CHAPTER 111-02-02
PRELIMINARY LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

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111-02-02-01. Licenses.

1. To be eligible for licensure, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

   a. Complete the education requirements in subsection 2 or 3 of North Dakota Century Code section 43-53-06.

   b. Complete the experience requirements in subsection 2 or 3 of North Dakota Century Code section 43-53-06.

   c. Provide evidence of meeting the requirements of North Dakota Century Code section 43-53-06 through endorsements from another jurisdiction.

   d. Agree to conduct all professional activities as a licensed marriage and family therapist in accordance with the code of ethics for marriage and family therapists in section 111-02-02-02.

   e. Pass both parts of the examination listed in North Dakota Century Code section 43-53-07.

2. An applicant who fails to meet all requirements in this section shall be denied a license.

History: Effective July 1, 2010.
General Authority: NDCC 28-32-02, 43-53-05
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-53-06

111-02-02-02. Educational requirements - Determination of equivalent degree.

1. In determining whether an applicant holds a master's or doctoral degree that is equivalent to degrees described in North Dakota Century Code section 43-53-06, the board shall evaluate the applicant's transcripts, documentation from the educational institution that describes the substance and purpose of the applicant's academic training, accreditation and other professional recognition of the educational institution by regional accrediting bodies, and other necessary information as determined by the board. All requested documentation must be sent directly from the educational institution to the board.

2. A master's or doctoral degree is equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy if the degree is from a regionally accredited institution, if the degree is in a related subject field, and if the degree contains the following coursework of fifty-four semester hours minimum:

   a. Nine semester hours in human development covering human development, human behavior, personality theory, human sexuality, psychopathology, including the etiology and diagnosis of mental illness, and behavior pathology;

   b. Three semester hours required in systemic/relational assessment and mental health diagnosis and treatment, covering the development of competency in traditional

psychodiagnostic categories, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of major mental health issues as well as a wide variety of common presenting problems, including addiction; suicide; trauma; abuse; intrafamilial violence; and therapy for individuals, couples, and families managing acute chronic medical conditions, utilizing a systemic/relational philosophy.

c. Six semester hours in marital and family studies covering theories of family development, theories of family functioning, the family life cycle, sociology of the family, families under stress, contemporary family forms, family subsystems, theories of marital and family interaction, theories of child development, lifespan, and theories of gerontology;

d. Twelve semester hours in marital and family therapy covering marital and family communication, family psychology, family therapy, methods of intervention, family assessment, treatment planning, sex therapy, major theories of marital and family therapy such as structural, strategic, transgenerational, experiential, object relations, contextual, systemic therapy, solution-focused therapy, narrative, and biofeedback methodologies;

e. Three semester hours in research covering research design, methods, statistics, and special issues research in marital and family studies or a related field;

f. Three semester hours in professional studies covering professional socialization, professional organizations, legal issues, interprofessional cooperation, professional ethics, and family law;

g. Nine semester hours required to demonstrate courses which include content on issues of diversity (race, gender, sexual orientation, spirituality, class, etc.), and psychopharmacology; and

h. Nine semester hours in a clinical practicum in marriage and family therapy or at least five hundred hours or twelve months of clinical client contact with individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of assessment and intervention. Of the five hundred hours, no more than two hundred fifty hours may be with individuals. This clinical experience must be supervised onsite or at the academic institution by a licensed and family therapist or an American association for marriage and family therapy-approved supervisor.

3. Four quarter credit-hours shall be equivalent to three semester hours in meeting the requirements in subdivisions a to h of subsection 2. This curriculum may be completed during the qualifying master's or doctoral degree programs; or additional coursework may be taken at a college or university accredited by a regionally accredited educational institution after receiving the graduate degree in order to fulfill the requirements for each of the areas described in subdivisions a to h of subsection 2 . An applicant may not use a course for more than one area described in subdivisions a to h of subsection 2.

4. A professional track may give credit for experience with a minimum of five years providing the applicant had a valid equivalent degree as described in subsection 1 during the time of working with couples and families. The applicant will take twelve semester hours from coursework requirements described in subdivision c of subsection 2 and three semester hours in subdivision e of subsection 2. The clinical client contact requirements will remain the same.

5. The burden is on the applicant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the coursework is equivalent to the requirements in subsection 2.

6. An applicant for licensed associate marriage and family therapy must be enrolled before August 15, 2018, to be eligible to apply under the old section 111-02-02-02 section rules. On August 16, 2018, the new educational requirement rules apply.

History: Effective July 1, 2010; amended effective January 1, 2018.
General Authority: NDCC 28-32-02, 43-53-05
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-53-06

111-02-02-03. Experience requirements.

1. The two years (full time, or up to forty-eight months part time) of supervised, postgraduate experience required by subsection 3 of North Dakota Century Code section 43-53-06 must meet the following:

2. In calculating two years of supervised postgraduate experience in marriage and family therapy, the board shall accept a minimum of three thousand hours, of which one thousand five hundred hours of direct clinical client contact, including the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness as specified in subsection 3 with two hundred hours of postgraduate supervision by a North Dakota or other approved jurisdiction licensed marriage and family therapist supervisor over a period of not less than twenty-four months, full time, and no more than forty-eight months, part time. All additional work used to complete this two-year experience may be supervised in a legal and ethical manner by a licensed marriage and family therapist credentialed for supervision or a licensed mental health professional as specified in the North Dakota Century Code chapter 43-53 approved supervisor definition.

3. The applicant must demonstrate at least five hundred hours of the direct clinical client contact required in each of the following categories of cases:

   a. Unmarried couples, married couples, and separating and divorcing couples;

   b. Family groups, including children; and

   c. Individual services.

   This contact shall include experience in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness. The board may consider waiving part of this requirement for good cause shown.

4. The supervision by a North Dakota or other jurisdiction licensed marriage and family therapist shall take place in individual and group settings, according to the following:

   a. The individual supervision shall take place in a setting in which a supervisor and not more than two supervisees are present.

   b. The group supervision shall take place in a setting in which a supervisor and not more than six supervisees, but not less than three supervisees, are present.

5. Supervision must involve:

   a. At least two hundred hours of face-to-face contact between the supervisor and supervisee of which at least one hundred hours must be in individual settings.

   b. One hundred hours of supervision per year full time or fifty hours per year part time.

   c. A focus on the raw data from the supervisee's clinical work that is made directly available to the supervisor through means of written clinical materials, direct observation, and audio or video recordings.

   d. During the period of supervised experience, an associate may be employed on a salary basis or be used within an established supervisory setting. The established settings must be structured with clearly defined job descriptions and areas of responsibility. The board may require that the applicant provide documentation of all work experience.

e. During the postgraduate supervision, both the supervisor and the associate may have disciplinary actions taken against their licenses for violations of the act or administrative rules.

f. Supervision must be conducted under a supervision agreement, which must be submitted to the board on the official form within sixty days of the initiation of supervision. The associate must receive a minimum of one hour of supervision every two weeks. There is no limit to the number of hours that can be completed via two-way interactive audio and visual communications. All supervision hours completed though real-time two-way interactive communication that has both audio and visual count as in-person supervision hours.

g. The associate must receive a minimum of one hour of supervision every two weeks.

h. An associate may have no more than two board-approved supervisors at a time, unless given prior approval by the board or its designee.

i. The associate may receive credit for up to five hundred clock-hours toward the required three thousand hours of supervised clinical services. There is no limit to the number of hours that can be completed via two-way interactive audio and visual communications. All supervision hours completed though real-time two-way interactive communication that has both audio and visual count as in-person supervision hours.

6. A supervisee must verify the required supervised experience by completing a form supplied by the board. The form must be signed by the applicant's supervisor and be deemed truthful subject to penalties for making a false statement under North Dakota Century Code section 12.1-11-02. The form must include the setting, nature, and extent of the supervised experience, the time period involved, the number of hours of clinical client contact, the number of hours of supervision, and the name and qualifications of each supervisor.

History: Effective July 1, 2010; amended effective January 1, 2018; April 1, 2024.
General Authority: NDCC 23-32-02, 43-53-05
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-53-06

111-02-02-04. Requirements for supervisor.

1. Supervisors are recognized by the board when subsection 1 or 2 is met by submitting an application which includes the following four documents:

a. A graduate degree in marriage and family therapy or a graduate degree in a related mental health field, such as counseling and guidance, psychology, psychiatry, or clinical social work, from a recognized educational institution;

b. A license, which is not a provisional or an associate license, issued by the board or a license as a marriage and family therapist in another jurisdiction;

c. One of the following:

(1) Successful completion of a one semester graduate course in marriage and family therapy supervision from an accredited institution; or

(2) A thirty-hour continuing education course in clinical supervision offered by a board-approved provider; and

d. At least three thousand hours of direct client contact in the practice of marriage and family therapy over a minimum of three years as a licensed marriage and family therapist.

2. In lieu of meeting the qualifications set forth in subsection 1, a person is an acceptable supervisor if the person has been designated as an approved supervisor or supervisor-in-training by the American association for marriage and family therapy before the person provides any supervision.

3. A supervisor may not be employed by the person whom the supervisor is supervising.

4. A supervisor may not be related within the second degree by affinity or within the third degree by consanguinity to the person whom the supervisor is supervising.

History: Effective July 1, 2010; amended effective January 1, 2018.
General Authority: NDCC 28-32-02, 43-53-05
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-53-06

111-02-02-05. Responsibilities of supervisor.

A supervisor must:

1. Be knowledgeable of the clinical skills required for effective delivery of marriage and family therapy services;

2. Be knowledgeable of the important literature in the field of marriage and family therapy and professional ethics, and the supervisor must be knowledgeable about the basic skills and service delivery of supervision;

3. That all supervised work is conducted in appropriate professional settings, with adequate administrative and clerical controls; and

4. Devote at least ten percent of the required continuing education hours to supervision.

History: Effective July 1, 2010.
General Authority: NDCC 28-32-02, 43-53-05
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-53-06