# Rules of
## Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration
### Division 2095—Committee for Professional Counselors
#### Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements

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Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
Division 2095—Committee for Professional Counselors
Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements

20 CSR 2095-2.010 Educational Requirements

PURPOSE: This rule defines the educational requirements for professional counselors.

(1) In order to apply for supervision, provisional licensure, or licensure as a professional counselor, an applicant shall have received a graduate degree at the doctoral, specialist or master level with either a major in counseling or another mental health discipline from an acceptable educational institution.

(A) An acceptable educational institution shall mean a regionally accredited institution approved by the United States Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(B) The institution shall mean a regionally accredited institution approved by the United States Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or its successor organization.

(2) For the purpose of this rule and pursuant to sections 337.510(1) and 337.520(5), RSMo the equivalent basic educational requirements shall be a course of study in a mental health discipline and shall be a degree in counseling and guidance, counseling psychology, clinical psychology, or school psychology. The committee shall have the authority to review the composition of the degree to determine compliance with the education requirements of this regulation.

(3) To be considered an acceptable degree in counseling or another mental health discipline, the degree shall be either:

(A) Issued by a counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), or its successor organization, or the Counseling on Rehabilitation Education, Incorporated (CORE), or its successor organization; or

(B) Be from a graduate program designed primarily to teach counseling principles and techniques. It shall be designed to train the student to become a licensed professional counselor as defined in section 337.500(5), RSMo and to engage in the practice of professional counseling as defined in section 337.500(6) and (7), RSMo. The teaching of counseling theories, counseling techniques, and counseling interventions shall be the major course of study within the graduate program;

1. Prior to January 1, 2006 shall consist of thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours of graduate study. After January 1, 2006 a degree shall consist of at least forty-eight (48) semester hours or sixty (60) quarter hours of graduate study; and

2. An application received after January 1, 2006 shall document at least six (6) semester hours or nine (9) quarter hours of graduate level supervised practicum, internship, or field experience in the practice of counseling. Applications received prior to January 1, 2006:

A. With graduate education starting before July 1, 1991, shall document at least five (5) semester hours or eight (8) quarter hours of graduate level supervised practicum, field experience, or internship in the practice of counseling;

B. With graduate education starting after July 1, 1991 shall document at least six (6) semester hours or nine (9) quarter hours of graduate level supervised practicum, internship, or field experience in the practice of counseling.

C. Any practicum, field experience, or internship shall be clearly delineated on the transcript with graduate level credit and a passing grade.

(D) Helping Relationship—Courses acceptable for this area cover theoretical foundations pertaining to professional skill training that enable the counselor to understand the client’s problems more fully and accurately and to interview effectively; and

(E) Group Counseling—Courses acceptable for this area cover the theories, principles, and techniques of providing counseling or psychotherapy with groups of people; and

(F) Career Development—Courses acceptable for this area cover concepts about how career development unfolds, the lifelong processes, and the influences upon clients or patients that lead to work values, occupational choice, creation of a career pattern, decision-making style, integration of roles, issues concerning identity, and patterns of work adjustment; and

(G) Appraisal—Courses acceptable for this area cover structured and unstructured assessment of the mental health functions and psychopathology of a person; and

(H) Research Methods—Courses acceptable for this area cover principles, methods, techniques, and tools used in performing research in counseling; and

(I) Professional Orientation—Courses acceptable for this area cover such areas as professionalism, legal issues and responsibilities, ethics, fields of training, and practice specialization.

(4) The applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the degree is in counseling or a mental health discipline as defined in section (2). If the applicant’s transcript does not clearly delineate that the degree is in counseling or mental health discipline as defined in section (2), the applicant may be required to obtain a letter from the chair of the department of counseling education or other appropriate school official, stating that the applicant has a master, specialist, or doctoral degree in counseling or a mental health discipline as defined in section (2). The letter shall be on official letterhead of the college or university. The applicant may also be required to provide evidence that the degree program included no less than one three (3)-semester-hour or one five (5)-quarter-hour graduate course in each of the following core areas:

(A) Counseling Theory—Courses acceptable for this area shall cover the major theories and techniques of counseling; and

(B) Human Growth and Development—Courses acceptable for this area shall cover various stages of the human growth cycle and include information about theories of development or various aspects of development; and

(C) Social and Cultural Diversity—Courses acceptable for this area cover various cultural and social class issues in areas such as race, sexual orientation, aging, disability, socioeconomic, ethnic, gender related, or other issues of diversity that emerge in a pluralistic society; and

(D) Continuing education, workshops, work experience, or any course offered primarily by audio or video tape or noninteractive electronic communication shall not be acceptable. For the purpose of this rule, noninteractive electronic communication is defined as course(s) transmitted via satellite
in which the student has no means of simul-
taneously interacting visually and verbally
with the course instructor during the trans-
mision of the course;

(E) Undergraduate course work shall not
be in compliance with core requirements
unless graduate credit is clearly delineated on
the transcript;

(F) When evaluating transcripts based
upon a quarter-hour system, the committee
shall consider a quarter hour of graduate
credit as two-thirds (2/3) of a semester hour.
A semester hour of graduate credit shall be
defined as fifteen (15) clock hours of regu-
larly scheduled classroom study; and

(G) No more than six (6) semester hours or
nine (9) quarter hours in seminar course work
or independent study shall be applicable to
the total number of hours of graduate study
comprising the degree in the area of counsel-
ing or mental health discipline.

(6) Upon receipt of official educational tran-
scripts from the college or university and/or
information relating to the program, and
upon payment of the fee for an educational re-
view as defined in 4 CSR 95-1.040(1) the
committee will review education credentials
or a proposed plan for obtaining the appro-
priate education in compliance with these
rules. All information shall be submitted to
the committee no later than thirty (30) days
prior to the next regularly scheduled com-
mittee meeting. Information received fewer
than thirty (30) days before a committee
meeting may be reviewed at the committee’s
discretion.

(7) Graduate course work in counseling, or
a mental health discipline as defined in section
(2) and from a school, college, university, or
other institution of higher learning outside of
the United States, may be considered in com-
pliance with these rules if, at the time the
school, college, university, or other institu-
tion of higher learning where the applicant
was enrolled or graduated, maintained a stan-
andard of training substantially equivalent to
the standards of training of those institutions
accredited by one of the regional accrediting
commissions recognized by the United States
Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education. The committee shall determine if
the standard of training was substantially the
same as those institutions accredited by one
(1) of the regional accrediting commissions
recognized by the United States Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education.

(A) It shall be the applicant’s responsibil-
ity to document that the course work is in
counseling or another mental health disci-
pline, as defined in section (2), is substan-
tially the same as those institutions accredit-
ed by one (1) of the regional accrediting com-
missions recognized by the United States
Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education through course descriptions from
official school catalogues, course syllabi,
bulletins, or with written documentation from an
appropriate school official explaining how the
course was an in-depth study of particular
core area as defined in subsections
(4)(A)–(I).

2004 and 337.520, RSMo 2000. * This rule
originally filed as 4 CSR 95-2.010. Original
rule filed Oct. 16, 1986, effective Jan. 30,
1987. Amended: Filed May 2, 1989, effective
and readopted: Filed Dec. 1, 2004, effective
June 30, 2005. Moved to 20 CSR 2095-2.010,

(2) The applicant shall obtain the appropriate
form and fingerprint cards for filing the
application for registration of supervision by
writing to the Division of Professional Regis-
tration or Committee for Professional Coun-
selors, PO Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO
65102-1335, calling (573) 751-0018, sending
a fax to (573) 751-0735, or sending an e-mail
to profcounselor@pr.mo.gov. The TDD num-
ber is (800) 735-2996.

(A) All proposed supervision arrangements
beginning on or after July 1, 1989 shall be
approved by the committee. An application
for supervision or change of supervision shall
not be considered as officially filed with the
committee unless it is typewritten or printed
in black ink, signed, accompanied by all doc-
uments required by the committee and the
applicant pays the required application fee.
The effective or starting date of supervision
shall be the date the application is received in
the committee’s office and contingent upon
the committee’s approval. Following the re-
view of the application for supervision by
the committee, the applicant shall be
informed in writing of the committee’s deci-
sion.

(B) The completed application for supervi-
sion or change of supervision including all
supporting material required by the commit-
tee shall be received at least thirty (30) days
before the meeting of the committee. Applica-
tions received less than thirty (30) days
before the next regularly scheduled commit-
tee meeting may be reviewed at the commit-
tee’s discretion.

(3) To begin supervised counseling experi-
ence, the applicant shall have a master, spe-
cialist or doctoral degree in counseling or
another mental health discipline as defined in
4 CSR 95-2.010(2) and have received gradu-
ate credit for at least three (3) semester hours
or five (5) quarter hours in counseling theory
as defined in 4 CSR 95-2.010(4)(A) and at
least two (2) semester hours or four (4) quar-
ter hours in supervised practicum as defined in
4 CSR 95-2.010(3)(B)1. The committee may
approve the applicant for supervision
while the applicant completes core course
deficiencies. All core course deficiencies
shall be completed prior to being eligible for
provisional licensure or licensure as a profes-
sional counselor.

(4) An applicant approved for supervision or
provisional licensure based upon a master’s
degree pursuant to section 337.510.1(c),

(A) For the purpose of provisional licen-
sure or licensure as a professional counselor,
supervision shall be obtained from a licensed
professional counselor, licensed psychologist,
or psychiatrist. The registered supervisor
shall not be a relative of the applicant or have
engaged in the activities described in 4 CSR
95-3.010(12)(A)–(F) during the supervised
counseling experience.

(B) For the purpose of this rule, a relative
of the applicant for supervision shall include
but not be limited to a spouse, parent, child,
sibling, of the whole or half-blood, adopted
sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin,
RSMo shall obtain in no more than sixty (60) calendar months:

(A) A minimum of three thousand (3,000) total hours of supervised counseling experience. Hours may be obtained on a part-time or full-time basis and the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor may receive reimbursement from the employer or supervisor or provide therapeutic services on a voluntary basis; and

(B) A minimum of twenty-four (24) calendar months of continuous supervised counseling experience. The counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall obtain an average of at least fifteen (15) hours of supervised counseling experience per week in order for the experience to be considered by the committee. If a counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor is unable to obtain at least fifteen (15) hours per week, s/he must advise the committee in writing regarding the reason that such hours cannot be obtained. The committee shall determine if such hours can be acceptable for licensure.

(C) A minimum of six hundred (600) hours of supervised counseling experience shall be direct client contact.

(6) The counselor-in-training, provisional licensed professional counselor may be employed at a licensee’s private practice. The counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall solicit therapeutic services according to the full order, control, oversight, and guidance of the registered supervisor.

(B) Payment for counseling services provided by a counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall be made to the supervisor registered and approved by the committee or organization employing or affiliated with the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor.

(7) A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall receive at least one (1) hour of face-to-face supervision per week from the registered supervisor. All face-to-face supervision shall be included in the total number of supervised experience hours required in this rule.

(A) A minimum of two (2) weeks of each month shall consist of one (1) hour of face-to-face supervision for the registered supervisor with the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor; and

(B) A maximum of two (2) weeks each month may consist of one (1) hour per week of group face-to-face supervision facilitated by the registered supervisor and counselors-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselors.

1. No more than three (3) counselors-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselors may participate in a group supervision session.

2. When there are more than three (3) counselors-in-training, provisional licensed professional counselors, or other professionals present the hour shall count toward the three thousand (3,000) hours of supervision and shall not qualify for one (1) hour face-to-face individual or group supervision.

(C) The use of electronic communication is not acceptable for meeting the supervisory requirement of this rule unless the communication is contemporaneously and simultaneously visually and verbally interactive between the registered supervisor and counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor.

(8) The supervised counseling experience shall encompass those activities as defined within the scope of practice as defined in section 337.500(6) and (7), RSMo.

(A) The counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall provide services subject to the registered supervisor’s order, control, oversight, guidance, and full professional responsibility.

(B) The counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall continue to receive supervision until licensed as a professional counselor.

(9) A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall not engage in marketing or advertising without including the name and license number of the registered supervisor approved by the committee.

(10) A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall document all treatment records or reports by listing the name of the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor and the applicable credentials; the name of the registered supervisor and the license number of the registered supervisor.

(A) A counselor-in-training may use the acronym CIT for counselor-in-training and a provisional licensed professional counselor may use PLPC. No other acronyms shall be acceptable for the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor.

(B) An example format to be used in documenting treatment records and plans is as follows, Counselor Name, CIT, PLPC, under the supervision of Supervisor Name, license number 000000.

(C) If the registered supervisor is unable to sign the treatment records or reports, it shall be acceptable to provide a brief, written memorandum or note to the file that is signed by the registered supervisor indicating the information regarding the client has been dis-
A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall comply with all laws and rules relating to the practice of counseling and shall apply for licensure within thirty (30) days of completing the supervised counseling experience. Any counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor who fails to apply within the thirty (30)-day time period is prohibited from practicing counseling. If additional time is required to submit an application, the applicant shall send a request to the committee regarding the reason for additional time and the committee shall advise the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor whether additional time is approved.

A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselors may submit an application for licensure up to thirty (30) days in advance of completing the required hours and months of supervision. Applications received more than sixty (60) days in advance of completion of the required hours and months of supervision shall be rejected by the committee as untimely.

A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall request and return a change of supervision form within fifteen (15) working days of changing a counseling setting or registered supervisor previously approved by the committee. The change of supervision form shall be accompanied by the required fee as outlined in 4 CSR 95-1.020(1)(C) and shall be considered effective upon receipt of the application in the committee office and contingent upon approval by the committee. If the application for a change in supervision is denied, the applicant shall be informed, in writing, of the reason(s) for the denial.

An applicant may submit supervised experience obtained out of state from a licensed professional counselor, licensed psychologist, or psychiatrist for review by the committee.

An applicant may submit supervised experience obtained in a state that does not have a counselor licensing law or from a state whose licensing laws are not substantially the same as those of this state for review by the committee.

A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor may submit postgraduate supervised experience for review by the committee. The supervisor must have been licensed during the time of supervision for licensure.

In order to provide supervision for a counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor, a registered supervisor shall document the following:

A current licensure as a professional counselor, psychologist, or psychiatrist;

A minimum of two (2) years experience as a licensed professional counselor, licensed psychologist, or psychiatrist in providing counseling pursuant to section 337.500(6) and (7), RSMo; and

Training and experience in counseling and in supervisory activities involving counseling with a resume or vita detailing course work, workshops, supervision training, and experience as a supervisor of professional counselors or other mental health disciplines.

The registered supervisor shall evaluate and provide feedback to the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor relating to 4 CSR 95-2.020.

A registered supervisor may employ a counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor at the registered supervisor’s private practice and shall receive payment for therapeutic services provided by the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor.

The registered supervisor shall review and cosign all reports of the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor including the registered supervisor’s license number with the signature. If the registered supervisor is unable to cosign the reports of the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor, it shall be acceptable to provide a brief written memorandum or note to the file, signed by the registered supervisor documenting that the registered supervisor has reviewed the information.

The registered supervisor shall certify that the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor has complied with the requirements of supervised counseling experience on a form provided by the committee.

A supervisor shall avoid conditions and multiple relationships with a counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor that impair the professional objectivity or increase the risk of exploitation.

The supervisor of a counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor shall not engage in sexual intimacies with the counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor during the time of supervision for licensure.


20 CSR 2095-2.030 Examinations

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements and procedures for obtaining a professional counselor license by examination.

(1) An applicant for provisional licensure or licensure as a professional counselor shall pass the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or its successor examination as administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or its successor organization. The committee adopts the minimum criterion score established by the NBCC as the passing score. The candidate shall submit the examination fee and required documentation to the NBCC.

(2) The committee shall maintain the applicant’s examination answer sheet for one (1) year from the date the examination results were reported to the committee. After one (1) year, the answer sheet will be destroyed.


20 CSR 2095-2.065 Application for License

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the procedure for application for licensure as a professional counselor.

(1) An application for licensure shall be made on a form(s) provided by the Missouri Division of Professional Registration or the Committee for Professional Counselors, PO Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102–1335, and may be obtained by calling (573) 751-0018, sending a fax to (573) 751-0735, or sending an e-mail to profcounselor@pro.mo.gov. The TDD number is (800) 735-2996.

(2) An application shall not be considered as officially filed with the committee unless it is typewritten or printed in black ink, signed, notarized, accompanied by all documents required by the committee to include fingerprint cards and all applicable fees pursuant to 4 CSR 95-1.040(1)(A) and (F). The fee shall be in the form a cashier’s check, personal check, or money order.

(A) A counselor-in-training or provisional licensed professional counselor may submit an application for licensure up to thirty (30) days in advance of completing the required hours and months of supervision. Applications received more than sixty (60) days in advance of completion of the required hours and months of supervision shall be rejected by the committee as untimely.

(3) The completed application, including all supporting material required by the committee shall be received at least thirty (30) days before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee. Applications received less than thirty (30) days before the next regularly scheduled committee meeting may be reviewed at the committee’s discretion.

(4) The applicant shall be informed in writing of the committee’s decision regarding the application for licensure.
