
COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

- Permits an applicant for a professional clinical counselor's license or a professional counselor's license to have a degree from any counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), rather than from specified CACREP programs as under former law.
- Requires an applicant for a professional clinical counselor's license or a professional counselor's license to participate in a clinical counseling internship rather than a counseling internship as required under former law.
- Allows the Counselors Professional Standards Committee of the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to issue a license by endorsement to a person who does not have a graduate degree in counseling if the person is authorized to practice in another state and meets specified requirements.
- Requires the Board to establish a schedule of deadlines for biennially renewing a license or certificate of registration.
- Eliminates a requirement that a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist prominently display the person's license in a particular location and manner.

Licensure of counselors

(R.C. 4757.18, 4757.22, 4757.23, and 4757.25)

Degree requirement

The act allows an applicant for a professional clinical counselor license or a professional counselor license to have a graduate degree from a counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) instead of specific types of counseling programs as under former law. Formerly, if an applicant had a graduate degree from a mental health counseling program in Ohio, it had to be from one of the following CACREP programs:

- A clinical mental health counseling program;
- A clinical rehabilitation counseling program;
- An addiction counseling program.

Under continuing law, the graduate degree also may be from a program temporarily approved by the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board in accordance with rules adopted by the Board.

As discussed below, under continuing law, an applicant also must satisfy additional requirements to receive a license, including completing specialized counselor classwork, participating in an internship, and passing an examination.

Clinical internship

An applicant for a professional clinical counselor license or a professional counselor license must complete specified training. The act requires an applicant to include participation in a “*clinical* counseling internship” as part of those training requirements. Formerly, an applicant was required to participate in a “counseling internship.”

Licensure by endorsement

The act allows the Board’s Counselors Professional Standards Committee to issue a license by endorsement to a person who does not have a graduate degree in counseling if the person is authorized to practice in another state and meets all of the following requirements:

- The person has a graduate degree that demonstrates an education in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders with coursework comparable to that which is required for a clinical mental health counseling degree from a CACREP accredited program;
- The person has continuously engaged in the practice of professional counseling in the other state and has not been disciplined by the state regulatory authority for a period of five years or more immediately preceding the application date;
- The person engaged in a scope of practice in the other state comparable to the scope of practice associated with the license the person is requesting;
- The person’s authorization to practice in the other state is in good standing;
- The person achieves a passing score on the examination required by the Board for licensure as a professional clinical counselor or a professional counselor.

In the case of an out-of-state applicant seeking a professional clinical counselor’s license, the act requires the applicant to complete at least 750 hours of supervised experience approved by the committee.

Under continuing law, the Board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any state that regulates individuals practicing in the same professions regulated by Ohio law, if it finds that the state has requirements substantially equivalent to Ohio’s. Subject to the act’s endorsement authority the Board’s professional standards committees also may issue the appropriate license or certificate of registration to a resident of a state with which the Board does not have a reciprocal agreement, if the person submits satisfactory proof that the person is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized to practice by that state.

Renewal schedule

(R.C. 4757.10 and 4757.32; Section 747.20)

The act requires the Board to establish a schedule of deadlines for biennially renewing the licenses and certificates of registration it issues. (Formerly, a license or certificate expired two years after it was issued.) The act specifies that a license or certificate is valid without further recommendation or examination until it is revoked or suspended or until it expires for failure to renew in accordance with the Board’s schedule.

A license or certificate in effect on October 17, 2019 (the provision's effective date), continues in effect until the first biennial renewal date established in the Board's rules. No license or certificate in effect on that date is valid for more than three years after that date.

License display

(R.C. 4757.13)

The act eliminates a requirement that a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist prominently display the person's license in an easy to see and read manner and in a conspicuous place either in the person's office or the place where the person conducts a major portion of the person's practice.