

HAWAII MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What are the requirements to become licensed as a mental health counselor in Hawaii?

A) A master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited educational institution in counseling or in an allied field related to the practice of mental health counseling that includes or is supplemented by graduate level course work in counseling comprising a minimum of forty-eight semester hours or seventy-two quarter hours in the following course areas, with a minimum of three semester hours or five quarter hours in each course area.

Human growth and development, Social and cultural foundations, Counseling theories and applications, Group theory and practice, Career and lifestyle development, Appraisal of human behavior, Tests and measurements, Research and program evaluation, and Professional orientation and ethics.

B) At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit for a total of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting with three hundred hours of supervised client contact;

C) Completion of not less than three thousand hours of post-graduate experience in the practice of mental health counseling with one hundred hours of face-to-face clinical supervision that shall be completed in no less than two years and in no more than four years; and

D) Passed the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE).

2) I heard that I could satisfy the practicum and post-graduate experience requirements without having my supervisors complete the verification forms.

Act 252 (Effective July 5, 2007) allows an individual who graduated from an accredited educational institution as specified in HRS §453D-7(a)(1) before July 1, 2007, to verify that the practicum intern experience and the post-graduate experience was completed by submitting written certification in place of the notarized experience verification forms.

3) What documents do I have to submit with my application?

- 1) Official transcript of your master's or doctoral degree from an accredited education institution in counseling or in an allied field to be sent directly to our office
- 2) Completed Coursework Form
- 3) Completed Practicum Verification Form(s)
- 4) Completed Post-Graduate Verification Form(s)

4) Is there an examination requirement?

Yes. All applicants shall pass the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE).

5) I am licensed in another state. Can I transfer my license to Hawaii? Is there reciprocity?

A reciprocity agreement may be provided if the person licensed by a state has substantially the same or higher requirements of this state. A person who is currently licensed by another state must be determined to meet or exceed the requirements of this state.

6) After licensure, how often will I have to renew?

Renewals are on a triennial basis with the first renewal deadline occurring on June 30, 2008.

7) Are there continuing education ("CE") requirements for licensure renewal?

No.

8) I did not renew my license on time. Can I restore it?

Licenses that are not renewed by June 30 of the renewal deadline will become forfeited. A forfeited license may be restored within one year of the forfeiture. To restore a license, you may call the Licensing Branch at (808) 586-3000 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Hawaiian Standard Time, and request to have a restoration application form sent to you.