

Clarification of Act 76 of 2018 (Senate Bill 530) on when Supervised Clinical Experience may begin for Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

As of October 27, 2018, Act 76 requires an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist or for licensure as a professional counselor to complete at least 3,000 hours of “supervised clinical experience” AFTER being granted a master’s degree. Prior to the enactment of Act 76 of 2018, supervised clinical experience could be accumulated after the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate coursework.

Marriage and Family Therapists

An individual who has met the educational requirements of Section 48.13(a)(3)(i) or (ii), as a marriage and family therapist and has started accruing their 3,000 hours of “supervised clinical experience” after the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate level coursework, *but prior to Act 76’s effective date on October 27, 2018*, will be permitted to continue their supervised clinical experience towards licensure and to obtain a license as a marriage and family therapist. Please be advised that the practicum requirement of Section 48.2(6) of the Board’s regulations cannot be counted toward the 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

An individual pursuing licensure as a marriage and family therapist that has not started accruing their supervised clinical experience hours *prior to the effective date of Act 76 on October 27, 2018*, will need to obtain their master’s degree prior to accruing the 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Professional Counselors

An individual who has met the educational requirements of Section 49.13(a)(3)(i) or (ii), as a professional counselor and has started accruing their 3,000 hours of “supervised clinical experience” after the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate level coursework, *but prior to Act 76’s effective date on October 27, 2018*, will be permitted to continue their supervised clinical experience towards licensure and to obtain a license as a professional counselor. Please be advised that the clinical instruction (practicum and internship) requirement of Section 49.2(9) of the regulations cannot be counted towards the 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

An individual pursuing licensure as a professional counselor that has not started accruing their supervised clinical experience hours *prior to the effective date of Act 76 on October 27, 2018*, will need to obtain their master’s degree prior to accruing the 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Act 76 of 2018 can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=2018&sessInd=0&smtHlWInd=0&act=76#>

The Board’s regulations in Title 49 of the Pennsylvania Code can be viewed at the following link (click on Chapter 48 (Marriage and Family Therapists) or Chapter 49 (Professional Counselors), as appropriate:

<https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/049toc.html>