

Chapter 708

(House Bill 863)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act – Corrections

FOR the purpose of requiring applicants for a license to practice clinical marriage and family therapy to hold a master's or doctoral degree in a certain field from an accredited educational institution that is approved by the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists; altering the number of credit hours in alcohol and drug counselor training that are required for qualification as a certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug or certified association counselor–alcohol and drug; and generally relating to corrections of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 17–303(a) and 17–402(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 17–303(d), 17–402(d), and 17–403
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

17–303.

(a) To qualify for a license to practice clinical marriage and family therapy, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(d) (1) Except as provided in § 17–306 of this subtitle, the applicant shall hold a master's or doctoral degree in a marriage and family field **FROM AN ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD** or have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as required under this section.

(2) In the case of an applicant holding a doctoral degree, the applicant shall have completed a minimum of 90 graduate credit hours in training in marriage and family therapy approved by the Board that includes instruction in the following specialized areas:

- (i) Analysis of family systems;
- (ii) Family therapy, theory, and techniques;
- (iii) Couples therapy, theory, and techniques;
- (iv) Gender and ethnicity in marriage and family therapy; and
- (v) Sexual issues in marriage and family therapy.

(3) In the case of an applicant holding only a master's degree, the applicant shall have completed a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours in training in marriage and family therapy approved by the Board that includes instruction in the specialized areas set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

17-402.

(a) Except as provided in § 17-405 of this subtitle, to qualify as a certified professional counselor—alcohol and drug, an applicant shall meet the requirements of this section.

(d) (1) The applicant shall hold a master's or doctoral degree in a health and human services counseling field from an accredited educational institution that is approved by the Board or have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training as required under this section.

(2) In the case of an applicant holding a doctoral degree, the applicant shall have completed a minimum of 90 graduate credit hours in counselor training approved by the Board, including instruction in the following areas:

- (i) Counseling theory and ethics;
- (ii) Counseling techniques;
- (iii) Human growth and development and maladaptive behaviors;
- (iv) Group dynamics, processing, and counseling;

- (v) Social and cultural foundations;
- (vi) Lifestyle and career development;
- (vii) Appraisal of individuals;
- (viii) Research and evaluation;
- (ix) Participation in a supervised practicum in professional counseling;
- (x) Marriage and family therapy; and
- (xi) Alcohol and drug counseling.

(3) In the case of an applicant holding only a master's degree, the applicant shall have completed a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours in counselor training approved by the Board including instruction in the areas set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) The applicant shall have completed a minimum of **[26] 27** credit hours in alcohol and drug counselor training, including instruction in:

- (i) Medical aspects of chemical dependency;
- (ii) Group counseling;
- (iii) Individual counseling;
- (iv) Family counseling;
- (v) Assessment and treatment planning;
- (vi) Ethics for alcohol and drug counselors;
- (vii) Human development;
- (viii) Abnormal psychology; and
- (ix) Courses pertaining to counselor core functions of screening, intake, orientation, case management, crisis intervention, education and prevention, referral, consultation, reports and record keeping, and special alcohol and drug dependency topics.

17-403.

(a) Except as provided in § 17–405 of this subtitle, to qualify as a certified associate counselor–alcohol and drug, an applicant shall:

(1) Hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board in a health and human services counseling field or have completed a program of studies judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to such a program of studies;

(2) Have completed not less than 3 years, with a minimum of 2,000 hours of clinically supervised experience in alcohol and drug counseling approved by the Board, 2 years of which shall have been completed after the award of the bachelor’s degree;

(3) Have a minimum of ~~[20]~~ **21** credit hours in alcohol and drug counselor training, including instruction in:

(i) Medical aspects of chemical dependency;

(ii) Group counseling;

(iii) Individual counseling;

(iv) Family counseling;

(v) Assessment and treatment planning;

(vi) Ethics for alcohol and drug counselors;

(vii) Human development;

(viii) Abnormal psychology; and

(ix) Courses pertaining to counselor core functions of screening, intake, orientation, case management, crisis intervention, education and prevention, referral, consultation, reports and record keeping, and special alcohol and drug dependency topics; and

(4) (i) Practice alcohol and drug counseling under the supervision of a certified professional counselor–alcohol and drug or another health care provider approved by the Board; or

(ii) Provide alcohol and drug counseling as an employee of an agency or facility that is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or that is certified under Title 8, Subtitle 4 of the Health – General Article.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the applicant shall pass an examination approved by the Board under this title.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.