

1 21 NCAC 53 .0206 is amended with changes as published in NCR 36:17 1443-1444 as follows:

2
3 **21 NCAC 53 .0206 GRADUATE COUNSELING EXPERIENCE**

4 ~~(a) Applicants enrolled in master's programs before July 1, 2015, a separate practicum and an internship shall be~~
5 ~~completed as part of the graduate course of study with at least 17 hours of graduate counseling supervision, as defined~~
6 ~~in Rules .0210 and .0211 of this Section. Supervised graduate counseling shall be verified by a university faculty~~
7 ~~member on forms available on the Board's website, www.neblmhc.org, and shall consist of a minimum of 300 hours~~
8 ~~of supervised graduate counseling experience at a rate of not less than one hour of clinical supervision per 40 hours~~
9 ~~of graduate counseling experience, as defined by Rule .0701(2)(b) of this Chapter. At least 180 hours of this counseling~~
10 ~~experience shall be direct counseling experience as defined in Rule .0205 of this Section.~~

11 ~~(b)(a) [For] Applicants [applicants] who enroll in a master's program on or after apply prior to July 1, 2015-2022,~~
12 ~~shall complete a graduate counseling experience experience, which shall consist of the following separate courses:~~

- 13 (1) one or more courses in practicum totaling at least three semester hours or five quarter hours;
- 14 (2) one or more courses in internship totaling at least three semester hours or five quarter hours; and
- 15 (3) at least 17 hours of graduate counseling supervision as defined in Rules .0210 and .0211 of this
16 Section.

17 Supervised graduate counseling shall comply with the requirements of Rule .0212 of this Section, ~~shall be~~ verified by
18 a university faculty member on the Verification of Graduate Counseling Experience Form as described in Paragraph
19 ~~(c) (d) of this [Rule.] forms available on the Board's website, www.neblpe.org, Rule,~~ and shall consist of a minimum
20 of 300 hours of graduate counseling experience at a rate of not less than one hour of clinical supervision per 40 hours
21 of graduate counseling experience, as defined by Rule .0701(2)(b) of this Chapter. At least 180 hours of this counseling
22 experience shall be direct counseling experience as defined in Rule .0205 of this Section.

23 (b) ~~[For] Applicants [applicants] who apply on or after July 1, 2022, shall complete a graduate counseling [experience]~~
24 ~~experience, which shall consist of the following separate courses:~~

- 25 (1) one or more courses in practicum that meet the standards related to practicum of the current edition
26 [version] of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
27 (CACREP) [(CACREP), available at www.cacrep.org], at the time of the receipt of application as
28 defined in Rule .0308(a). All CACREP course standards are hereby incorporated by reference,
29 including subsequent amendments and editions. The standards may be accessed at www.cacrep.org
30 at no cost. The practicum courses shall include graduate counseling supervision as defined by the
31 current edition [version] of the CACREP [Standards] standards at the time of application; and
- 32 (2) one or more courses in internship that meet the standards related to internship of the current edition
33 [version] of CACREP [the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
34 Programs [(CACREP), available at www.cacrep.org], at the time of the receipt of application as
35 defined in Rule .0308(a). The internship courses shall include graduate counseling supervision as
36 defined by the current edition [version] of the CACREP [Standards] standards at the time of
37 application.

1 (c) Applicants who apply on or after July 1, 2025, shall complete all ~~[All]~~ internship experiences ~~[shall be]~~ in a clinical
2 mental health setting that provides substantial opportunities to ~~assess, appraise, diagnose, and treat~~ ~~[diagnose, treat,~~
3 ~~appraise, and assess]~~ mental health disorders and shall consist of “direct counseling experience” as defined in Rule
4 .0205(a) of this Section. Clinical mental health settings may include private ~~[practices,]~~ ~~practices;~~ college counseling
5 ~~[centers,]~~ ~~centers;~~ community ~~[agencies,]~~ ~~agencies;~~ managed behavioral health care ~~[organizations,]~~ ~~organizations;~~
6 integrated delivery systems ~~[hospitals,]~~ ~~hospitals;~~ employee assistance ~~[programs,]~~ ~~programs;~~ ~~[or]~~ specialty treatment
7 ~~[centers,]~~ ~~centers;~~ vocational rehabilitation centers; marriage, couple, and family practices; addiction counseling sites;
8 or school-based clinical mental health counseling sites. ~~[Verification of Graduate Counseling Experience Forms, as~~
9 ~~described in Paragraph (c) of this Rule, shall identify the type of clinical mental health setting.]~~

10 ~~[(c)](d) All applicants for licensure shall submit a Verification of Graduate Counseling Experience Form that shall~~
11 contain:

- 12 (1) the name, title, contact information and signature of the person verifying graduate counseling
13 experience;
- 14 (2) the name of agency where graduate counseling experience occurred;
- 15 (3) information regarding university supervisor for the graduate counseling experience;
- 16 (4) the name, title and credentials of the site supervisor;
- 17 (5) total hours of individual and group clinical supervision received during graduate counseling
18 experience;
- 19 (6) whether the experience is practicum or internship;
- 20 (7) the beginning and end dates of clinical experience;
- 21 (8) the total number of direct and indirect hours, as defined by CACREP; ~~[and]~~
- 22 (9) the total hours of direct and indirect client contact as defined by ~~[CACREP,]~~ CACREP; and
- 23 (10) For applicants applying on or after July 1, 2025, identify the type of clinical mental health setting
24 and describe the counseling experience acquired by the applicant in the following areas: assessment,
25 appraisal, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health disorders.
- 26 (11) The form is available on the Board’s website at www.ncblcmhc.org.

27
28 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-332.1(a)(3); ~~90-334(h),(i); 90-334(h); 90-334(i); 90-336(b)(1); 90-~~
29 ~~336(b2).~~

30 *Eff. July 1, 1995;*

31 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2014; January 1, 2010;*

32 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. April 27,*
33 *2019.*

34 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2023.*

1 21 NCAC 53 .0701 is amended with changes as published in NCR 36:17 1445-48 as follows:

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3 **SECTION .0700 – LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR ASSOCIATE**

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5 **21 NCAC 53 .0701 LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR ASSOCIATE**

6 The Board shall grant a license as a licensed clinical mental health counselor associate shall be granted by the Board
7 to persons preparing for the practice of counseling who have:

8 (1) if applied before July 1, [2022,] 2025, completed graduate training as defined in G.S. 90-336(b)(1);
9 G.S. 90-336(b1) or (b2), as applicable; and

10 ~~(2) — completed a minimum of three semester hours or five quarter hours in each of the required~~
11 coursework areas of study as follows:

12 (a) Coursework in Helping Relationships in Counseling. Studies in this area provide an
13 understanding of counseling and consultation processes, including the following:

14 (i) counseling and consultation theories, including both individual and systems
15 perspectives, as well as coverage of relevant research and factors considered in
16 applications;

17 (ii) basic interviewing, assessment, and counseling skills;

18 (iii) counselor or consultant characteristics and behaviors that influence mental health
19 counseling relationships, including age, gender, and ethnic differences; verbal and
20 nonverbal behaviors; personal behaviors; and personal characteristics,
21 orientations, and skills;

22 (iv) client or consultee characteristics and behaviors that influence mental health
23 counseling relationships, including age, gender, and ethnic differences; verbal and
24 nonverbal behaviors; and personal behaviors; personal characteristics,
25 orientations and skills; and

26 (v) ethical considerations.

27 (b) Coursework in Practicum and Internship. Practicum and internship experience should shall
28 be provided in a supervised graduate counseling experience in a regionally accredited
29 program of study. This graduate counseling experience shall be completed as defined in
30 Rule .0206 of this Chapter.

31 (c) Coursework in Professional Orientation to Counseling. Studies in this area provide an
32 understanding of all aspects of professional functioning, including history, roles,
33 organizational structures, ethics, standards, and credentialing, including the following:

34 (i) history of the counseling profession, including significant factors and events;

35 (ii) professional roles and functions of counselors, including similarities and
36 differences with other types of professionals;

- 1 (iii) professional organizations (primarily the ACA, its divisions, branches and
2 affiliates), including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and
3 current emphases;
- 4 (iv) ethical standards of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or ACA
5 and related ethical and legal issues, and their applications to various professional
6 activities (e.g., appraisal, group work);
- 7 (v) clinical mental health counselor preparation standards, their evolution, and current
8 applications;
- 9 (vi) clinical mental health counselor credentialing, including counselor certification,
10 licensure and accreditation practices and standards, and the effects of public
11 policy on these issues;
- 12 (vii) public policy processes, including the role of the clinical mental health counselor
13 advocating on behalf of the profession and its clientele; and
- 14 (viii) ethical considerations.
- 15 (d) Coursework in Human Growth and Development Theories in Counseling. Studies in this
16 area provide an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental
17 levels, relevant to counseling practice, including the following:
- 18 (i) theories of individual and family development, and transitions across the life span;
19 (ii) theories of learning and personality development;
- 20 (iii) human behavior, including an understanding of developmental crises, disability,
21 addictive behavior, psychopathology, and environmental factors as they affect
22 both normal and abnormal behavior;
- 23 (iv) counseling strategies for facilitating development over the life span; and
24 (v) ethical considerations.
- 25 (e) Coursework in Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling. Studies in this area provide
26 an understanding of issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society that impact
27 clinical mental health counselors and the counseling profession, including, the following:
- 28 (i) multicultural and pluralistic trends, including characteristics and concerns of
29 counseling individuals from diverse groups;
- 30 (ii) attitudes and behavior based on factors such as age, race, religious preferences,
31 physical disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and culture, family patterns,
32 gender, socioeconomic status, and intellectual ability;
- 33 (iii) individual, family, and group counseling strategies with diverse populations; and
34 (iv) ethical considerations.
- 35 (f) Coursework in Group Counseling Theories and Processes. Studies in this area provide an
36 understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group counseling
37 methods and skills; and other group work approaches, including the following:

- 1 (i) principals of group dynamics, including group counseling components,
2 developmental stage theories, and group members' roles and behaviors;
- 3 (ii) group leadership styles and approaches, including characteristics of various types
4 of group leaders and leadership styles;
- 5 (iii) theories of group counseling, including commonalities, distinguishing
6 characteristics, and pertinent research and literature;
- 7 (iv) group counseling methods, including group counselor orientations and behaviors,
8 ethical standards, appropriate selection criteria, and methods of evaluation of
9 effectiveness;
- 10 (v) approaches used for other types of group work in counseling, including task
11 groups, support groups, and therapy groups; and
- 12 (vi) ethical considerations.
- 13 (g) Coursework in Career Counseling and Lifestyle Development. Studies in this area provide
14 an understanding of career counseling, development, and related life factors, including the
15 following:
- 16 (i) career-counseling theories and decision-making process;
- 17 (ii) career, avocational, educational, and labor market information resources; visual
18 and print media; and computer-based career information systems;
- 19 (iii) career-counseling program planning, organization, implementation,
20 administration, and evaluation;
- 21 (iv) interrelationships among work, family, and other life roles and factors, including
22 multicultural and gender issues as related to career counseling;
- 23 (v) career and educational placement counseling, follow-up, and evaluation;
- 24 (vi) assessment instruments and techniques relevant to career counseling;
- 25 (vii) computer-based career-development applications and strategies, including
26 computer-assisted career-counseling systems;
- 27 (viii) career-counseling processes, techniques and resources, including those applicable
28 to specific populations; and
- 29 (ix) ethical considerations.
- 30 (h) Coursework in Assessment in Counseling. Studies in this area provide an understanding of
31 individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation in counseling practice,
32 including the following:
- 33 (i) theoretical and historical bases for assessment techniques in counseling;
- 34 (ii) validity, including evidence for establishing content, construct, and empirical
35 validity;
- 36 (iii) reliability, including methods of establishing stability, internal, and equivalence
37 reliability;

- 1 (iv) appraisal methods, including environmental assessment, performance assessment,
2 individual and group test and inventory methods, behavioral observations, and
3 computer-managed and computer-assisted methods;
- 4 (v) psychometric statistics, including types of assessment scores, measures of central
5 tendency, indices of variability, standard errors, and correlations;
- 6 (vi) age, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, and cultural factors related to the use
7 of assessment and evaluation in counseling services;
- 8 (vii) strategies for selecting, administering, interpreting, interpreting and using
9 *assessment and evaluation* instruments, and techniques in counseling; and
- 10 (viii) ethical considerations.
- 11 (i) Coursework in Research and Program Evaluation. Studies in this area provide an
12 understanding of types of research methods, basic statistics, and ethical and legal
13 consideration in research, including the following:
- 14 (i) basic types of research methods to include qualitative and quantitative research
15 designs;
- 16 (ii) basic parametric and nonparametric statistics;
- 17 (iii) principles, practices, and applications of needs assessment and program
18 evaluation;
- 19 (iv) uses of computers for data management and analysis; and
- 20 (v) ethical and legal ~~considerations~~; considerations; or

21 (2) If applied on or after July 1, ~~2022~~, 2025, completed graduate training as defined in G.S. 90-336(b2)
22 and the required ~~[courses]~~ content areas of study of the current ~~[version of]~~ standards set by the
23 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), as
24 incorporated in Rule 0206, ~~[available at www.caacrep.org]~~ at the time of the receipt of application
25 as defined in Rule .0308(a). The graduate coursework shall also include ~~[include, but is not limited~~
26 to, a minimum of] three semester hours or five quarter hours in each of the required ~~[coursework]~~
27 content areas of study as follows:

28 [(a) — Theories of counseling and psychotherapy;

29 (b) — Evaluation and appraisal procedures;

30 (c) — Group dynamics, theories, ~~[theories]~~ and techniques;

31 (d) — Counseling techniques and helping skills;

32 (e) — Multicultural counseling;

33 (f) (a) ~~[Professional issues and ethics]~~ introduction to clinical mental health counseling with
34 professional issues and ethics;

35 [(g) — Research;

36 (h) — Career counseling;

37 (i) — Psychosocial and human development across the lifespan;]

1 ~~[(j)]~~ (b) Clinical practicum practicum and clinical mental health internship; and
2 ~~[(k)]~~ (c) appraisal and assessment of mental health disorders with use ~~[Use]~~ and application of the
3 current edition ~~[version]~~ of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM),
4 ~~[appraisal and assessment of mental health disorders, psychopathology, diagnosis,~~
5 ~~treatment and treatment planning, and evidence based intervention and practice;]~~ to include
6 psychopharmacology and differential diagnosis; and

7 (3) passed an examination as defined in Rule .0305 of this Chapter; and

8 (4) submitted a complete application for licensed clinical mental health counselor ~~[associate.]~~ associate;
9 and

10 (5) earned 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate training in counseling or related field from
11 a program that is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
12 Programs (CACREP).

13 To prevent a lapse in licensure, licensed clinical mental health counselor associates who desire to become licensed
14 clinical mental health counselors shall complete the application process for the licensed clinical mental health
15 counselor licensure no earlier than 60 days prior to expiration of their licensed clinical mental health counselor
16 associate license or upon completion of the supervised professional practice hours as set forth in Rule .0208 of this
17 Chapter to allow for administrative processing and Board action.

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19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-334(h); 90-336(a); ~~90-336(b)~~; 90-336(b1); 90-336(b2).*

20 *Eff. January 1, 2010;*

21 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2014; January 1, 2010;*

22 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. April 27,*
23 *2019;*

24 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2020 (S.L. 2019-240, s. 3.(k)).*

25 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2023*