

Part 4

Clinical Mental Health Counselor Licensing Act

58-60-401 Title.

This part is known as the "Clinical Mental Health Counselor Licensing Act."

Amended by Chapter 179, 2012 General Session

58-60-402 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in Sections 58-1-102 and 58-60-102, as used in this part, "practice of clinical mental health counseling" means the practice of mental health therapy by means of observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, intervention, and treatment to effect modification of human behavior by the application of generally recognized clinical mental health counseling principles, methods, and procedures for the purpose of preventing, treating, or eliminating mental or emotional illness or dysfunction, symptoms of any of these, or maladaptive behavior.

Amended by Chapter 420, 2024 General Session

58-60-404 License classifications.

The division shall issue licenses to individuals qualified under the provisions of this part in the classification of:

- (1) a clinical mental health counselor; or
- (2) an associate clinical mental health counselor.

Amended by Chapter 179, 2012 General Session

58-60-405 Qualifications for licensure.

- (1) An applicant for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor shall:
 - (a) submit an application on a form the division approves;
 - (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
 - (c) produce certified transcripts evidencing completion of:
 - (i) a master's or doctorate degree conferred to the applicant in:
 - (A) clinical mental health counseling, clinical rehabilitation counseling, counselor education and supervision from a program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs; or
 - (B) clinical mental health counseling or an equivalent field from a program affiliated with an institution that has accreditation that is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation; and
 - (ii) at least 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter credit hours of coursework related to an educational program described in Subsection (1)(c)(i);
 - (d) if required under federal law for any licensee as a clinical mental health counselor to qualify as an eligible professional under CMS rules for Medicare payment, document completion of:
 - (i) not less than 3,000 hours of clinical supervision, which includes hours accrued under Subsection (1)(e); or
 - (ii) not less than two years of clinical supervision;
 - (e) document successful completion of not less than 1,200 direct client care hours:

- (i) obtained after completion of the education requirements under Subsection (1)(c);
 - (ii) subject to Subsection (1)(e)(iii), not less than 100 of which are direct clinical supervision hours under the supervision of a clinical supervisor;
 - (iii) not less than 25 of which are direct observation hours; and
 - (iv) not more than 25 of which are group supervision hours concurrently with more than one other applicant for licensure;
- (f) document successful completion of not less than two hours of training in suicide prevention obtained after completion of the education requirements under Subsection (1)(c) via a course that the division designates as approved;
- (g)
- (i) pass the examination requirement the division establishes by rule under Section 58-1-203; or
 - (ii) satisfy the following requirements:
 - (A) document at least one examination attempt that did not result in a passing score;
 - (B) document successful completion of not less than 500 additional direct client care hours, not less than 25 of which are direct clinical supervision hours, and not less than five of which are direct observation hours by a clinical supervisor;
 - (C) submit to the division a recommendation letter from the applicant's direct clinical supervisor; and
 - (D) submit to the division a recommendation letter from another licensed mental health therapist who has directly observed the applicant's direct client care hours and who is not the applicant's direct clinical supervisor; and
- (h)
- (i) consent to, and complete, a criminal background check, described in Section 58-1-301.5;
 - (ii) meet any other standard related to the criminal background check described in Subsection (1)(h)(i), that the division establishes by rule in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and
 - (iii) disclose any criminal history the division requests on a form the division approves.
- (2) An applicant for licensure as an associate clinical mental health counselor shall comply with the provisions of Subsections (1)(a) through (c) and (h).
- (3) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(c), an applicant satisfies the education requirement described in Subsection (1)(c) if the applicant submits documentation verifying:
- (a) satisfactory completion of a doctoral or master's degree from an educational program in rehabilitation counseling accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs;
 - (b) satisfactory completion of at least 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter credit hours of coursework related to an educational program described in Subsection (1)(c)(i); and
 - (c) that the applicant received a passing score that is valid and in good standing on:
 - (i) the National Counselor Examination; and
 - (ii) the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination.

Amended by Chapter 443, 2025 General Session

58-60-406 Qualifications for admission to examination.

All applicants for admission to any examination qualifying an individual for licensure under this part shall:

- (1) submit an application on a form provided by the division;
- (2) pay the fee established by division rule for the examination; and

- (3) certify under penalty of perjury as evidenced by notarized signature on the application for admission to the examination that the applicant has completed the education requirement and been awarded the earned degree required for licensure.

Enacted by Chapter 32, 1994 General Session

58-60-407 Scope of practice -- Limitations.

- (1) A licensed clinical mental health counselor may engage in all acts and practices defined as the practice of clinical mental health counseling without supervision, in private and independent practice, or as an employee of another person, limited only by the licensee's education, training, and competence.
- (2)
 - (a) To the extent an individual has completed the educational requirements of Subsection 58-60-305(1)(c), a licensed associate clinical mental health counselor may engage in all acts and practices defined as the practice of clinical mental health counseling if the practice is:
 - (i) within the scope of employment as a licensed clinical mental health counselor with a public agency or private clinic as defined by division rule; and
 - (ii) under supervision of a qualified licensed mental health therapist as defined in Section 58-60-102.
 - (b) A licensed associate clinical mental health counselor may not engage in the independent practice of clinical mental health counseling.

Amended by Chapter 420, 2024 General Session