

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 350

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS; AMENDING SECTION 54-3405B, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 54-3405C, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 54-3405B, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

54-3405B. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE. ~~Licensure as a "licensed associate marriage and family therapist" shall be restricted to persons who have successfully completed each of the following requirements:~~

~~(1) A graduate degree which consists of at least sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter credits in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education, or a marriage and family counseling or therapy program which is accredited by the council for accreditation of counseling and related educational programs, or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and an equivalent course of study as approved by the board. The course of study for any graduate degree shall include a minimum of thirty-nine (39) semester credits in the following areas:~~

~~(a) Marriage and family studies -- Nine (9) semester credit minimum. Studies in this area shall include:~~

~~(i) Theoretical foundations, history, philosophy, etiology and contemporary conceptual directions of marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling;~~

~~(ii) Family systems theories and other relevant theories and their application in working with a wide variety of family structures, including families in transition, nontraditional families and blended families, and a diverse range of presenting issues; and~~

~~(iii) Preventive approaches, including premarital counseling, parent skill training and relationship enhancement, for working with couples, families, individuals, subsystems and other systems.~~

~~(b) Marriage and family therapy -- Nine (9) semester credit minimum. Studies in this area shall include:~~

~~(i) The practice of marriage and family therapy related to theory, and a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of the major models of marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling; and~~

~~(ii) Interviewing and assessment skills for working with couples, families, individuals, subsystems and other systems, and skills~~

- 1 in the appropriate implementation of systematic interventions
 2 across a variety of presenting clinical issues including, but not
 3 limited to, socioeconomic disadvantage, abuse and addiction.
- 4 ~~(c) Human development -- Nine (9) semester credit minimum. Studies in~~
 5 ~~this area shall include:~~
- 6 ~~(i) Individual development and transitions across the life span;~~
 - 7 ~~(ii) Family, marital and couple life cycle development and~~
 8 ~~family relationships, family of origin and intergenerational in-~~
 9 ~~fluences, cultural influences, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic~~
 10 ~~status, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, social and~~
 11 ~~equity issues and disability;~~
 - 12 ~~(iii) Human sexual development, function and dysfunction, impacts~~
 13 ~~on individuals, couples and families, and strategies for inter-~~
 14 ~~vention and resolution; and~~
 - 15 ~~(iv) Issues of violence, abuse and substance use in a relational~~
 16 ~~context, and strategies for intervention and resolution.~~
- 17 ~~(d) Psychological and mental health competency -- Six (6) semester~~
 18 ~~credit minimum. Studies in this area shall include:~~
- 19 ~~(i) Psychopathology, including etiology, assessment, evaluation~~
 20 ~~and treatment of mental disorders, use of the current diagnostic~~
 21 ~~and statistical manual of mental disorders, differential diagno-~~
 22 ~~sis and multiaxial diagnosis;~~
 - 23 ~~(ii) Standard mental health diagnostic assessment methods and in-~~
 24 ~~struments, including standardized tests; and~~
 - 25 ~~(iii) Psychotropic medications and the role of referral to and~~
 26 ~~cooperation with other mental health practitioners in treatment~~
 27 ~~planning, and case management skills for working with individu-~~
 28 ~~als, couples and families.~~
- 29 ~~(e) Professional ethics and identity -- Three (3) semester credit mini-~~
 30 ~~mum. Studies in this area shall include:~~
- 31 ~~(i) Professional identity, including professional socializa-~~
 32 ~~tion, professional organizations, training standards, creden-~~
 33 ~~tialing bodies, licensure, certification, practice settings and~~
 34 ~~collaboration with other disciplines;~~
 - 35 ~~(ii) Ethical and legal issues related to the practice of marriage~~
 36 ~~and family therapy, legal responsibilities of marriage and family~~
 37 ~~therapy and marriage and family counseling practice and research,~~
 38 ~~business aspects, reimbursement, recordkeeping, family law, con-~~
 39 ~~fidentiality issues and the relevant codes of ethics, including~~
 40 ~~the code of ethics specified by the board; and~~
 - 41 ~~(iii) The interface between therapist responsibility and the pro-~~
 42 ~~fessional, social and political context of treatment.~~
- 43 ~~(f) Research -- Three (3) semester credit minimum. Studies in this area~~
 44 ~~shall include:~~
- 45 ~~(i) Research in marriage and family therapy or marriage and fam-~~
 46 ~~ily counseling and its application to working with couples and~~
 47 ~~families; and~~
 - 48 ~~(ii) Research methodology, quantitative and qualitative methods,~~
 49 ~~statistics, data analysis, ethics and legal considerations of~~
 50 ~~conducting research, and evaluation of research.~~

~~(2) Completion of a one (1) year practicum of supervised marriage and family therapy experience, consisting of a minimum of three hundred (300) direct client contact hours, of which one hundred fifty (150) hours shall be with couples or families, as part of the graduate program.~~

~~(3) Successful completion of a written examination as approved by the board and defined by rule~~

(1) In addition to such other information as the board may require by rule, each applicant for licensure as a licensed associate marriage and family therapist shall:

(a) Hold a master's degree or higher in marriage and family therapy or a related field of study as approved by the board and complete a practicum of supervised clinical contact with individuals, couples, families and other systems as part of the graduate program and as defined by rule;

(b) Submit an application in the form prescribed by the board;

(c) Pay the fee determined by the board by rule; and

(d) Provide evidence satisfactory to the board of having successfully passed an examination approved by the board and defined by rule.

~~(42) A license will not be allowed an individual whose license, certification or registration has been revoked or suspended in this or any other state and in this or any other related field. Such an individual may not be licensed under this chapter unless the period of revocation or suspension has been completed and the board has conducted a competency review and determined that an acceptable degree of rehabilitation has been accomplished.~~

SECTION 2. That Section 54-3405C, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

54-3405C. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE. ~~Licensure as a "marriage and family therapist" shall be restricted to persons who have successfully completed each of the following requirements:~~

~~(1) A graduate degree which consists of at least sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter credits in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education, or a marriage and family counseling or therapy program which is accredited by the council for accreditation of counseling and related educational programs, or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and an equivalent course of study as approved by the board. The course of study for any graduate degree shall include a minimum of thirty-nine (39) semester credits in the following areas:~~

~~(a) Marriage and family studies -- nine (9) semester credit minimum. Studies in this area shall include:~~

~~(i) Theoretical foundations, history, philosophy, etiology and contemporary conceptual directions of marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling;~~

~~(ii) Family systems theories and other relevant theories and their application in working with a wide variety of family structures, including families in transition, nontraditional families and blended families, and a diverse range of presenting issues; and~~

~~(iii) Preventive approaches, including premarital counseling, parent skill training and relationship enhancement, for working~~

- 1 with couples, families, individuals, subsystems and other sys-
 2 tems.
- 3 ~~(b) Marriage and family therapy -- nine (9) semester credit minimum.~~
 4 ~~Studies in this area shall include:~~
- 5 ~~(i) The practice of marriage and family therapy related to the-~~
 6 ~~ory, and a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of~~
 7 ~~the major models of marriage and family therapy or marriage and~~
 8 ~~family counseling; and~~
- 9 ~~(ii) Interviewing and assessment skills for working with couples,~~
 10 ~~families, individuals, subsystems and other systems, and skills~~
 11 ~~in the appropriate implementation of systematic interventions~~
 12 ~~across a variety of presenting clinical issues including, but not~~
 13 ~~limited to, socioeconomic disadvantage, abuse and addiction.~~
- 14 ~~(c) Human development -- nine (9) semester credit minimum. Studies in~~
 15 ~~this area shall include:~~
- 16 ~~(i) Individual development and transitions across the life span;~~
 17 ~~(ii) Family, marital and couple life cycle development and~~
 18 ~~family relationships, family of origin and intergenerational in-~~
 19 ~~fluences, cultural influences, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic~~
 20 ~~status, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, social and~~
 21 ~~equity issues and disability;~~
 22 ~~(iii) Human sexual development, function and dysfunction, impacts~~
 23 ~~on individuals, couples and families, and strategies for inter-~~
 24 ~~vention and resolution; and~~
- 25 ~~(iv) Issues of violence, abuse and substance use in a relational~~
 26 ~~context, and strategies for intervention and resolution.~~
- 27 ~~(d) Psychological and mental health competency -- six (6) semester~~
 28 ~~credit minimum. Studies in this area shall include:~~
- 29 ~~(i) Psychopathology, including etiology, assessment, evaluation~~
 30 ~~and treatment of mental disorders, use of the current diagnostic~~
 31 ~~and statistical manual of mental disorders, differential diagno-~~
 32 ~~sis and multiaxial diagnosis;~~
 33 ~~(ii) Standard mental health diagnostic assessment methods and in-~~
 34 ~~struments, including standardized tests; and~~
- 35 ~~(iii) Psychotropic medications and the role of referral to and~~
 36 ~~cooperation with other mental health practitioners in treatment~~
 37 ~~planning, and case management skills for working with individu-~~
 38 ~~als, couples and families.~~
- 39 ~~(e) Professional ethics and identity -- three (3) semester credit mini-~~
 40 ~~imum. Studies in this area shall include:~~
- 41 ~~(i) Professional identity, including professional socializa-~~
 42 ~~tion, professional organizations, training standards, creden-~~
 43 ~~tialing bodies, licensure, certification, practice settings and~~
 44 ~~collaboration with other disciplines;~~
- 45 ~~(ii) Ethical and legal issues related to the practice of marriage~~
 46 ~~and family therapy, legal responsibilities of marriage and family~~
 47 ~~therapy and marriage and family counseling practice and research,~~
 48 ~~business aspects, reimbursement, recordkeeping, family law, con-~~
 49 ~~fidentiality issues and the relevant codes of ethics, including~~
 50 ~~the code of ethics specified by the board; and~~

~~(iii) The interface between therapist responsibility and the professional, social and political context of treatment.~~
~~(f) Research -- three (3) semester credit minimum. Studies in this area shall include:~~
~~(i) Research in marriage and family therapy or marriage and family counseling and its application to working with couples and families; and~~
~~(ii) Research methodology, quantitative and qualitative methods, statistics, data analysis, ethics and legal considerations of conducting research, and evaluation of research.~~
~~(2) Completion of a one (1) year practicum of supervised marriage and family therapy experience, consisting of a minimum of three hundred (300) direct client contact hours, of which one hundred fifty (150) hours shall be with couples or families, as part of the graduate program.~~
~~(3) Supervised experience in marriage and family therapy of three thousand (3,000) hours, acceptable to the board as defined by rule. A minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervision of the postgraduate experience. Supervision may be provided by a clinical member of the American association for marriage and family therapy, by a licensed marriage and family therapist, or another qualified licensed professional as determined by the board and defined in rule who has a minimum of five (5) years experience providing marriage and family therapy, including: a licensed clinical professional counselor; licensed psychologist; licensed clinical social worker; or licensed psychiatrist.~~
~~(4) Successful completion of a written examination as approved by the board and defined by rule~~
(1) In addition to such other information as the board may require by rule, each applicant for licensure as a licensed marriage and family therapist shall:
(a) Hold a master's degree or higher in marriage and family therapy or a related field of study as approved by the board and complete a practicum of supervised clinical contact with individuals, couples, families and other systems as part of the graduate program and as defined by rule;
(b) Document postgraduate supervised experience in marriage and family therapy acceptable to the board as defined by rule;
(c) Submit an application in the form prescribed by the board;
(d) Pay the fee determined by the board by rule; and
(e) Provide evidence satisfactory to the board of having successfully passed an examination approved by the board and defined by rule.
~~(52) A license will not be allowed an individual whose license, certification or registration has been revoked or suspended in this or any other state and in this or any other related field. Such an individual may not be licensed under this chapter unless the period of revocation or suspension has been completed and the board has conducted a competency review and determined that an acceptable degree of rehabilitation has been accomplished.~~