure as a licensed marriage and family therapist in accordance with subsection (c), (e), or (f); and

(2) in addition to or as a part of the academic requirements for the graduate degree, completion of 15 graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, supporting diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders using the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders as specified in K.A.R. 102-5-14. Three of the 15 semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, shall consist of a discrete academic course with the primary and explicit focus of psychopathology and the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders as classified in the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders. The remaining 12 graduate semester credit hours, or their academic equivalent, shall consist of academic courses with the primary and explicit focus of diagnostic assessment, interdisciplinary referral and collaboration, treatment approaches, and professional ethics or other coursework that specifically contains identifiable, equivalent instruction. The 15 graduate semester credit hours shall be from an educational institution and graduate degree program meeting the requirements described in subsection (c), (e), or (f).


(h) The following activities shall not be substituted for or counted toward any of the


education or supervised experience requirements set out in subsections (b) through (g):

- (1) Academic courses that the applicant completed as a part of or in conjunction with undergraduate degree requirements;
- (2) independent studies;
- (3) thesis or independent research courses;
- (4) academic coursework that has been audited rather than graded;
- (5) academic coursework for which the applicant received an incomplete or a failing grade;
- (6) graduate or postgraduate coursework or experiential training provided by colleges, universities, institutes, or training programs that do not qualify under subsection (c), (e), or (f); and
- (7) continuing education, an in-service activity, or on-the-job training. (Authorized by K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65- 6404 and K.S.A. 74-7507; implementing K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-6404; effective March 29, 1993; amended Dec. 19, 1997; amended July 7, 2003; amended Oct. 27, 2006; amended April 15, 2011; amended June 21, 2024.)

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