

License Portability recommendations
For October 12, 2012 Board Meeting

833-020-0051 Reciprocity Method

(1) The reciprocity method is for applicants who seek acceptance of education and supervised clinical experience previously used to obtain a comparable license in another jurisdiction. The reciprocity method requires the applicant to document that the education and experience requirements under which the applicant obtained a comparable license held in another state are equivalent to the standards required for Oregon licensure as a professional counselor or as a marriage and family therapist.

(2) The Board will review each application designating the reciprocity method to determine if licensing is appropriate. The Board will compare the minimum standards in effect in the other jurisdiction when it granted a license with the current education, clinical experience, and examination standards required for Oregon licensure.

(3) Application for licensure must be submitted to the Board office in accordance with OAR 833-020-0011.

(4) The application must also include verification of from the sending state that applicant:

- (a) Has a current, active license in that state; ~~and~~
- (b) The license is comparable to the Oregon license requested;
- (c) Applicant's license from other state is not temporary, probationary, expired, revoked, or suspended;
- (d) The applicant has not been disciplined, including a reprimand or letter of concern; and
- (e) Documentation of the education, clinical experience, and examination requirements for licensure in that state at the time licensure was granted.

(5) The applicant's license in the other state must have:

- (a) Required at least a graduate degree in counseling, a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy, or a related degree. A related degree must have systemic coursework for a license as a marriage and family therapist;
- (b) Been issued to an applicant whose qualifying degree meets Majority Standards for Graduate Degrees specified in OAR 833 Division 60;
- (c) Required passage of a state or national competency exam; and
- (d) Been obtained by a method of application that involved state review of documentation of education and clinical experience under adopted standards, and not obtained through

reciprocity; act of portability; mutual recognition; recognition of non-governmental, professional certification or membership; waiver of any of the education, experience, or examination requirements; or "grandparenting".

(6) Five years or more of licensed clinical experience in another state may substitute for a maximum of 15 semester or 20 quarter credits of academic education required for licensure. Clinical experience may not substitute for diagnosis training.

(7) Completed supervised clinical experience performing direct client counseling or marriage and family therapy, which must have included no less than:

(a) At least 2,000 hours in at least two years or the equivalent for licensed professional counselor;

(A) A minimum of 1,000 hours of the required 2,000 must be direct client contact;

(B) A maximum of 1,000 hours of the required 2,000 may be from supervision, consulting, reporting

(b) At least 2,000 hours earned in at least 3 years **must be in the presence of a client** for licensed marriage and family therapist.

(8) Five or more years of post license clinical experience may substitute for 1,000 hours of the required, supervised direct client contact hours required for Oregon licensure.

~~(10)~~ **(9)** The applicant must meet the examination requirements specified in:

(a) **833-020-0081 and 833-030-0041** for licensure as a professional counselor; or

(b) **833-020-0081 and 833-040-0041** for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

~~(9)~~ **(10)** Documentation of acceptance on the national credentials registry for professional counselors may substitute for education and experience requirements for licensure as a professional counselor.

833-020-0081 Examination

~~(1) Applicants approved for examination must maintain examination status by sitting for the competency portion of the state examination once per year based on the eligibility date established by the board.~~

~~(4) Applicants must pass the competency exam within two years after meeting experience requirements for licensure.~~

(1) All applicants must pass a competency exam and a law and rules exam approved by the Board within two years after meeting experience requirements for licensure.

(2) Applicants who have passed the competency exam within 10 years prior to applying for licensure are not required to retake the exam.

(3) Applicants applying by the reciprocity method who have passed the exam 10 years or more prior to applying for licensure in Oregon must:

(a) Retake the exam; or

(b) Document a minimum of 40 clock hours of continuing education in the core curriculum areas specified in OAR 833, Division 60. Continuing education that substitutes for passage of the exam must be completed within two years prior to licensure.

(24) Registered interns may take the competency exam any time during their **registered** internships.

(35) Failure to document passage of an acceptable competency examination or failure to register and attempt to pass the competency portion of the state examination at least once per year will result in denial of licensure.

(4) Applicants must pass the competency exam within two years after meeting experience requirements for licensure.

(5) Applicants who fail to pass the competency portion of the state exam after taking the exam three times, must:

(a) Complete graduate level coursework in the content areas failed in the exam;

(b) The graduate level coursework must be completed from:

(A) A program accredited by CACREP, CORE, or COAMFTE; or

(B) A regionally accredited college or university;

(c) Re-apply for licensure.

(6) Applicants are allowed 30 days, from the date the board sends the law and rules exam to the applicant, to complete and return the law and rules portion of the state examination. Failure to complete and return the examination to the Board office will result in closure of the application.

833-030-0041 Examination Requirement for Licensure as a Professional Counselor

(1) All applicants for licensure as a professional counselor must pass an examination consisting of two separate sections: a competency section and an Oregon law and rules section.

(2) To qualify for licensure as a professional counselor under ORS 675.715(5), an applicant must pass ~~a~~ one of the following competency examinations within 10 years from the date of

application for licensure prescribed by the Board or have passed other approved alternative exams:

- (a) National Counselor Examination;
- (b) Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination;
- (c) Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination; or
- (d) Other exams as approved by the Board.

~~(3) The Board uses the National Counselor Examination as the state examination.~~

(3) Applicants applying via the reciprocity method may meet the competency exam requirements specified in 833-020-0081.

(4) To qualify to sit for the competency examination, a LPC applicant must:

- (a) Submit an application; and
- (b) Meet the graduate program and coursework requirements in OAR 833 division 60.

(5) Candidates will pay exam and exam administration fees to the prescribed examination providers.

(6) Passing scores will be:

- (a) Established by the National Board of Certified Counselors for applicants who plan to take the exam after applying for Oregon licensure.
- (b) Established by the agency verifying passage of its examination for applicants who took a state competency exam before applying for Oregon licensure.

(7) The Board will notify examinees, in writing only, of the results of their examination.

(8) Following passage of the approved competency examination, the Board requires passage of an Oregon state law and rules examination with a passing score determined by the Board.

833-040-0041 Examination Requirement for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist

(1) All applicants for licensure as a marriage and family therapist must pass an examination consisting of two separate ~~examination~~ sections: a competency section and an Oregon law and rules section.

(2) To qualify for licensure as a marriage and family therapist under ORS 675.715(5), an applicant must pass a competency examination prescribed by the Board or have passed other approved alternative exams, within 10 years from the date of application for licensure.

(3) The Board prescribes as the competency section the computerized marital and family therapy examination of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) in association with the Professional Examination Service.

(4) Applicants applying via the reciprocity method may meet the competency exam requirements specified in 833-020-0081.

(45) To qualify to sit for the competency examination, a LMFT applicant must:

(a) Submit an application; and

(b) Meet the graduate program and coursework requirements prescribed in OAR 833 division 60.

(56) Candidates will pay exam and exam administration fees to the prescribed examination providers.

(67) Passing scores will be:

(a) Established by the AMFTRB for applicants who plan to take the exam after making application for Oregon licensure; or

(b) Established by the agency verifying passage of its examination for applicants who have completed an approved alternative examination.

(78) The Board will notify examinees, in writing only, of the results of their examination.

(89) Following passage of the approved competency examination, the Board requires passage of an Oregon state law and rules examination, with a passing score as determined by the Board.