

**Below are a few of the major changes to board rules which became final on  
December 12, 2013.**

**SUBCHAPTER A. THE BOARD.**

§681.2 (7) Counseling-related field--A mental health discipline utilizing human development, psychotherapeutic, and mental health principles including, but not limited to, clinical or counseling psychology, psychiatry, social work, marriage and family therapy, and counseling and guidance. Non-counseling related fields include, but are not limited to, sociology, education, administration, dance therapy and theology.

**SUBCHAPTER E. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.**

§681.81. General.

(a) The board shall accept as meeting academic requirements, graduate work done at American universities which hold accreditation from accepted regional educational accrediting associations as reported by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

(b) Degrees and course work received at foreign universities shall be acceptable only if such course work would be counted as transfer credit by accredited universities as reported by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. Prior to submitting an application for licensure, the potential applicant shall provide the board with documents and evidence to establish that his/her formal education is equivalent to at least a master's degree as required by the License Professional Counselors Licensing Act and Rules and Regulations of the Board, granted by a United States university that is regionally accredited. Documentation must include:

- (1) an original or certified copy of a diploma or other certificate of graduation;
- (2) a transcript or comparable document of all course work completed; and
- (3) a certified translation of all documents submitted in a language other than English.

(c) If degrees or course work cannot be documented because the foreign university refuses to issue a transcript or other evidence of the degrees or course work, the board may consider, on a case-by-case basis, accepting degrees or course work based on other evidence presented by the foreign graduate applicant.

(d) The relevance to the licensing requirements of academic courses, the titles of which are not self-explanatory, must be substantiated through course descriptions in official school catalogs or bulletins or by other means such as course syllabi.

(e) The board shall count no undergraduate level courses taken by an applicant as meeting any academic requirements unless the applicant's official transcript clearly shows that the course was awarded graduate credit by the school.

(f) The board shall accept no course work which an applicant's transcript indicates was not completed with a passing grade or for credit.

(g) In evaluating transcripts, the board shall consider a quarter hour of academic credit as two thirds of a semester hour.

(h) A graduate degree and graduate coursework that was awarded or earned more than 10 years prior to the application date may not be used to fulfill the requirements for licensure unless the applicant has held a license issued by another state or has been counseling in Texas in an exempt setting for at least five years prior to the application date.

## **SUBCHAPTER F. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.**

### §681.91. Temporary License.

(d) An LPC Intern may have no more than two LPC board-approved supervisors on file at any given time.

(j) A person holding a temporary license will provide no direct counseling services unless acting under a supervisor agreement as stated in §681.93 of this title (relating to Supervisor Requirements). Supervision is complete upon the LPC Intern receiving the regular license. Supervision shall continue after completion of the 3,000 hour and until the LPC Intern receives their regular license.

(k) A supervisor must submit the change of site/supervision form into the board office for approval before commencing supervision at a new site or with a new supervisor. Without an approved supervision form on file with the board, supervised hours may not be counted toward licensure.

(l) An applicant coming from another state, who has earned post graduate supervised experience in another state, may submit either their application file from the other state showing their post graduate experience or have their experience documented on Texas board forms.

### §681.92. Experience Requirements (Internship).

(c) An LPC Intern may not complete the required 3,000 clock-hours of supervised experience in a time period less than 18 months.

(d) The 18 month time period shall not be decreased by excess practicum hours that are applied toward the supervised experience hours.

(e) The internship may only commence after:

(1) the completion of a graduate degree in counseling or a related field;

(2) the completion of a planned graduate program in counseling of at least 48 semester hours with 60 semester hours as of August 1, 2017; and

(3) the completion of the examinations required.

(g) The LPC Intern must receive direct supervision consisting of a minimum of four hours per month of face to face or live Internet webcam supervision in individual (up to two Interns) or group (three or more) settings for each week the intern is engaged in counseling. No more than 50% of the total hours of supervision can be live Internet webcam supervision and no more than 50% of the total hours of

supervision may be received in group supervision. No more than 50% of the total hours of group supervision may be live Internet webcam supervision.

(h) Supervisors, during supervision, shall review board rules and note such on logs.

(j) The board may count excess practicum hours toward the experience requirements of this subchapter if:

(1) the hours were part of the applicant's academic practicum or internship accumulated after the commencement of the applicant's planned graduate program;

(2) the hours are in excess of the 300-hour practicum required by §681.82(c) of this title (relating to Academic Requirements); and

(3) no more than 400 hours can be counted for excess practicum.

(n) To upgrade from the LPC Intern status to full LPC, an LPC Intern must submit the supervised experience documentation form, proof of passing the Texas Jurisprudence exam within two years prior to upgrade and the upgrade fee if applicable.

§681.93. Supervisor Requirements.

(a) All internships physically occurring in the State of Texas must be completed under the supervision of a board approved supervisor. The supervisor must have held the regular license in good standing for at least 36 months from the date of issuance.

(c) A supervisor under this section must have met the following requirements.

(1) A licensee seeking approval to be a supervisor must meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, successfully complete 40 clock-hours of training in the supervision of professional counseling or mental health services as set forth in this subsection; and shall submit a \$100 processing fee. Application for supervision status must be submitted within 2 years of completing the 40-hour supervision course or within 5 years of completing a doctoral level supervision course from an accredited university. The initial supervisor approval will expire on the day the licensee's regular license next expires. Renewal of supervisor approval will begin and expire on the same dates as for the regular license. A renewal application must be filed with the board, accompanied by a \$100 renewal processing fee. The 40 clock-hours of training shall be met through the following:

(A) a graduate course in counselor supervision taken for credit at an accredited college or university; or

(B) continuing education programs meeting the requirements of §681.142 of this title (relating to Types of Acceptable Continuing Education).

(2) The 40 clock-hours shall be completed over a time period not to exceed 90 days and

(d) A board approved supervisor shall maintain and sign a record(s) to document the date of each supervision conference and document the LPC Intern's total number of hours of supervised experience accumulated up to the date of the conference. The record shall reflect the approved site where the hours were accrued and the content of the supervision.

§681.103. Reexamination.

(a) A person who fails the licensure examination may schedule the next examination no sooner than 90 days after the prior exam.

(b) A person who fails the exam three times will be required to either wait until two years have elapsed from the date of the last examination or until the person has completed nine graduate semester hours in the applicant's weakest portion of the examination. The hours must be counseling or counseling-related courses with a grade of "B" or better. Research and practicum courses will not be accepted as meeting the nine graduate semester hours.

§681.114. Licensing of Military Spouses.

(a) This section sets out the alternative license procedure for military spouse required under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 55 (relating to License While on Military Duty and for Military Spouse).

(b) The spouse of a person serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States who holds a current license as a professional counselor issued by another state that has substantially equivalent licensing requirements shall complete and submit an application form and fee. In accordance with Texas Occupations Code, §55.004(c), the executive director may waive any prerequisite to obtaining a license after reviewing the applicant's credentials and determining that the applicant holds a license issued by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements substantially equivalent to those of this state.

(c) The spouse of a person serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States who within the five years preceding the application date held the license in this state that expired while the applicant lived in another state for at least six months is qualified for licensure based on the previously held license, if there are no unresolved complaints against the applicant and if there is no other bar to licensure, such as criminal background or non-compliance with a board order.

§681.123. License Renewal

(e) The board may renew without reexamination an expired license of a person who was licensed in this state, moved to another state, and is currently licensed and has been in practice in the other state for the two years preceding the date the person applied for renewal. The person must pay to the board a fee that is equal to the amount of the license examination fee.

**SUBCHAPTER J. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.**

§681.141. General.

(f) A licensee holding the supervisor status must complete 6 hours of continuing education in supervision every two years.