

ACT 185 – Recent Law Change to Practicum Experience Requirements

Act 185, SLH 2018 (effective July 1, 2018) is an amendment to the practicum experience qualifications. This Act generalizes the practicum experience requirement by requiring a total of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours within at least two academic terms, instead of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours per academic term. The total practicum experience hours will remain the same. This is to accommodate different coursework structures, while ensuring the overall educational requirements remain at an appropriate level.

The amendment reads as follows in HRS §453D-7(a)(2): “At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting with three hundred hours of supervised client contact; the practicum experience shall be completed under the clinical supervision of a person who is licensed as a mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical social worker, advanced practice registered nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and family therapist, or physician with a specialty in psychiatry;”.