

Arizona Administrative Code

Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

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ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS

R4-6-101. Definitions

- A. The definitions at A.R.S. § 32-3251 apply to this Chapter. Additionally, the following definitions apply to this Chapter, unless otherwise specified:
1. “Applicant” means:
 - a. An individual requesting a license by examination, temporary license, or a license by endorsement by submitting a completed application packet to the Board; or
 - b. A regionally accredited college or university seeking Board approval of an educational program under R4-6-307.
 2. “Application packet” means the required documents, forms, fees, and additional information required by the Board of an applicant.
 3. “ARC” means an academic review committee established by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3261(A).
 4. “Assessment” means the collection and analysis of information to determine an individual’s behavioral health treatment needs.
 5. “ASWB” means the Association of Social Work Boards.
 6. “Behavioral health entity” means any organization, agency, business, or professional practice, including a for-profit private practice, which provides assessment, diagnosis, and treatment to individuals, groups, or families for behavioral health related issues.
 7. “Behavioral health service” means the assessment, diagnosis, or treatment of an individual’s behavioral health issue.
 8. “CACREP” means the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.
 9. “Client record” means collected documentation of the behavioral health services provided to and information gathered regarding a client.
 10. “Clinical social work” means social work involving clinical assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals, couples, families, and groups.
 11. “Clinical supervision” means direction or oversight provided either face to face or by videoconference or telephone by an individual qualified to evaluate, guide, and direct all behavioral health services provided by a licensee to assist the licensee to develop and improve the necessary knowledge, skills, techniques, and abilities to allow the licensee to engage in the practice of behavioral health ethically, safely, and competently.
 12. “Clinical supervisor” means an individual who provides clinical supervision.
 13. “COAMFTE” means the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.
 14. “Clock hour” means 60 minutes of instruction, not including breaks or meals.
 15. “Contemporaneous” means documentation is made within 10 business days.
 16. “Continuing education” means training that provides an understanding of current developments, skills, procedures, or treatments related to the practice of behavioral health, as determined by the Board.
 17. “Co-occurring disorder” means a combination of substance use disorder or addiction and a mental or personality disorder.
 18. “CORE” means the Council on Rehabilitation Education.
 19. “Counseling related coursework” means education that prepares an individual to provide behavioral health services, as determined by the ARC.
 20. “CSWE” means Council on Social Work Education.

21. “Date of service” means the postmark date applied by the U.S. Postal Service to materials addressed to an applicant or licensee at the address the applicant or licensee last placed on file in writing with the Board.
22. “Day” means calendar day.
23. *“Direct client contact” means the performance of therapeutic or clinical functions related to the applicant’s professional practice level of psychotherapy that includes diagnosis, assessment and treatment and that may include psychoeducation for mental, emotional and behavioral disorders based primarily on verbal or nonverbal communications and intervention with, and in the presence of, one or more clients. A.R.S. § 32-3251.*
24. “Direct supervision” means responsibility and oversight for all services provided by a supervisee as prescribed in R4-6-211.
25. “Disciplinary action” means any action taken by the Board against a licensee, based on a finding that the licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct, including refusing to renew a license and suspending or revoking a license.
26. “Documentation” means written or electronic supportive evidence.
27. “Educational program” means a degree program in counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, or substance use or addiction counseling that is:
 - a. Offered by a regionally accredited college or university, and
 - b. Not accredited by an organization or entity recognized by the Board.
28. “Electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process that is attached to or logically associated with a record and that is executed or adopted by an individual with the intent to sign the record.
29. “Family member” means a parent, sibling, half-sibling, child, cousin, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, and present and former spouse, in-law, stepchild, stepparent, foster parent, or significant other.
30. “Gross negligence” means careless or reckless disregard of established standards of practice or repeated failure to exercise the care that a reasonable practitioner would exercise within the scope of professional practice.
31. “Inactive status” means the Board has granted a licensee the right to suspend behavioral health practice temporarily by postponing license renewal for a maximum of 48 months.
32. “Independent practice” means engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, social work, or substance abuse counseling without direct supervision.
33. *“Indirect client service” means training for, and the performance of, functions of an applicant’s professional practice level in preparation for or on behalf of a client for whom direct client contact functions are also performed, including case consultation and receipt of clinical supervision. Indirect client service does not include the provision of psychoeducation. A.R.S. § 32-3251.*
34. “Individual clinical supervision” means clinical supervision provided by a clinical supervisor to one supervisee.
35. “Informed consent for treatment” means a written document authorizing treatment of a client that:
 - a. Contains the requirements of R4-6-1101;
 - b. Is dated and signed by the client or the client’s legal representative, and
 - c. Beginning on July 1, 2006, is dated and signed by an authorized representative of the behavioral health entity.
36. “Legal representative” means an individual authorized by law to act on a client’s behalf.
37. “License” means written authorization issued by the Board that allows an individual to engage in the practice of behavioral health in Arizona.
38. “License period” means the two years between the dates on which the Board issues a license and the license expires.

39. "NASAC" means the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission.
40. "Practice of behavioral health" means the practice of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, social work and substance abuse counseling pursuant to this Chapter. A.R.S. § 32-3251.
41. "Practice of marriage and family therapy" means the professional application of family systems theories, principles and techniques to treat interpersonal relationship issues and nervous, mental and emotional disorders that are cognitive, affective or behavioral. The practice of marriage and family therapy includes:
 - a. Assessment, appraisal and diagnosis.
 - b. The use of psychotherapy for the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of individuals, couples, families and groups. A.R.S. § 32-3251.
42. "Practice of professional counseling" means the professional application of mental health, psychological and human development theories, principles and techniques to:
 - a. Facilitate human development and adjustment throughout the human life span.
 - b. Assess and facilitate career development.
 - c. Treat interpersonal relationship issues and nervous, mental and emotional disorders that are cognitive, affective or behavioral.
 - d. Manage symptoms of mental illness.
 - e. Assess, appraise, evaluate, diagnose and treat individuals, couples, families and groups through the use of psychotherapy. A.R.S. § 32-3251.
43. "Practice of social work" means the professional application of social work theories, principles, methods and techniques to:
 - a. Treat mental, behavioral and emotional disorders.
 - b. Assist individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance or restore the ability to function physically, socially, emotionally, mentally and economically.
 - c. Assess, appraise, diagnose, evaluate and treat individuals, couples, families and groups through the use of psychotherapy. A.R.S. § 32-3251.
44. "Practice of substance abuse counseling" means the professional application of general counseling theories, principles and techniques as specifically adapted, based on research and clinical experience, to the specialized needs and characteristics of persons who are experiencing substance abuse, chemical dependency and related problems and to the families of those persons. The practice of substance abuse counseling includes the following as they relate to substance abuse and chemical dependency issues:
 - a. Assessment, appraisal, and diagnosis.
 - b. The use of psychotherapy for the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of individuals, couples, families and groups. A.R.S. § 32-3251.
45. "Progress note" means contemporaneous documentation of a behavioral health service provided to an individual that is dated and signed or electronically acknowledged by the licensee.
46. "Psychoeducation" means the education of a client as part of a treatment process that provides the client with information regarding mental health, emotional disorders or behavioral health." A.R.S. § 32-3251.
47. "Quorum" means a majority of the members of the Board or an ARC. Vacant positions do not reduce the quorum requirement.
48. "Regionally accredited college or university" means the institution has been approved by an entity recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as a regional accrediting organization.
49. "Significant other" means an individual whose participation a client considers to be essential to the effective provision of behavioral health services to the client.
50. "Supervised work experience" means practicing clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, or substance abuse counseling for remuneration or on a voluntary basis under direct supervision and while receiving clinical supervision as prescribed in R4-6-212 and Articles 4 through 7.

51. *“Telepractice” means providing behavioral health services through interactive audio, video or electronic communication that occurs between a behavioral health professional and the client, including any electronic communication for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment, including distance counseling, in a secure platform, and that meets the requirements of telemedicine pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-3602. A.R.S. § 32-3251.*
 52. “Treatment” means the application by a licensee of one or more therapeutic practice methods to improve, eliminate, or manage a client’s behavioral health issue.
 53. “Treatment goal” means the desired result or outcome of treatment.
 54. “Treatment method” means the specific approach a licensee used to achieve a treatment goal.
 55. “Treatment plan” means a description of the specific behavioral health services that a licensee will provide to a client that is documented in the client record, and meets the requirements found in R4-6-1102.
- B. For the purposes of this Chapter, notifications or communications required to be “written” or “in writing” may be transmitted or received by mail, electronic transmission, facsimile transmission or hand delivery and may not be transmitted or received orally. Documents requiring a signature may include a written signature or electronic signature as defined in subsection (A)(28).

ARTICLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

R4-6-201. Board Meetings; Elections

- A. The Board:
1. Shall meet at least annually in June and elect the officers specified in A.R.S. §32-3252(E);
 2. Shall fill a vacancy that occurs in an officer position at the next Board meeting; and
 3. May hold additional meetings:
 - a. As necessary to conduct the Board’s business; and
 - b. If requested by the Chair, a majority of the Board members, or upon written request from two Board members.
- B. The Board shall conduct official business only when a quorum is present.
- C. The vote of a majority of the Board members present is required for Board action.

R4-6-202. Repealed

R4-6-203. Academic Review Committee Meetings; Elections

- A. Each ARC:
1. Shall meet at least annually in June and elect a Chair and Secretary;
 2. Shall fill a vacancy that occurs in an officer position at the next ARC meeting; and
 3. May hold additional meetings:
 - a. As necessary to conduct the ARC’s business; and
 - b. If requested by the Chair of the ARC, a majority of the ARC, or upon written request from two members of the ARC.
- B. An ARC shall conduct official business only when a quorum is present.
- C. The vote of a majority of the ARC members present is required for ARC action.

R4-6-204. Repealed

R4-6-205. Change of Contact Information

- A. The Board shall communicate with a licensee or applicant using the contact information provided to the Board including:
1. Home address and telephone number,
 2. Address and telephone number for all places of employment,
 3. Mobile telephone number, and

4. E-mail address.
- B.** To ensure timely communication with the Board, a licensee or applicant shall notify the Board in writing within 30 days after any change of the licensee's or applicant's contact information listed in subsection (A). The licensee or applicant shall ensure that the written notice provided to the Board includes the new contact information.

R4-6-206. Change of Name

A licensee or an applicant shall notify the Board in writing within 30 days after the applicant's or licensee's name is changed. The applicant or licensee shall attach to the written notice:

1. A copy of a legal document that establishes the name change; or
2. A copy of two forms of identification, one of which includes a picture of the applicant or licensee, reflecting the changed name.

R4-6-207. Confidential Records

A. Except as provided in A.R.S. § 32-3282, the following records are confidential and not open to public inspection:

1. Minutes of executive session;
2. Records classified as confidential by other laws, rules, or regulations;
3. College or university transcripts, licensure examination scores, medical or mental health information, and professional references of applicants except that the individual who is the subject of the information may view or copy the records or authorize release of these records to a third party.
4. Records for which the Board determines that public disclosure would have a significant adverse effect on the Board's ability to perform its duties or would otherwise be detrimental to the best interests of the state. When the Board determines that the reason justifying the confidentiality of the records no longer exists, the record shall be made available for public inspection and copying; and
5. All investigative materials regarding any pending or resolved complaint.

B. As provided under A.R.S. § 39-121, a person wanting to inspect Board records that are available for public inspection may do so at the Board office by appointment.

R4-6-208. Conviction of a Felony or Prior Disciplinary Action

The Board shall consider the following factors to determine whether a felony conviction or prior disciplinary action will result in imposing disciplinary sanctions including refusing to renew the license of a licensee or to issue a license to an applicant:

1. The age of the licensee or applicant at the time of the felony conviction or when the prior disciplinary action occurred;
2. The seriousness of the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action;
3. The factors underlying the conduct that led to the felony conviction or imposition of disciplinary action;
4. The length of time since the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action;
5. The relationship between the practice of the profession and the conduct giving rise to the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action;
6. The licensee's or applicant's efforts toward rehabilitation;
7. The assessments and recommendations of qualified professionals regarding the licensee's or applicant's rehabilitative efforts;
8. The licensee's or applicant's cooperation or non-cooperation with the Board's background investigation regarding the felony conviction or prior disciplinary action; and
9. Other factors the Board deems relevant.

R4-6-209. Deadline Extensions

A. Deadlines established by date of service may be extended a maximum of two times by the chair of the Board or the chair of the ARC if a written request is postmarked or delivered to the Board no later than the required deadline.

B. The Board shall not grant an extension for deadlines regarding renewal submission or late renewal submission.

- C. If a deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or official state holiday, the Board considers the next business day the deadline.

R4-6-210. Practice Limitations

The following licensees shall not engage in the independent practice of behavioral health but rather, shall practice behavioral health only under direct supervision as prescribed in R4-6-211:

1. Licensed baccalaureate social worker,
2. Licensed master social worker,
3. Licensed associate counselor,
4. Licensed associate marriage and family therapist,
5. Licensed substance abuse technician,
6. Licensed associate substance abuse counselor, or
7. Temporary licensee.

R4-6-211. Direct Supervision: Supervised Work Experience: General

- A. A licensee subject to practice limitations pursuant to R4-6-210 shall practice in an entity with responsibility and clinical oversight of the behavioral health services provided by the licensee.
- B. A masters level licensee working under direct supervision who operates or manages their own entity with immediate responsibility for the behavioral health services provided by the licensee shall provide the following to the board for approval prior to providing behavioral health services:
1. The name of their clinical supervisor who meets the following:
 - a. Is independently licensed by the board in the same discipline as the supervisee, and who has practiced as an independently licensed behavioral health professional for a minimum of two years beyond the supervisor's licensure date;
 - b. Is in compliance with the clinical supervisor educational requirements specified in R4-6-214;
 - c. Is not prohibited from providing clinical supervision by a board consent agreement; and
 2. A copy of the agreement between the clinical supervisor and supervisee demonstrating:
 - a. The supervisee and supervisor will meet individually for one hour for every 20 hours of direct client contact provided, to include an onsite meeting every 60 days;
 - b. Supervisee's clients will be notified of clinical supervisor's involvement in their treatment and the means to contact the supervisor;
 - c. Supervision reports will be submitted to the board every six months;
 - d. A 30 day notice is required prior to either party terminating the agreement;
 - e. The supervisor and supervisee will notify the board within 10 days of the agreement termination date; and
 - f. The supervisee will cease practicing within 60 days of the agreement termination date until such time as a subsequent agreement is provided to the board and approved.
- C. A licensee complying with subsection B shall not provide clinical oversight and responsibility for the behavioral health services of another licensee subject to the practice limitations pursuant to R4-6-210.
- D. To meet the supervised work experience requirements for licensure, direct supervision shall:
1. Meet the specific supervised work experience requirements contained in Articles 4,5,6, and 7;
 2. Be acquired after completing the degree required for licensure and receiving certification or licensure from a state regulatory entity;
 3. Be acquired before January 1, 2006, if acquired as an unlicensed professional practicing under an exemption provided in A.R.S. § 32-3271;
 4. Involve the practice of behavioral health; and
 5. Be for a term of no fewer than 24 months
- E. An applicant who acquired supervised work experience outside of Arizona may submit that experience for approval as it relates to the qualifications of the supervisor and the entity in which the supervision was acquired. The board may accept the supervised work experience as it relates to the supervisor and the entity if it met the requirements of the state in which the supervised work experience occurred. Nothing in this provision shall apply to the supervision requirements set forth in R4-6-403, R4-6-503, R4-6-603 and R4-6-705.

- F. If the Board determines that an applicant engaged in unprofessional conduct related to services rendered while acquiring hours under supervised work experience, including clinical supervision, the Board shall not accept the hours to satisfy the requirements of R4-6-403, R4-6-503, R4-6-603, or R4-6-706. Hours accrued before and after the time during which the conduct that was the subject of the finding of unprofessional conduct occurred, as determined by the Board, may be used to satisfy the requirements of R4-6-403, R4-6-503, R4-6-603, or R4-6-706 so long as the hours are not the subject of an additional finding of unprofessional conduct.

R4-6-212. Clinical Supervision Requirements

- A. The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant if the clinical supervision meets the requirements specified in R4-6-404, R4-6-504, R4-6-604, or R4-6-706, as applicable to the license for which application is made, and was provided by one of the following:
1. A clinical social worker, professional counselor, independent marriage and family therapist, or independent substance abuse counselor who:
 - a. Holds an active and unrestricted license issued by the Board, and
 - b. Has complied with the educational requirements specified in R4-6-214;
 2. A mental health professional who holds an active and unrestricted license issued under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 19.1 as a psychologist and has complied with the educational requirements specified in R4-6-214; or
 3. An individual who:
 - a. Holds an active and unrestricted license to practice behavioral health,
 - b. Is providing behavioral health services in Arizona:
 - i. Under a contract or grant with the federal government under the authority of 25 U.S.C. § 5301 or § 1601-1683, or
 - ii. By appointment under 38 U.S.C. § 7402 (8-11), and
 - c. Has complied with the educational requirements specified in R4-6-214.
- B. Unless an exemption was obtained under R4-6-212.01, the Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant if the clinical supervision was provided by an individual who:
1. Was qualified under subsection (A), and
 2. Was employed by the behavioral health entity at which the applicant obtained hours of clinical supervision.
- C. The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant if the clinical supervision includes all of the following:
1. Reviewing ethical and legal requirements applicable to the supervisee's practice, including unprofessional conduct as defined in A.R.S. § 32-3251;
 2. Monitoring the supervisee's activities to verify the supervisee is providing services safely and competently;
 3. Verifying in writing that the supervisee provides clients with appropriate written notice of clinical supervision, including the means to obtain the name and telephone number of the supervisee's clinical supervisor;
 4. Contemporaneously written documentation by the clinical supervisor of at least the following for each clinical supervision session at each entity:
 - a. Date and duration of the clinical supervision session;
 - b. A detailed description of topics discussed to include themes and demonstrated skills;
 - c. Beginning on July 1, 2006, name and signature of the individual receiving clinical supervision;
 - d. Name and signature of the clinical supervisor and the date signed; and
 - e. Whether the clinical supervision occurred on a group or individual basis;
 5. Maintaining the documentation of clinical supervision required under subsection (C)(4) for at least seven years;
 6. Verifying that clinical supervision was not acquired from a family member as prescribed in R4-6-101(A)(29);
 7. Conducting on-going compliance review of the supervisee's clinical documentation to ensure the supervisee maintains adequate written documentation;
 8. Providing instruction regarding:

- a. Assessment,
 - b. Diagnosis,
 - c. Treatment plan development, and
 - d. Treatment;
9. Rating the supervisee's overall performance as at least satisfactory, using a form approved by the Board; and
 10. Complying with the discipline-specific requirements in Articles 4 through 7 regarding clinical supervision.
- D.** The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant for licensure if:
1. At least two hours of the clinical supervision were provided in a face-to-face setting during each six-month period;
 2. No more than 90 hours of the clinical supervision were provided by videoconference and telephone.
 3. No more than 15 of the 90 hours of clinical supervision provided by videoconference and telephone were provided by telephone; and
 4. Each clinical supervision session was at least 30 minutes long.
- E.** Effective July 1, 2006, the Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant if at least 10 of the hours involve the clinical supervisor observing the supervisee providing treatment and evaluation services to a client. The clinical supervisor may conduct the observation:
1. In a face-to-face setting,
 2. By videoconference,
 3. By teleconference, or
 4. By review of audio or video recordings.
- F.** The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant from a maximum of six clinical supervisors.
- G.** The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision obtained by an applicant in both individual and group sessions, subject to the following restrictions:
1. At least 25 of the clinical supervision hours involve individual supervision, and
 2. Of the minimum 100 hours of clinical supervision required for licensure, the Board may accept:
 - a. Up to 75 of the clinical supervision hours involving a group of two supervisees; and
 - b. Up to 50 of the clinical supervision hours involving a group of three to six supervisees.
- H.** If an applicant provides evidence that a catastrophic event prohibits the applicant from obtaining documentation of clinical supervision that meets the standard specified in subsection (C), the Board may consider alternate documentation.

R4-6-212.01. Exemptions to the Clinical Supervision Requirements

The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant if the clinical supervision meets the requirements specified in R4-6-212 and R4-6-404, R4-6-504, R4-6-604, or R4-6-706, as applicable to the license for which application is made, unless an exemption is granted as follows:

1. An individual using supervised work experience acquired in Arizona may apply to the Board for an exemption from the following requirements:
 - a. Qualifications of the clinical supervisor. The Board may grant an exemption to the supervisor qualification requirements in R4-6-212(A) and R4-6-404, R4-6-504, R4-6-604, or R4-6-706, as applicable to the license for which application is made, if the Board determines the behavioral health professional who provided or will provide the clinical supervision has:
 - i. Education, training and experience necessary to provide clinical supervision;
 - ii. Complied with the educational requirements specified in R4-6-214; and
 - iii. An active and unrestricted license issued under A.R.S. Title 32 as a physician under Chapter 13 or 17 with certification in psychiatry or addiction medicine or as a nurse practitioner under Chapter 15 with certification in mental health;
 - b. Employment of clinical supervisor. The Board may grant an exemption to the requirement in R4-6-212(B) regarding employment of the supervisor by the behavioral health entity at which the supervisee obtains hours of clinical supervision if the supervisee provides verification that:

- i. The supervisor and behavioral health entity have a written contract providing the supervisor the same access to the supervisee's clinical records provided to employees of the behavioral health entity, that is signed and dated by both parties, and
 - ii. Supervisee's clients authorized the release of their clinical records to the supervisor; and
 - c. Discipline-specific changes. The Board may grant an exemption to a requirement in R4-6-404, R4-6-504, R4-6-604, or R4-6-706, as applicable to the license for which application is made, that changed on November 1, 2015, and had the effect of making the clinical supervision previously completed or completed no later than October 31, 2017, non-compliant with the clinical supervision requirements. If the Board grants an exemption under this subsection, the Board shall evaluate the applicant's clinical supervision using the requirements in existence before November 1, 2015.
2. An individual using supervised work experience acquired outside of Arizona may apply to the Board for an exemption from the clinical supervision requirements in R4-6-404, R4-6-504, R4-6-604, or R4-6-706, as applicable to the license for which application is made. The Board may grant an exemption for clinical supervision acquired outside of Arizona if the Board determines that the behavioral health professional providing the supervision met one of the following:
- a. Complied with the educational requirements specified in R4-6-214,
 - b. Complied with the clinical supervisor requirements of the state in which the supervision occurred, or
 - c. Was approved to provide supervision to the applicant by the state in which the supervision occurred.

R4-6-213. Registry of Clinical Supervisors

- A. The Board shall maintain a registry of individuals who have met the educational requirements to provide supervision that are specified in R4-6-214.
- B. To be included on the registry of clinical supervisors, an individual shall submit the following to the Board:
 - 1. A registration form approved by the Board;
 - 2. Evidence of being qualified under R4-6-212(A); and
 - 3. Documentation of having completed the education required under R4-6-214.
- C. The Board shall include an individual who complies with subsection (B) on the registry of clinical supervisors. To remain on the registry of clinical supervisors, an individual shall submit the following to the Board:
 - 1. A registration form approved by the Board;
 - 2. Evidence of being qualified under R4-6-212(A); and
 - 3. Documentation of having completed the continuing education required under R4-6-214.
- D. If the Board notified an individual before November 1, 2015, that the Board determined the individual was qualified to provide clinical supervision, the Board shall include the individual on the registry maintained under subsection (A). To remain on the registry of clinical supervisors, the individual shall comply with subsection (C).

R4-6-214. Clinical Supervisor Educational Requirements

- A. The Board shall consider hours of clinical supervision submitted by an applicant only if the individual who provides the clinical supervision is qualified under R4-6-212(A) and complies with the following:
 - 1. Completes one of the following:
 - a. At least 12 hours of training that meets the standard specified in R4-6-802(D), addresses clinical supervision, and includes the following:
 - i. Role and responsibilities of a clinical supervisor;
 - ii. Skills in providing effective oversight of and guidance to supervisees who diagnose, create treatment plans, and treat clients;
 - iii. Supervisory methods and techniques; and
 - iv. Fair and accurate evaluation of a supervisee's ability to plan and implement clinical assessment and treatment;
 - b. An approved clinical supervisor certification from the National Board for Certified Counselors/Center for Credentialing and Education;

- c. A clinical supervisor certification from the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium; or
 - d. A clinical member with an approved supervisor designation from the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy; and
2. Completes the three clock hour Clinical Supervision Tutorial on Arizona Statutes/Regulations.
- B.** To continue providing clinical supervision, an individual qualified under subsection (A)(1)(a) shall, at least every three years, complete a minimum of nine hours of continuing training that:
1. Meets the standard specified in R4-6-802(D);
 2. Concerns clinical supervision;
 3. Addresses the topics listed in subsection (A)(1)(a); and
 4. Includes the three clock hour Clinical Supervision Tutorial on Arizona Statutes/Regulations.
- C.** To continue providing clinical supervision, an individual qualified under subsections (A)(1)(b) through (d) shall:
1. Provide documentation that the national certification or designation was renewed before it expired, and
 2. Complete the Clinical Supervision Tutorial on Arizona Statutes/Regulations.
- D.** An applicant submitting hours of clinical supervision by an individual qualified by meeting the clinical supervision education requirements in effect before the effective date of this Section shall provide documentation that the clinical supervisor was compliant with the education requirements during the period of supervision.

R4-6-215. Fees and Charges

- A.** Under the authority provided by A.R.S. § 32-3272, the Board establishes and shall collect the following fees:
1. Application for license by examination: \$250;
 2. Application for license by endorsement: \$250;
 3. Application for a temporary license: \$50;
 4. Application for approval of educational program: \$500;
 5. Application for approval of an educational program change: \$250
 6. Biennial renewal of first area of licensure: \$325;
 7. Biennial renewal of each additional area of licensure if all licenses are renewed at the same time: \$163;
 8. Late renewal penalty: \$100 in addition to the biennial renewal fee;
 9. Inactive status request: \$100; and
 10. Late inactive status request: \$100 in addition to the inactive status request fee.
- B.** The Board shall charge the following amounts for the services it provides:
1. Issuing a duplicate license: \$25;
 2. Criminal history background check: \$40;
 3. Paper copy of records: \$.50 per page after the first four pages;
 4. Electronic copy of records: \$25;
 5. Copy of a Board meeting audio recording: \$20;
 6. Verification of licensure: \$20 per discipline or free if downloaded from the Board's web site;
 7. Board's rules and statutes book: \$10 or free if downloaded from the Board's web site;
 8. Mailing list of licensees: \$150, and
 9. Returned check due to insufficient funds: \$50.
- C.** The application fees in subsections (A)(1) and (2) are non-refundable. Other fees established in subsection (A) are not refundable unless the provisions of A.R.S. § 41-1077 apply.
- D.** The Board shall accept payment of fees and charges as follows:
1. For an amount of \$40 or less, a personal or business check;
 2. For amounts greater than \$40, a certified check, cashier's check, or money order; and
 3. By proof of online payment by credit card for the following:
 - a. All fees in subsection (A);
 - b. The charge in subsection (B)(2) for a criminal history background check; and
 - c. The charge in subsection (B)(8) for a mailing list of licensees.

R4-6-216. Foreign Equivalency Determination

The Board shall accept as qualification for licensure a degree from an institution of higher education in a foreign country if the degree is substantially equivalent to the educational standards required in this Chapter for professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, and substance abuse counseling licensure. To enable the Board to determine whether a foreign degree is substantially equivalent to the educational standards required in this Chapter, the applicant shall, at the applicant's expense, have the foreign degree evaluated by an evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc.

- A. Any document that is in a language other than English shall be accompanied by a translation with notarized verification of the translation's accuracy and completeness. This translation shall be completed by an individual, other than the applicant, and demonstrates no conflict of interest. The individual providing the translation may be college or university language faculty, a translation service, or an American consul.

ARTICLE 3. LICENSURE

R4-6-301. Application for a License by Examination

An applicant for a license by examination shall submit a completed application packet that contains the following:

1. A statement by the applicant certifying that all information submitted in support of the application is true and correct;
2. Identification of the license for which application is made;
3. The license application fee required under R4-6-215;
4. The applicant's name, date of birth, social security number, and contact information;
5. Each name or alias previously or currently used by the applicant;
6. The name of each college or university the applicant attended and an official transcript for all education used to meet requirements;
7. Verification of current or previous licensure or certification from the licensing or certifying entity as follows:
 - a. Any license or certification ever held in the practice of behavioral health; and
 - b. Any professional license or certification not identified in subsection (7)(a) held in the last 10 years;
8. Background information to enable the Board to determine whether, as required under A.R.S. § 32-3275(A)(3), the applicant is of good moral character;
9. A list of every entity for which the applicant has worked during the last 7 years;
10. If the relevant licensing examination was previously taken, an official copy of the score the applicant obtained on the examination;
11. A report of the results of a self-query of the National Practitioner Data Bank;
12. Documentation required under A.R.S. § 41-1080(A) showing that the applicant's presence in the U.S. is authorized under federal law;
13. A completed and legible fingerprint card for a state and federal criminal history background check and payment as prescribed under R4-6-215 if the applicant has not previously submitted a full set of fingerprints to the Board, or verification that the applicant holds a current fingerprint card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety; and
14. Other documents or information requested by the Board to determine the applicant's eligibility.

R4-6-302. Licensing Time Frames

- A. The overall time frames described in A.R.S. § 41-1072 for each type of license granted by the Board are listed in Table 1. The person applying for a license and the ARC may agree in writing to extend the substantive review and overall time frames up to 25 percent of the overall time frame.
- B. The administrative completeness review time frame described in A.R.S. § 41-1072 begins when the Board receives an application packet.
1. If the application packet is not complete, the Board shall send the applicant a written notice specifying the missing document or incomplete information. The administrative completeness review and overall time frames are suspended from the date the notice is served until the date the Board receives the deficient information from the applicant.

2. An applicant may assume an application packet is complete when the Board sends the applicant a written notice of administrative completeness or when the administrative completeness time frame specified in Table 1 expires.
- C.** An applicant shall submit all of the deficient information specified in the notice provided under subsection (B)(1) within 60 days after the deficiency notice is served.
1. If an applicant cannot submit all deficient information within 60 days after the deficiency notice is served, the applicant may obtain a 60-day extension by submitting a written notice to the Board postmarked or delivered before expiration of the 60 days.
The written notice of extension shall document the reasons the applicant is unable to meet the 60-day deadline.
 2. An applicant who requires an additional extension shall submit to the Board a written request that is delivered or postmarked before expiration of the initial extension and documents the reasons the applicant requires an additional extension. The Board shall notify the applicant in writing of its decision to grant or deny the request for an extension.
 3. If an applicant fails to submit all of the deficient information within the required time, the Board shall administratively close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for licensure, an applicant whose file is administratively closed shall submit a new application and fee.
- D.** The substantive review time frame described in A.R.S. § 41-1072 begins on the date the administrative completeness time frame is complete as described under subsection (B)(2).
1. If an application is referred to the ARC for substantive review and the ARC finds that additional information is needed, the ARC shall provide a comprehensive written request for additional information to the applicant. The substantive review and overall time frames are suspended from the date the comprehensive written request for additional information is served until the applicant provides all information to the Board.
 2. As provided under A.R.S. § 41-1075(A), the ARC and the applicant may agree in writing to allow the ARC to make additional supplemental requests for information. If the ARC issues an additional supplemental request for information, the substantive review and overall time frames are suspended from the date of the additional supplemental request for information until the applicant provides the information to the Board.
 3. An applicant shall submit all of the information requested under subsection (D)(1) within 60 days after the comprehensive request for additional information is served. If the ARC issues an additional comprehensive request for information under subsection (D)(2), the applicant shall submit the additional information within 60 days after the additional comprehensive request for information is served. If the applicant cannot submit all requested information within the time provided, the applicant may obtain an extension under the terms specified in subsection (C)(2).
 4. If an applicant fails to submit all of the requested information within the time provided under subsection (D)(3), the Board shall administratively close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for licensure, an applicant whose file is administratively closed shall submit a new application and fee.
- E.** An applicant may withdraw an application for licensure under the terms specified in A.R.S. § 32-3275(D).
- F.** After the substantive review of an application is complete:
1. If the applicant is found ineligible for licensure, a recommendation shall be made to the Board that the applicant be denied licensure;
 2. If the applicant is found eligible for licensure, a recommendation shall be made to the Board that the applicant be granted licensure;
- G.** After reviewing the recommendation made under subsection (F), the Board shall send a written notice to an applicant that either:
1. Grants a license to an applicant who meets the qualifications and requirements in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33 and this Chapter; or
 2. Denies a license to an applicant who fails to meet the qualifications and requirements in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33 and this Chapter. The Board shall ensure that the written notice of denial includes the information required under A.R.S. § 41-1092.03.

H. If a time frame's last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday, the Board considers the next business day the time frame's last day.

Table 1. Time Frames (in Days)

| Type of License | Statutory Authority | Overall Time Frame | Administrative Completeness Time Frame | Substantive Review Time Frame |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| License by Examination | A.R.S. § 32-3253 A.R.S. § 32-3275 | 270 | 90 | 180 |
| Temporary License | A.R.S. § 32-3253 A.R.S. § 32-3279 | 90 | 30 | 60 |
| License by Endorsement | A.R.S. § 32-3253 A.R.S. § 32-3274 | 270 | 90 | 180 |
| License Renewal | A.R.S. § 32-3253 A.R.S. § 32-3273 | 270 | 90 | 180 |

R4-6-303. Repealed

R4-6-304. Application for a License by Endorsement

An applicant who meets the requirements specified under A.R.S. § 32-3274 for a license by endorsement shall submit a completed application packet, as prescribed in R4-6-301, and the following:

1. The name of one or more other jurisdictions where the applicant is certified or licensed as a behavioral health professional by a state or federal regulatory entity, and has been for at least three years;
2. A verification of each certificate or license identified in subsection (1) by the state regulatory entity issuing the certificate or license that includes the following:
 - a. The certificate or license number issued to the applicant by the state regulatory entity;
 - b. The issue and expiration date of the certificate or license;
 - c. Whether the applicant has been the subject of disciplinary proceedings by a state regulatory entity; and
 - d. Whether the certificate or license is active and in good standing;
3. If applying at a practice level listed in A.R.S. § 32-3274(B), include:
 - a. An official transcript as prescribed in R4-6-301(6); and
 - b. If applicable, a foreign degree evaluation prescribed in R4-6-216 or R4-6-401; and
4. Documentation of completion of the Arizona Statutes/Regulations Tutorial.

R4-6-305. Inactive Status

- A. A licensee seeking inactive status shall submit:
 1. A written request to the Board before expiration of the current license, and
 2. The fee specified in R4-6-215 for inactive status request.
- B. To be placed on inactive status after license expiration, a licensee shall, within three months after the date of license expiration, comply with subsection (A) and submit the fee specified in R4-6-215 for late request for inactive status.
- C. The Board shall grant a request for inactive status to a licensee upon receiving a written request for inactive status. The Board shall grant inactive status for a maximum of 24 months.
- D. The Board shall not grant a request for inactive status that is received more than three months after license expiration.
- E. Inactive status does not change:
 1. The date on which the license of the inactive licensee expires, and
 2. The Board's ability to start or continue an investigation against the inactive licensee.
- F. To return to active status, a licensee on inactive status shall:

1. Comply with all renewal requirements prescribed under R4-6-801; and
 2. Establish to the Board's satisfaction that the licensee is competent to practice safely and competently. To assist with determining the licensee's competence, the Board may order a mental or physical evaluation of the licensee at the licensee's expense.
- G.** Upon a showing of good cause, the Board shall grant a written request for modification or reduction of the continuing education requirement received from a licensee on inactive status. The Board shall consider the following to show good cause:
1. Illness or disability,
 2. Active military service, or
 3. Any other circumstance beyond the control of the licensee.
- H.** The Board may, upon a written request filed before the expiration of the original 24 months of inactive status and for good cause, as described in subsection (G), permit an inactive licensee to remain on inactive status for one additional period not to exceed 24 months. To return to active status after being placed on a 24-month extension of inactive status, a licensee shall, comply with the requirements in subsection (F) and complete an additional 30 hours of continuing education during the 24-month extension.
- I.** A licensee on inactive status shall not engage in the practice of behavioral health.

R4-6-306. Application for a Temporary License

- A.** To be eligible for a temporary license, an applicant shall:
1. Have applied under R4-6-301 for a license by examination or R4-6-304 for a license by endorsement,
 2. Have submitted an application for a temporary license using a form approved by the Board and paid the fee required under R4-6-215, and
 3. Be one of the following:
 - a. Applying for a license by endorsement;
 - b. Applying for a license by examination, not currently licensed or certified by a state behavioral health regulatory entity, and:
 - i. Within 12 months after obtaining a degree from the education program on which the applicant is relying to meet licensing requirements,
 - ii. Has completed all licensure requirements except passing the required examination, and
 - iii. Has not previously taken the required examination; or
 - c. Applying for a license by examination and currently licensed or certified by another state behavioral health regulatory entity.
- B.** An individual is not eligible for a temporary license if the individual:
1. Is the subject of a complaint pending before any state behavioral health regulatory entity,
 2. Has had a license or certificate to practice a health care profession suspended or revoked by any state regulatory entity,
 3. Has a criminal history or history of disciplinary action by a state behavioral health regulatory entity unless the Board determines the history is not of sufficient seriousness to merit disciplinary action, or
 4. Has been previously denied a license by the Board.
- C.** A temporary license issued to an applicant expires one year after issuance by the Board.
- D.** A temporary license issued to an applicant who has not previously passed the required examination for licensure expires immediately if the temporary licensee:
1. Fails to take the required examination by the expiration date of the temporary license; or
 2. Takes but fails the required examination.
- E.** A temporary licensee shall provide written notice and return the temporary license to the Board if the temporary licensee fails the required examination.
- F.** An applicant who is issued a temporary license shall practice as a behavioral health professional only under direct supervision. The temporary license may contain restrictions as to time, place, and supervision that the Board deems appropriate.
- G.** The Board shall issue a temporary license only in the same discipline for which application is made under subsection (A).
- H.** The Board shall not extend the time of a temporary license or grant an additional temporary license based on the application submitted under subsection (A).

- I. A temporary licensee is subject to disciplinary action by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3281. A temporary license may be summarily revoked without a hearing under A.R.S. § 32-3279(C)(4).
- J. If the Board denies a license by examination or endorsement to a temporary licensee, the temporary licensee shall return the temporary license to the Board within five days of receiving the Board's notice of the denial.
- K. If a temporary licensee withdraws the license application submitted under R4-6-301 for a license by examination or R4-6-304 for a license by endorsement, the temporary license expires.

R4-6-307. Approval of an Educational Program

- A. To obtain the Board's approval of an educational program, an authorized representative of the regionally accredited college or university shall submit:
 - 1. An application, using a form approved by the Board;
 - 2. The fee prescribed under R4-6-215; and
 - 3. Documentary evidence that the educational program is consistent with the curriculum standards specified in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33, and this Chapter.
- B. The Board shall review the application materials for administrative completeness and determine whether additional information is necessary.
 - 1. If the application packet is incomplete, Board shall send a written deficiency notice to the applicant specifying the missing or incomplete information. The applicant shall provide the additional information within 60 days after the deficiency notice is served.
 - 2. The applicant may obtain a 60-day extension of time to provide the deficient information by submitting a written request to the Board before expiration of the time specified in subsection (B)(1).
 - 3. If an applicant fails to provide the deficient information within the time specified in the written notice or as extended under subsection (B)(2), the Board shall administratively close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for approval of an educational program, an applicant whose file is administratively closed shall comply with subsection (A).
- C. When an application for approval of an educational program is administratively complete, the ARC shall substantively review the application packet.
 - 1. If the ARC finds that additional information is needed, the ARC shall provide a written comprehensive request for additional information to the applicant.
 - 2. The applicant shall provide the additional information within 60 days after the comprehensive request of additional information is served.
 - 3. If an applicant fails to provide the additional information within the time specified under subsection (C)(2), the Board shall administratively close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for approval of an educational program, an applicant whose file is administratively closed shall comply with subsection (A).
- D. After the ARC determines the substantive review is complete:
 - 1. If the ARC finds the applicant's educational program is eligible for approval, the ARC shall recommend to the Board that the educational program be approved.
 - 2. If the ARC finds the applicant's educational program is ineligible for approval, the ARC shall send written notice to the applicant of the finding of ineligibility with an explanation of the basis for the finding. An applicant may appeal a finding of ineligibility for educational program approval using the following the procedure:
 - a. Submit to the ARC a written request for an informal review meeting within 30 days after the notice of ineligibility is served. If the applicant does not request an informal review meeting within the time provided, the ARC shall recommend to the Board that the educational program be denied approval and the applicant's file be closed with no recourse to appeal.
 - b. If the ARC receives a written request for an informal review meeting within the 30 days provided, the ARC shall schedule the informal review meeting and provide at least 30 days' notice of the informal review meeting to the applicant.
 - c. At the informal review meeting, the ARC shall provide the applicant an opportunity to present additional information regarding the curriculum of the educational program.
 - d. When the informal review is complete, the ARC shall make a second finding whether the educational program is eligible for approval and send written notice of the second finding to the applicant.

- e. An applicant that receives a second notice of ineligibility under subsection (D)(2)(d), may appeal the finding by submitting to the Board, within 30 days after the second notice is served, a written request for a formal administrative hearing under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
 - f. The Board shall either refer a request for a formal administrative hearing to the Office of Administrative Hearings or schedule the hearing before the Board. If no request for a formal administrative hearing is made under subsection (D)(2)(e), the ARC shall recommend to the Board that the educational program be denied approval and the applicant's file be closed with no recourse to appeal.
 - g. If a formal administrative hearing is held before the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Board shall review the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge and issue an order either granting or denying approval of the educational program.
 - h. If a formal administrative hearing is held before the Board, the Board shall issue findings of fact and conclusions of law and issue an order either granting or denying approval of the educational program.
 - i. The Board shall send the applicant a copy of the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order.
- E.** The Board shall add an approved educational program to the list of approved educational programs that the Board maintains.
- F.** The Board's approval of an educational program is valid for five years unless the accredited college or university makes a change to the educational program that is inconsistent with the curriculum standards specified in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33, and this Chapter.
- G.** An authorized representative of a regionally accredited college or university with a Board-approved educational program shall certify annually, using a form available from the Board, that there have been no changes to the approved educational program.
- H.** If a regionally accredited college or university makes one of the following changes to an approved educational program, the regionally accredited college or university shall notify the Board within 60 days after making the change and request approval of the educational program change under subsection (I):
- 1. Change to more than 25 percent of course competencies;
 - 2. Change to more than 25 percent of course learning objectives;
 - 3. Addition of a course in one of the core content areas specified in R4-6-501, R4-6-601, or R4-6-701; or
 - 4. Deletion of a course in one of the core content areas specified in R4-6-501, R4-6-601, or R4-6-701.
- I.** To apply for approval of an educational program change, an authorized representative of the regionally accredited college or university shall submit:
- 1. An approved educational program change form available from the Board;
 - 2. The fee prescribed under R4-6-215; and
 - 3. Documentary evidence that the change to the approved educational program is consistent with the curriculum standards specified in A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33, and this Chapter.
- J.** To maintain approved status of an educational program after five years, an authorized representative of the regionally accredited college or university shall make application under subsection (A).
- K.** The Board shall process the materials submitted under subsections (I) and (J) using the procedure specified in subsections (B) through (D).
- L.** Unless an educational program is currently approved by the Board under this Section, the regionally accredited college or university shall not represent that the educational program is Board approved in any program or marketing materials.

ARTICLE 4. SOCIAL WORK

R4-6-401. Curriculum

- A.** An applicant for licensure as a baccalaureate social worker shall have a baccalaureate degree in social work from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by the CSWE or an equivalent foreign degree as determined by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the CSWE.
- B.** An applicant for licensure as a master or clinical social worker shall have a master or higher degree in social work from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by the CSWE or an equivalent foreign degree as determined by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the CSWE.

R4-6-402. Examination

- A. To be licensed as a baccalaureate social worker, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the bachelors, masters, advanced generalist, or clinical examination offered by ASWB.
- B. To be licensed as a master social worker, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the masters, advanced generalist, or clinical examination offered by ASWB.
- C. To be licensed as a clinical social worker, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the clinical examination offered by ASWB.
- D. An applicant for baccalaureate, master, or clinical social worker licensure shall receive a passing score on an approved examination for the level of licensure requested within 12 months after receiving written examination authorization from the Board. An applicant shall not take an approved licensure examination more than three times during the 12-month testing period.
- E. If an applicant does not receive a passing score on an approved licensure examination within the 12 months referenced in subsection (D), the Board shall close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for licensure, an applicant whose file is closed shall submit a new application and fee.
- F. The Board may grant a one-time 90-day examination extension request to an applicant who demonstrates good cause as specified under R4-6-305(G).

R4-6-403. Supervised Work Experience for Clinical Social Worker Licensure

- A. An applicant for clinical social worker licensure shall demonstrate completion of at least 3200 hours of supervised work experience in the practice of clinical social work in no less than 24 months. Supervised work experience in the practice of clinical social work shall include:
 - 1. At least 1600 hours of direct client contact involving the use of psychotherapy;
 - 2. No more than 400 of the 1600 hours of direct client contact are in psychoeducation;
 - 3. At least 100 hours of clinical supervision as prescribed under R4-6-212 and R4-6-404; and
 - 4. For the purpose of licensure, no more than 1600 hours of indirect client contact related to psychotherapy services.
- B. For any month in which an applicant provides direct client contact, the applicant shall obtain at least one hour of clinical supervision.
- C. An applicant may submit more than the required 3200 hours of supervised work experience for consideration by the Board.
- D. During the period of required supervised work experience specified in subsection (A), an applicant for clinical social worker licensure shall practice behavioral health under the limitations specified in R4-6-210.
- E. There is no supervised work experience requirement for licensure as a baccalaureate or master social worker.

R4-6-404. Clinical Supervision for Clinical Social Worker Licensure

- A. An applicant for clinical social worker licensure shall demonstrate that the applicant received at least 100 hours of clinical supervision that meet the requirements specified in subsection (B) and R4-6-212 during the supervised work experience required under R4-6-403.
- B. The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision for clinical social worker licensure if the hours required under subsection (A) meet the following:
 - 1. At least 50 hours are supervised by a clinical social worker licensed by the Board, and
 - 2. The remaining hours are supervised by an individual qualified under R4-6-212(A), or
 - 3. The hours are supervised by an individual for whom an exemption was obtained under R4-6-212.01.
- C. The Board shall not accept hours of clinical supervision for clinical social worker licensure provided by a substance abuse counselor.

R4-6-405. Repealed

ARTICLE 5. COUNSELING

R4-6-501. Curriculum

- A.** An applicant for licensure as an associate or professional counselor shall have a master's or higher degree with a major emphasis in counseling from:
1. A program accredited by CACREP or CORE that consists of at least 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours, including a supervised counseling practicum as prescribed under subsection (E);
 2. An educational program previously approved by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3253(A)(14) that consists of at least 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours, including a supervised counseling practicum as prescribed under subsection (E); or
 3. A program from a regionally accredited college or university that consists of at least 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours, meets the requirements specified in subsections (C) and (D), and includes a supervised counseling practicum as prescribed under subsection (E).
- B.** To assist the Board to evaluate a program under subsection (A)(3), an applicant who obtained a degree from a program under subsection (A)(3) shall attach the following to the application required under R4-6-301:
1. Published college or university course descriptions for the year and semester enrolled for each course submitted to meet curriculum requirements,
 2. Verification, using a form approved by the Board, of completing the supervised counseling practicum required under subsection (E); and
 3. Other documentation requested by the Board.
- C.** The Board shall accept for licensure the curriculum from a program not accredited by CACREP or CORE if the curriculum includes at least 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours in counseling-related coursework, of which at least three semester or 4 quarter credit hours are in each of the following eight core content areas:
1. Professional orientation and ethical practice: Studies that provide a broad understanding of professional counseling ethics and legal standards, including but not limited to:
 - a. Professional roles, functions, and relationships;
 - b. Professional credentialing;
 - c. Ethical standards of professional organizations; and
 - d. Application of ethical and legal considerations in counseling;
 2. Social and cultural diversity: Studies that provide a broad understanding of the cultural context of relationships, issues, and trends in a multicultural society, including but not limited to:
 - a. Theories of multicultural counseling, and
 - b. Multicultural competencies and strategies;
 3. Human growth and development: Studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental stages, including but not limited to:
 - a. Theories of individual and family development across the life-span, and
 - b. Theories of personality development;
 4. Career development: Studies that provide a broad understanding of career development and related life factors, including but not limited to:
 - a. Career development theories, and
 - b. Career decision processes;
 5. Helping relationship: Studies that provide a broad understanding of counseling processes, including but not limited to:
 - a. Counseling theories and models,
 - b. Essential interviewing and counseling skills, and
 - c. Therapeutic processes;
 6. Group work: Studies that provide a broad understanding of group development, dynamics, counseling theories, counseling methods and skills, and other group work approaches, including but not limited to:
 - a. Principles of group dynamics,
 - b. Group leadership styles and approaches, and
 - c. Theories and methods of group counseling;
 7. Assessment: Studies that provide a broad understanding of individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation, including but not limited to:

- a. Diagnostic process including differential diagnosis and use of diagnostic classification systems such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases,
 - b. Use of assessment for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes, and
 - c. Basic concepts of standardized and non-standardized testing; and
8. Research and program evaluation: Studies that provide a broad understanding of recognized research methods and design and basic statistical analysis, including but not limited to:
- a. Qualitative and quantitative research methods, and
 - b. Statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation.
- D.** In evaluating the curriculum required under subsection (C), the Board shall assess whether a core content area is embedded or contained in more than one course. The applicant shall provide information the Board requires to determine whether a core content area is embedded in multiple courses. The Board shall not accept a core content area embedded in more than two courses unless the courses are succession courses. The Board shall allow subject matter in a course to qualify in only one core content area.
- E.** The Board shall accept a supervised counseling practicum that is part of a master's or higher degree program if the supervised counseling practicum meets the following standards:
- 1. Consists of at least 700 clock hours in a professional counseling setting,
 - 2. Includes at least 240 hours of direct client contact,
 - 3. Provides an opportunity for the supervisee to perform all activities associated with employment as a professional counselor,
 - 4. Oversight of the counseling practicum is provided by a faculty member, and
 - 5. Onsite supervision is provided by an individual approved by the college or university.
- F.** The Board shall require that an applicant for professional counselor licensure who received a master's or higher degree before July 1, 1989, from a program that did not include a supervised counseling practicum complete three years of post-master's or higher degree work experience in counseling under direct supervision. One year of a doctoral-clinical internship may be substituted for one year of supervised work experience.
- G.** The Board shall accept for licensure only courses that the applicant completed with a passing grade.
- H.** The Board shall deem an applicant to meet the curriculum requirements for professional counselor licensure if the applicant:
- 1. Holds an active and in good standing associate counselor license issued by the Board; and
 - 2. Met the curriculum requirements with a master's degree in a behavioral health field from a regionally accredited university when the associate counselor license was issued.

R4-6-502. Examination

- A.** The Board approves the following examinations for applicants for counselor licensure:
- 1. National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification offered by the National Board for Certified Counselors,
 - 2. National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination offered by the National Board for Certified Counselors, and
 - 3. Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination offered by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.
- B.** Except as specified in subsection (E), an applicant shall pass an approved examination within 12 months after receiving written examination authorization from the Board. An applicant shall not take an examination more than three times during the 12-month testing period.
- C.** If an applicant does not receive a passing score within the 12 months referenced in subsection (B), the Board shall close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for licensure, an applicant whose file is closed shall submit a new application and fee.
- D.** The Board may grant a one-time 90-day examination extension request to an applicant who demonstrates good cause as specified under R4-6-305(G).
- E.** The Board shall deem an applicant for professional counselor licensure to meet the exam requirement if the applicant holds an active and in good standing associate counselor license issued by the Board pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3274 or A.R.S. § 32-4302.

R4-6-503. Supervised Work Experience for Professional Counselor Licensure

- A. An applicant for professional counselor licensure shall demonstrate completion of at least 3200 hours of supervised work experience in the practice of professional counseling in no less than 24 months. The applicant shall ensure that the supervised work experience includes:
 - 1. At least 1600 hours of direct client contact involving the use of psychotherapy;
 - 2. No more than 400 of the 1600 hours of direct client contact are in psychoeducation;
 - 3. At least 100 hours of clinical supervision as prescribed under R4-6-212 and R4-6-504; and
 - 4. For the purpose of licensure, no more than 1600 hours of indirect client contact related to psychotherapy services.
- B. For any month in which an applicant provides direct client contact, the applicant shall obtain at least one hour of clinical supervision.
- C. An applicant may submit more than the required 3200 hours of supervised work experience for consideration by the Board.
- D. During the period of supervised work experience specified in subsection (A), an applicant for professional counselor licensure shall practice behavioral health under the limitations specified in R4-6-210.
- E. There is no supervised work experience requirement for licensure as an associate counselor.

R4-6-504. Clinical Supervision for Professional Counselor Licensure

- A. An applicant for professional counselor licensure shall demonstrate that the applicant received at least 100 hours of clinical supervision that meet the requirements specified in subsection (B) and R4-6-212 during the supervised work experience required under R4-6-503.
- B. The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision for professional counselor licensure from the following behavioral health professionals who meet the educational requirements under R4-6-214:
 - 1. A licensed professional counselor;
 - 2. A licensed clinical social worker;
 - 3. A licensed marriage and family therapist;
 - 4. A licensed psychologist; or
 - 5. An individual for whom an exemption was obtained under R4-6-212.01.
- C. The Board shall not accept hours of clinical supervision provided by a substance abuse counselor for professional counselor licensure.

R4-6-505. Post-degree Programs

An applicant who has a master's or higher degree with a major emphasis in counseling but does not meet all curriculum requirements specified in R4-6-501 may take post-graduate courses from a regionally accredited college or university to remove the curriculum deficiencies as follows:

- 1. An applicant whose degree did not consist of 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours may take graduate or higher level counseling-related courses to meet the curriculum requirement;
- 2. An applicant whose degree did not include the eight core content areas specified in R4-6-501(C) may take graduate or higher level courses to meet the core content requirement; and
- 3. An applicant whose practicum did not meet the requirements specified in R4-6-501(E) may obtain additional graduate level supervised practicum hours.

ARTICLE 6. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

R4-6-601. Curriculum

- A. An applicant for licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist shall have a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health science program that:
 - 1. Is accredited by COAMFTE;
 - 2. Was previously approved by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3253(A)(14); or

3. Includes at least three semester or four quarter credit hours in each of the number of courses specified in the six core content areas listed in subsection (B).
- B.** A program under subsection (A)(3) shall include:
1. Marriage and family studies: Three courses from a family systems theory orientation that collectively contain at minimum the following elements:
 - a. Introductory family systems theory;
 - b. Family development;
 - c. Family systems, including marital, sibling, and individual subsystems; and
 - d. Gender and cultural issues;
 2. Marriage and family therapy: Three courses that collectively contain at minimum the following elements:
 - a. Advanced family systems theory and interventions;
 - b. Major systemic marriage and family therapy treatment approaches;
 - c. Communications; and
 - d. Sex therapy;
 3. Human development: Three courses that may integrate family systems theory that collectively contain at minimum the following elements:
 - a. Normal and abnormal human development;
 - b. Human sexuality; and
 - c. Psychopathology and abnormal behavior;
 4. Professional studies: One course including at minimum:
 - a. Professional ethics as a therapist, including legal and ethical responsibilities and liabilities; and
 - b. Family law;
 5. Research: One course in research design, methodology, and statistics in behavioral health science; and
 6. Supervised practicum: Two courses that supplement the practical experience gained under subsection (D).
- C.** In evaluating the curriculum required under subsection (B), the Board shall assess whether a core content area is embedded or contained in more than one course. The applicant shall provide information the Board requires to determine whether a core content area is embedded in multiple courses. The Board shall not accept a core content area embedded in more than two courses unless the courses are succession courses. The Board shall allow subject matter in a course to qualify in only one core content area.
- D.** A program's supervised practicum shall meet the following standards:
1. Provides an opportunity for the enrolled student to provide marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples, and families in an educational or professional setting under the direction of a faculty member or supervisor designated by the college or university;
 2. Includes at least 300 client-contact hours provided under direct supervision;
 3. Has supervision provided by a designated licensed marriage and family therapist.
- E.** An applicant may submit a written request to the ARC for an exemption from the requirement specified in subsection (D)(3). The request shall include the name of the behavioral health professional proposed by the applicant to act as supervisor of the practicum, a copy of the proposed supervisor's transcript and curriculum vitae, and any additional documentation requested by the ARC. The ARC shall grant the exemption if the ARC determines the proposed supervisor is qualified by education, experience, and training to provide supervision.
- F.** The Board shall deem an applicant to meet the curriculum requirements for marriage and family therapist licensure if the applicant:
1. Holds an active and in good standing associate marriage and family therapist license issued by the Board; and
 2. Met the curriculum requirements with a master's degree in a behavioral health field from a regionally accredited university when the associate marriage and family therapist license was issued.

R4-6-602. Examination

- A.** The Board approves the marriage and family therapy licensure examination offered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards.

- B. Except as specified in subsection (E), an applicant shall pass the approved examination within 12 months after receiving written examination authorization from the Board. An applicant shall not take the examination more than three times during the 12-month testing period.
- C. If an applicant does not receive a passing score within the 12 months referenced in subsection (B), the Board shall close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for licensure, an applicant whose file is closed shall submit a new application and fee.
- D. The Board may grant a one-time 90-day examination extension request to an applicant who demonstrates good cause as specified under R4-6-305(G).
- E. The Board shall deem an applicant for marriage and family therapist licensure to meet the examination requirement if the applicant holds an active and in good standing associate marriage and family therapist license issued by the Board pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3274 or A.R.S. § 32-4302.

R4-6-603. Supervised Work Experience for Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure

- A. An applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall demonstrate completion of at least 3200 hours of supervised work experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy in no less than 24 months. The applicant shall ensure that the supervised work experience includes:
 - 1. At least 1600 hours of direct client contact involving the use of psychotherapy:
 - a. At least 1000 of the 1600 hours of direct client contact are with couples or families; and
 - b. No more than 400 of the 1600 hours of direct client contact are in psychoeducation and at least 60 percent of psychoeducation hours are with couples or families;
 - 2. At least 100 hours of clinical supervision as prescribed under R4-6-212 and R4-6-604; and
 - 3. For the purpose of licensure, no more than 1600 hours of indirect client contact related to psychotherapy services.
- B. For any month in which an applicant provides direct client contact, the applicant shall obtain at least one hour of clinical supervision.
- C. An applicant may submit more than the required 3200 hours of supervised work experience for consideration by the Board.
- D. During the period of supervised work experience specified in subsection (A), an applicant for marriage and family therapist licensure shall practice behavioral health under the limitations specified in R4-6-210.
- E. There is no supervised work experience requirement for licensure as an associate marriage and family therapist.

R4-6-604. Clinical Supervision for Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure

- A. An applicant for marriage and family therapy licensure shall demonstrate that the applicant received at least 100 hours of clinical supervision that meets the requirements specified in subsection (B) and R4-6-212 during the supervised work experience required under R4-6-603.
- B. The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision for marriage and family therapist licensure if:
 - 1. The hours are supervised by an individual who meets the educational requirements under R4-6-214;
 - 2. At least 50 of the hours are supervised by:
 - a. A marriage and family therapist licensed by the Board; or
 - b. An independently licensed behavioral health professional who holds an Approved Supervisor designation from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; and
 - 3. The remaining hours are supervised by one or more of the following:
 - a. A professional counselor licensed by the Board;
 - b. A clinical social worker licensed by the Board;
 - c. A marriage and family therapist licensed by the Board; or
 - d. A psychologist licensed under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 19.1; or
 - 4. The hours are supervised by an individual for whom an exemption is obtained under R4-6-212.01.
- C. The Board shall not accept hours of clinical supervision provided by a substance abuse counselor for marriage and family therapy licensure.

R4-6-605. Post-degree Programs

An applicant who has a master's or higher degree in a behavioral health science but does not meet all curriculum requirements specified in R4-6-601 may take post-graduate courses from a regionally accredited college or university to remove the curriculum deficiencies if:

1. The deficiencies constitute no more than 12 semester or 16 quarter credit hours; and
2. Courses taken to remove the deficiencies are at a graduate or higher level.

R4-6-606. Repealed**ARTICLE 7. SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING****R4-6-701. Licensed Substance Abuse Technician Curriculum**

A. An applicant for licensure as a substance abuse technician shall have:

1. An associate's or bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by NASAC;
2. An associate's or bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in an educational program previously approved by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3253(A)(14); or
3. An associate's or bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health science program that includes coursework from the seven core content areas listed in subsection (B).

B. An associate's or bachelor's degree under subsection (A)(3), shall include at least three semester or four quarter credit hours in each of the following core content areas:

1. Psychopharmacology, including but not limited to effects on mood, behavior, cognition and physiology;
2. Models of treatment and relapse prevention, including but not limited to philosophies and practices of generally accepted and evidence-supported models;
3. Group work: Group dynamics and processes as they relate to addictions and substance use disorders;
4. Working with diverse populations: Issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society as they relate to substance use disorder and addiction;
5. Co-occurring disorders, including but not limited to philosophies and practices of generally accepted and evidence-supported models;
6. Ethics, including but not limited to:
 - a. Legal and ethical responsibilities and liabilities;
 - b. Standards of professional behavior and scope of practice;
 - c. Client rights, responsibilities, and informed consent; and
 - d. Confidentiality and other legal considerations in the practice of behavioral health; and
7. Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. Use of assessment and diagnosis to develop appropriate treatment interventions for substance use disorders or addictions.

C. The Board shall waive the education requirement in subsection (A) for an applicant requesting licensure as a substance abuse technician if the applicant demonstrates all of the following:

1. The applicant provides services under a contract or grant with the federal government under the authority of 25 U.S.C. § 5301 or § 1601 – 1683;
2. The applicant has obtained at least the equivalent of a high school diploma;
3. Because of cultural considerations, obtaining the degree required under subsection (A) would be an extreme hardship for the applicant; and
4. The applicant has completed at least 6400 hours of supervised work experience in substance abuse counseling, as prescribed in R4-6-705(C), in no less than 48 months within the seven years immediately preceding the date of application.

D. In evaluating the curriculum required under subsection (B), the Board shall assess whether a core content area is embedded or contained in more than one course. The applicant shall provide information the Board requires to determine whether a core content area is embedded in multiple courses. The Board shall not accept a core content area embedded in more than two courses unless the courses are succession courses. The Board shall allow subject matter in a course to qualify in only one core content area.

- E. An applicant for licensure as a substance abuse technician who completed the applicant's educational training before the effective date of this Section or no later than October 31, 2017, may request that the Board evaluate the applicant's educational training using the standards in effect before the effective date of this Section.

R4-6-702. Licensed Associate Substance Abuse Counselor Curriculum

- A. An applicant for licensure as an associate substance abuse counselor shall have one of the following:
 - 1. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by NASAC and supervised work experience that meets the standards specified in R4-6-705(A);
 - 2. A master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a program accredited by NASAC;
 - 3. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health science program that meets the core content standards specified in R4-6-701(B) and supervised work experience that meets the standards specified in R4-6-705(A);
 - 4. A master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health science program that meets the core content standards specified in R4-6-701(B) and includes at least 300 hours of supervised practicum as prescribed under subsection (C); or
 - 5. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in an educational program previously approved by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3253(A)(14) and supervised work experience that meets the standards specified in R4-6-705(A); or
 - 6. A master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in an educational program previously approved by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3253(A)(14) and includes at least 300 hours of supervised practicum as prescribed under subsection (C).
- B. In evaluating the curriculum required under subsection (A)(3) or (4), the Board shall assess whether a core content area is embedded or contained in more than one course. The applicant shall provide information the Board requires to determine whether a core content area is embedded in multiple courses. The Board shall not accept a core content area embedded in more than two courses unless the courses are succession courses. The Board shall allow subject matter in a course to qualify in only one core content area.
- C. Supervised practicum. A supervised practicum shall integrate didactic learning related to substance use disorders with face-to-face, direct counseling experience. The counseling experience shall include intake and assessment, treatment planning, discharge planning, documentation, and case management activities.
- D. The Board shall deem an applicant to meet the curriculum requirements for associate substance abuse counselor licensure if the applicant:
 - 1. Holds an active and in good standing substance abuse technician license issued by the Board; and
 - 2. Met the curriculum requirements with a bachelor's degree when the substance abuse technician license was issued.
- E. An applicant for licensure as an associate substance abuse counselor who completed the applicant's educational training before the effective date of this Section or no later than October 31, 2017, may request that the Board evaluate the applicant's educational training using the standards in effect before the effective date of this Section.

R4-6-703. Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor Curriculum

- A. An applicant for licensure as an independent substance abuse counselor shall have a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in one of the following:
 - 1. A program accredited by NASAC;
 - 2. A behavioral health science program that meets the core content standards specified in R4-6-701(B) and includes at least 300 hours of supervised practicum as prescribed under subsection (D); or
 - 3. An educational program previously approved by the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3253(A)(14) that includes at least 300 hours of supervised practicum as prescribed under subsection (D).
- B. In addition to the degree requirement under subsection (A), an applicant for licensure as an independent substance abuse counselor shall complete the supervised work experience requirements prescribed under R4-6-705(B).
- C. In evaluating the curriculum required under subsection (A)(2), the Board shall assess whether a core content area is embedded or contained in more than one course. The applicant shall provide information the Board

requires to determine whether a core content area is embedded in multiple courses. The Board shall not accept a core content area embedded in more than two courses unless the courses are succession courses. The Board shall allow subject matter in a course to qualify in only one core content area.

- D. Supervised practicum. A supervised practicum shall integrate didactic learning related to substance use disorders with face-to-face, direct counseling experience. The counseling experience shall include intake and assessment, treatment planning, discharge planning, documentation, and case management activities.
- E. The Board shall deem an applicant to meet the curriculum requirements for independent substance abuse counselor licensure if the applicant:
 - 1. Holds an active and in good standing associate substance abuse counselor license issued by the Board; and
 - 2. Met the curriculum requirements with a master's degree when the associate substance abuse counselor license was issued.
- F. An applicant for licensure as an independent substance abuse counselor who completed the applicant's educational training before the effective date of this Section or no later than October 31, 2017, may request that the Board evaluate the applicant's educational training using the standards in effect before the effective date of this Section.

R4-6-704. Examination

- A. The Board approves the following licensure examinations for an applicant for substance abuse technician licensure:
 - 1. Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor Examinations offered by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium, and
 - 2. Level I or higher examinations offered by the NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals.
- B. The Board approves the following licensure examinations for an applicant for associate or independent substance abuse counselor licensure:
 - 1. Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor Examination offered by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium,
 - 2. Level II or higher examinations offered by the NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals, and
 - 3. Examination for Master Addictions Counselors offered by the National Board for Certified Counselors.
- C. The Board shall deem an applicant for independent substance abuse counselor licensure as meeting the examination requirements if all of the following apply:
 - 1. The applicant has an active associate substance abuse counselor license;
 - 2. The applicant passed a written examination listed in subsection (A) before November 1, 2015; and
 - 3. The applicant submitted an application to the Board on or after November 1, 2015.
- D. An applicant shall pass an approved examination within 12 months after receiving written examination authorization from the Board. An applicant shall not take an approved examination more than three times during the 12-month testing period.
- E. If an applicant does not receive a passing score on an approved licensure examination within the 12 months referenced in subsection (D), the Board shall close the applicant's file with no recourse to appeal. To receive further consideration for licensure, an applicant whose file is closed shall submit a new application and fee.
- F. The Board may grant a one-time 90-day examination extension request to an applicant who demonstrates good cause as specified under R4-6-305(G).

R4-6-705. Supervised Work Experience for Substance Abuse Counselor Licensure

- A. An applicant for associate substance abuse counselor licensure who has a bachelor's degree and is required under R4-6-702(A) to participate in a supervised work experience shall complete at least 3200 hours of supervised work experience in substance abuse counseling in no less than 24 months. The applicant shall ensure that the supervised work experience relates to substance use disorder and addiction and meets the following standards:
 - 1. At least 1600 hours of direct client contact involving the use of psychotherapy related to substance use disorder and addiction issues,
 - 2. No more than 400 of the 1600 hours of direct client contact are in psychoeducation,

3. For the purpose of licensure, no more than 1600 hours of indirect client contact related to psychotherapy services,
 4. At least 100 hours of clinical supervision as prescribed under R4-6-212 and R4-6-706, and
 5. At least one hour of clinical supervision in any month in which the applicant provides direct client contact.
- B.** An applicant for independent substance abuse counselor licensure shall demonstrate completion of at least 3200 hours of supervised work experience in substance abuse counseling in no less than 24 months. The applicant shall ensure that the supervised work experience meets the standards specified in subsection (A).
- C.** An applicant for substance abuse technician qualifying under R4-6-701(C) shall complete at least 6400 hours of supervised work experience in no less than 48 months. The applicant shall ensure that the supervised work experience includes:
1. At least 3200 hours of direct client contact;
 2. Using psychotherapy to assess, diagnose, and treat individuals, couples, families, and groups for issues relating to substance use disorder and addiction; and
 3. At least 200 hours of clinical supervision as prescribed under R4-6-212 and R4-6-706.
- D.** An applicant may submit more than the required number of hours of supervised work experience for consideration by the Board.
- E.** During the period of required supervised work experience, an applicant for substance abuse licensure shall practice behavioral health under the limitations specified in R4-6-210.
- F.** There is no supervised work experience requirement for an applicant for licensure as:
1. A substance abuse technician qualifying under R4-6-701(A), or
 2. An associate substance abuse counselor qualifying under R4-6-702(A) with a master's or higher degree.

R4-6-706. Clinical Supervision for Substance Abuse Counselor Licensure

- A.** During the supervised work experience required under R4-6-705, an applicant for substance abuse counselor licensure shall demonstrate that the applicant received, for the level of licensure sought, at least the number of hours of clinical supervision specified in R4-6-705 that meets the requirements in subsection (B) and R4-6-212.
- B.** The Board shall accept hours of clinical supervision for substance abuse licensure if the focus of the supervised hours relates to substance use disorder and addiction and:
1. At least 50 hours are supervised by:
 - a. An independent substance abuse counselor licensed by the Board; or
 - b. An independently licensed behavioral health professional who:
 - i. Provides evidence of knowledge and experience in substance use disorder treatment; and
 - ii. Is approved by the ARC or designee, and
 2. The remaining hours are supervised by an individual qualified under R4-6-212(A), or
 3. The hours are supervised by an individual for whom an exemption was obtained under R4-6-212.01.

R4-6-707. Post-degree Programs

An applicant who has a behavioral health science degree from a regionally accredited college or university but does not meet all curriculum requirements specified in R4-6-701, R4-6-702, or R4-6-703 may take post-graduate courses from a regionally accredited college or university to remove the curriculum deficiencies. The Board shall accept a post-graduate course from a regionally accredited college or university to remove a curriculum deficiency if the course meets the following requirement, as applicable:

1. For an applicant who has an associate's or bachelor's degree, an undergraduate or higher level course; or
2. For an applicant who has a master's degree, a graduate or higher level course.

ARTICLE 8. LICENSE RENEWAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

R4-6-801. Renewal of Licensure

- A.** Under A.R.S. § 32-3273, a license issued by the Board under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33 and this Chapter is renewable every two years. A licensee who has more than one license may request in writing that the Board

synchronize the expiration dates of the licenses. The licensee shall pay any prorated fees required to accomplish the synchronization.

- B.** A licensee holding an active license to practice behavioral health in this state shall complete 30 clock hours of continuing education as prescribed under R4-6-802 between the date the Board received the licensee's last renewal application and the next license expiration date. A licensee may not carry excess continuing education hours from one license period to the next.
- C.** To renew licensure, a licensee shall submit the following to the Board on or before the date of license expiration or as specified in A.R.S. § 32-4301:
 - 1. A renewal application form, approved by the Board. The licensee shall ensure that the renewal form:
 - a. Includes a list of 30 clock hours of continuing education that the licensee completed during the license period;
 - b. If the documentation previously submitted under R4-6-301(12) was a limited form of work authorization issued by the federal government, includes evidence that the work authorization has not expired; and
 - c. Is signed by the licensee attesting that all information submitted is true and correct;
 - 2. Payment of the renewal fee as prescribed in R4-6-215; and
 - 3. Other documents requested by the Board to determine that the licensee continues to meet the requirements under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33 and this Chapter.
- D.** The Board may audit a licensee to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements under subsection (B). A licensee shall maintain documentation verifying compliance with the continuing education requirements as prescribed under R4-6-803.
- E.** A licensee whose license expires may have the license reinstated by complying with subsection (C) and paying a late renewal penalty within 90 days of the license expiration date. A license reinstated under this subsection is effective with no lapse in licensure.

R4-6-802. Continuing Education

- A.** A licensee who maintains more than one license may apply the same continuing education hours for renewal of each license if the content of the continuing education relates to the scope of practice of each license.
- B.** For each license period, a licensee may report a maximum of:
 - 1. Ten clock hours of continuing education for first-time presentations by the licensee that deal with current developments, skills, procedures, or treatments related to the practice of behavioral health. The licensee may claim one clock hour for each hour spent preparing, writing, and presenting information;
 - 2. Six clock hours of continuing education for attendance at a Board meeting where the licensee is not:
 - a. A member of the Board,
 - b. The subject of any matter on the agenda, or
 - c. The complainant in any matter that is on the agenda; and
 - 3. Ten clock hours of continuing education for service as a Board or ARC member.
- C.** For each license period, a licensee shall report:
 - 1. A minimum of three clock hours of continuing education sponsored, approved, or offered by an entity listed in subsection (D) in:
 - a. Behavioral health ethics or mental health law, and
 - b. Cultural competency and diversity; and
 - 2. Completion of the three clock hour Arizona Statutes/Regulations Tutorial.
- D.** A licensee shall participate in continuing education that relates to the scope of practice of the license held and to maintaining or improving the skill and competency of the licensee. The Board has determined that in addition to the continuing education listed in subsections (B) and (C), the following continuing education meets this standard:
 - 1. Activities sponsored or approved by national, regional, or state professional associations or organizations in the specialties of marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, social work, substance abuse counseling, or in the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, psychology, or pastoral counseling;
 - 2. Programs in behavioral health sponsored or approved by a regionally accredited college or university;

3. In-service training, courses, or workshops in behavioral health sponsored by federal, state, or local social service agencies, public school systems, or licensed health facilities or hospitals;
 4. Graduate or undergraduate courses in behavioral health offered by a regionally accredited college or university. One semester-credit hour or the hour equivalent of one semester hour equals 15 clock hours of continuing education;
 5. Publishing a paper, report, or book that deals with current developments, skills, procedures, or treatments related to the practice of behavioral health. For the license period in which publication occurs, the licensee may claim one clock hour for each hour spent preparing and writing materials; and
 6. Programs in behavioral health sponsored by a state superior court, adult probation department, or juvenile probation department.
- E. The Board has determined that a substance abuse technician, associate substance abuse counselor, or an independent substance abuse counselor shall ensure that at least 20 of the 30 clock hours of continuing education required under R4-6-801(B) are in the following categories:
1. Pharmacology and psychopharmacology,
 2. Addiction processes,
 3. Models of substance use disorder and addiction treatment,
 4. Relapse prevention,
 5. Interdisciplinary approaches and teams in substance use disorder and addiction treatment,
 6. Substance use disorder and addiction assessment and diagnostic criteria,
 7. Appropriate use of substance use disorder and addiction treatment modalities,
 8. Substance use disorder and addiction as it related to diverse populations,
 9. Substance use disorder and addiction treatment and prevention,
 10. Clinical application of current substance use disorder and addiction research, or
 11. Co-occurring disorders.

R4-6-803. Continuing Education Documentation

- A. A licensee shall maintain documentation of continuing education for 24 months following the date of the license renewal.
- B. The licensee shall retain the following documentation as evidence of participation in continuing education:
1. For conferences, seminars, workshops, and in-service training presentations, a signed certificate of attendance or a statement from the provider verifying the licensee’s participation in the activity, including the title of the program, name, address, and telephone number of the sponsoring organization, names of presenters, date of the program, and clock hours involved;
 2. For first-time presentations by a licensee, the title of the program, name, address, and telephone number of the sponsoring organization, date of the program, syllabus, and clock hours required to prepare and make the presentation;
 3. For a graduate or undergraduate course, an official transcript;
 4. For an audited graduate or undergraduate course, an official transcript; and
 5. For attendance at a Board meeting, a signed certificate of attendance prepared by the Board.

R4-6-804 Repealed

ARTICLE 9. APPEAL OF LICENSURE OR LICENSURE RENEWAL INELIGIBILITY

R4-6-901. Appeal Process for Licensure Ineligibility

- A. An applicant for licensure may be found ineligible because of unprofessional conduct or failure to meet licensure requirements.
- B. If the ARC finds an applicant is ineligible because of failure to meet licensure requirements:
1. The ARC shall send a written notice of the finding of ineligibility to the applicant with an explanation of the basis for the finding.
 2. An applicant who wishes to appeal the finding of ineligibility shall submit a written request for an informal review meeting to the ARC within 30 days after the notice of ineligibility is served. If an

informal review meeting is not requested within the time provided, the ARC shall recommend to the Board that licensure be denied and the licensee's file be closed with no recourse to appeal.

3. If a request for an informal review meeting is received within the 30 days provided under subsection (B)(2), the ARC shall schedule the informal review meeting and provide at least 30-days' notice to the applicant. At the informal review meeting, the ARC shall allow the applicant to present additional information regarding the applicant's qualifications for licensure.
 4. When the review is complete, the ARC shall make a second finding whether the applicant is eligible for licensure. The ARC shall send written notice of this second finding to the applicant with an explanation of the basis for the finding.
 5. If the ARC again finds the applicant is ineligible for licensure, an applicant who wishes to appeal the second finding of ineligibility shall submit a written request to the Board for a formal administrative hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act, A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10, within 30 days after the second notice of ineligibility is served. The Board shall either refer the request for a formal administrative hearing to the Office of Administrative Hearings or schedule the formal administrative hearing before the Board. If a formal administrative hearing is not requested within 30 days, the ARC shall recommend to the Board that licensure be denied and the applicant's file be closed with no recourse to appeal.
 6. If the formal administrative hearing is held before the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Board shall review the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation and issue an order either to grant or deny licensure.
 7. If the formal administrative hearing is held before the Board, the Board shall issue the findings of fact and conclusions of law and shall issue an order either to grant or deny licensure.
 8. The Board shall send the applicant a copy of the final findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order. An applicant who is denied licensure following a formal administrative hearing is required to exhaust the applicant's administrative remedies as described in R4-6-1002 before seeking judicial review of the Board's final administrative decision.
- C. If the Board receives a complaint against an applicant while the applicant is under review for licensure, the Board shall review the complaint in accordance with the procedures in R4-6-1001. The Board shall not take final action on an application while a complaint is pending against the applicant.

R4-6-902. Appeal Process for Licensure Renewal Ineligibility

- A. A licensee who applies for licensure renewal may be found ineligible because of failure to meet licensure renewal requirements.
- B. If the Board finds an applicant for licensure renewal is ineligible because of failure to meet licensure renewal requirements:
 1. The Board shall send a written notice of the finding of ineligibility to the licensee with an explanation of the basis for the finding.
 2. A licensee who wishes to appeal the finding of ineligibility for licensure renewal shall submit a written request for an informal review meeting to the Board within 30 days after the notice of ineligibility is served. If an informal review meeting is not requested within the time provided, the Board shall deny licensure renewal and close the licensee's file with no recourse to appeal.
 3. If a request for an informal review meeting is received within the 30 days provided under subsection (B)(2), the Board shall schedule the informal review meeting and provide at least 30-days' notice to the licensee. At the informal review meeting, the Board shall allow the licensee to present additional information regarding the licensee's qualifications for renewal.
 4. When the informal review meeting is complete, the Board shall make a second finding whether the licensee meets renewal requirements. The Board shall send written notice of this second finding to the licensee with an explanation of the basis for the finding.
 5. If the Board again finds the licensee is ineligible for licensure renewal, a licensee who wishes to appeal the second finding of ineligibility shall submit a written request to the Board for a formal administrative hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act, A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10, within 30 days after the second notice of ineligibility is served. The Board shall either refer the request for a formal administrative hearing to the Office of Administrative Hearings or schedule the formal administrative

hearing before the Board. If a formal administrative hearing is not requested within 30 days, the Board shall deny licensure renewal and close the licensee's file with no recourse to appeal.

6. If the formal administrative hearing is held before the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Board shall review the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation and issue an order either to grant or deny licensure renewal.
7. If the formal administrative hearing is held before the Board, the Board shall issue the findings of fact and conclusions of law and issue an order either to grant or deny licensure renewal.
8. The Board shall send the licensee a copy of the final findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order. A licensee who is denied licensure renewal following a formal administrative hearing is required to exhaust the licensee's administrative remedies as described in R4-6-1002 before seeking judicial review of the Board's final administrative decision.

ARTICLE 10. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

R4-6-1001. Disciplinary Process

- A. If the Board receives a written complaint alleging a licensee is or may be incompetent, guilty of unprofessional practice, or mentally or physically unable to engage in the practice of behavioral health safely, the Board shall send written notice of the complaint to the licensee and require the licensee to submit a written response within 30 days from the date of service of the written notice of the complaint.
- B. The Board shall conduct all disciplinary proceedings according to A.R.S. §§ 32-3281 and 3282 and Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
- C. As provided under A.R.S. § 32-3282(B), a licensee who is the subject of a complaint, or the licensee's designated representative, may review the complaint investigative file at the Board office at least five business days before the meeting at which the Board is scheduled to consider the complaint. The Board may redact confidential information before making the investigative file available to the licensee.
- D. If the Board determines that disciplinary action is appropriate, the Board shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the following when determining the appropriate discipline:
 1. Prior disciplinary offenses;
 2. Dishonest or self-serving motive;
 3. Pattern of misconduct; multiple offenses;
 4. Bad faith obstruction of the disciplinary proceeding by intentionally failing to comply with rules or orders of the Board;
 5. Submission of false evidence, false statements, or other deceptive practices during the investigative or disciplinary process;
 6. Refusal to acknowledge wrongful nature of conduct; and
 7. Vulnerability of the victim.

R4-6-1002. Review or Rehearing of a Board Decision

- A. The Board shall provide for a rehearing or review of its decisions under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10 and the rules established by the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- B. Except as provided in subsection (I), a party is required to file a motion for rehearing or review of a Board decision to exhaust the party's administrative remedies. A party that has exhausted the party's administrative remedies may apply for judicial review of the final order issued by the Board in accordance with A.R.S. § 12-901 et seq.
- C. When a motion for rehearing or review is based on affidavits, the affidavits shall be served with the motion. An opposing party may, within 15 days after service, serve opposing affidavits.
- D. A party may amend a motion for rehearing or review at any time before the Board rules on the motion.
- E. An aggrieved party may seek a review or rehearing of a Board decision by submitting a written request for a review or rehearing to the Board within 30 days after service of the decision. The request shall specify the grounds for a review or rehearing. The Board shall grant a request for a review or rehearing for any of the following reasons materially affecting the rights of an aggrieved party:
 1. Irregularity in the administrative proceedings or any abuse of discretion that deprived the aggrieved party of a fair hearing;

2. Misconduct of the Board, its staff, an administrative law judge, or any party;
 3. Accident or surprise that could not have been prevented by ordinary prudence;
 4. Newly discovered material evidence that could not with reasonable diligence have been discovered and produced at the hearing;
 5. Excessive penalties;
 6. Decision, findings of fact, or conclusions not justified by the evidence or contrary to law; or
 7. Errors regarding the admission or rejection of evidence or errors of law that occurred at the hearing or during the progress of the proceedings.
- F.** The Board may affirm or modify the decision or grant a rehearing to any party on all or part of the issues for any of the reasons listed in subsection (E). An order modifying a decision or granting a rehearing shall specify with particularity the grounds for the order. The rehearing, if granted, shall be limited to the matters specified by the Board.
- G.** No later than 30 days after a decision is rendered, the Board may order a rehearing or review on its own initiative, for any reason it might have granted relief on motion of a party.
- H.** If the Board grants a request for rehearing, the Board shall hold the rehearing within 60 days after the date on the order granting the rehearing.
- I.** If the Board makes a specific finding that a particular decision needs to be effective immediately to preserve the public health, safety, or welfare, and that a rehearing or review of the decision is impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, the Board may issue the decision as a final order without an opportunity for a rehearing or review.

ARTICLE 11. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

R4-6-1101. Consent for Treatment

A licensee shall:

1. Provide treatment to a client only in the context of a professional relationship based on informed consent for treatment;
2. Document in writing for each client the following elements of informed consent for treatment:
 - a. Purpose of treatment;
 - b. General procedures to be used in treatment, including benefits, limitations, and potential risks;
 - c. The client's right to have the client's records and all information regarding the client kept confidential and an explanation of the limitations on confidentiality;
 - d. Notification of the licensee's supervision or involvement with a treatment team of professionals;
 - e. Methods for the client to obtain information about the client's records;
 - f. The client's right to participate in treatment decisions and in the development and periodic review and revision of the client's treatment plan;
 - g. The client's right to refuse any recommended treatment or to withdraw consent to treatment and to be advised of the consequences of refusal or withdrawal; and
 - h. The client's right to be informed of all fees that the client is required to pay and the licensee's refund and collection policies and procedures; and
3. Obtain a dated and signed informed consent for treatment from a client or the client's legal representative before providing treatment to the client and when a change occurs in an element listed in subsection (2) that might affect the client's consent for treatment;
4. Obtain a dated and signed informed consent for treatment from a client or the client's legal representative before audio or video taping the client or permitting a third party to observe treatment provided to the client; and
5. Include a dated signature from an authorized representative of the behavioral health entity.

R4-6-1102. Treatment Plan

A licensee shall:

1. Work jointly with each client or the client's legal representative to prepare an integrated, individualized, written treatment plan, based on the licensee's provisional or principal diagnosis and assessment of behavior and the treatment needs, abilities, resources, and circumstances of the client, that includes:

- a. One or more treatment goals;
 - b. One or more treatment methods;
 - c. The date when the client's treatment plan will be reviewed;
 - d. If a discharge date has been determined, the aftercare needed;
 - e. The dated signature of the client or the client's legal representative; and
 - f. The dated signature of the licensee;
2. Review and reassess the treatment plan:
 - a. According to the review date specified in the treatment plan as required under subsection (1)(c); and
 - b. At least annually with the client or the client's legal representative to ensure the continued viability and effectiveness of the treatment plan and, where appropriate, add a description of the services the client may need after terminating treatment with the licensee;
 3. Ensure that all treatment plan revisions include the dated signature of the client or the client's legal representative and the licensee;
 4. Upon written request, provide a client or the client's legal representative an explanation of all aspects of the client's condition and treatment; and
 5. Ensure that a client's treatment is in accordance with the client's treatment plan.

R4-6-1103. Client Record

- A. A licensee shall ensure that a client record is maintained for each client and:
 1. Is protected at all times from loss, damage, or alteration;
 2. Is confidential;
 3. Is legible and recorded in ink or electronically recorded;
 4. Contains entries that are dated and include the printed name and signature or electronic signature of the individual making the entry;
 5. Is current and accurate;
 6. Contains original documents and original signature, initials, or authentication; and
 7. Is disposed of in a manner that protects client confidentiality.
- B. A licensee shall ensure that a client record contains the following, if applicable:
 1. The client's name, address, and telephone number;
 2. Information or records provided by or obtained from another person regarding the client;
 3. Written authorization to release the client's record or information;
 4. Progress notes;
 5. Informed consent to treatment;
 6. Contemporaneous documentation of:
 - a. Treatment plan and all revisions to the treatment plan;
 - b. Requests for client records and resolution of the requests;
 - c. Release of any information in the client record;
 - d. Contact with the client or another individual that relates to the client's health, safety, welfare, or treatment; and
 - e. Behavioral health services provided to the client;
 7. Other information or documentation required by state or federal law.
 8. Financial records, including:
 - a. Records of financial arrangements for the cost of providing behavioral health services;
 - b. Measures that will be taken for nonpayment of the cost of behavioral health services provided by the licensee.
- C. A licensee shall make client records in the licensee's possession promptly available to another health professional and the client or the client's legal representative in accordance with A.R.S. § 12-2293.
- D. A licensee shall make client records of a minor client in the licensee's possession promptly available to the minor client's parent in accordance with A.R.S. § 25-403.06.
- E. A licensee shall retain records in accordance with A.R.S. § 12-2297.
- F. A licensee shall ensure the safety and confidentiality of any client records the licensee creates, maintains, transfers, or destroys whether the records are written, taped, computerized, or stored in any other medium.

- G. A licensee shall ensure that a client's privacy and the confidentiality of information provided by the client is maintained by subordinates, including employees, supervisees, clerical assistants, and volunteers.
- H. A licensee shall ensure that each progress note includes the following:
 - 1. The date a behavioral health service was provided;
 - 2. The time spent providing the behavioral health service;
 - 3. If counseling services were provided, whether the counseling was individual, couples, family, or group; and
 - 4. The dated signature of the licensee who provided the behavioral health service.

R4-6-1104. Financial and Billing Records

A licensee shall:

- 1. Make financial arrangements with a client or the client's legal representative, third-party payer, or supervisee that are reasonably understandable and conform to accepted billing practices;
- 2. Before entering a therapeutic relationship, clearly explain to a client or the client's legal representative, all financial arrangements related to professional services, including the use of collection agencies or legal measures for nonpayment;
- 3. Truthfully represent financial and billing facts to a client or the client's legal representative, third-party payer, or supervisee regarding services rendered; and
- 4. Maintain billing records, separate from clinical documentation, which correspond with the client record.

R4-6-1105. Confidentiality

- A. A licensee shall release or disclose client records or any information regarding a client only:
 - 1. In accordance with applicable federal or state law that authorizes release or disclosure; or
 - 2. With written authorization from the client or the client's legal representative.
- B. A licensee shall ensure that written authorization for release of client records or any information regarding a client is obtained before a client record or any information regarding a client is released or disclosed unless otherwise allowed by state or federal law.
- C. Written authorization includes:
 - 1. The name of the person disclosing the client record or information;
 - 2. The purpose of the disclosure;
 - 3. The individual, agency, or entity requesting or receiving the record or information;
 - 4. A description of the client record or information to be released or disclosed;
 - 5. A statement indicating authorization and understanding that authorization may be revoked at any time;
 - 6. The date or circumstance when the authorization expires, not to exceed 12 months;
 - 7. The date the authorization was signed; and
 - 8. The dated signature of the client or the client's legal representative.
- D. A licensee shall ensure that any written authorization to release a client record or any information regarding a client is maintained in the client record.
- E. If a licensee provides behavioral health services to multiple members of a family, each legally competent, participating family member shall independently provide written authorization to release client records regarding the family member. Without authorization from a family member, the licensee shall not disclose the family member's client record or any information obtained from the family member.

R4-6-1106. Telepractice

- A. Except as otherwise provided by statute, an individual who provides counseling, social work, marriage and family therapy, or substance abuse counseling via telepractice to a client located in Arizona shall be licensed by the Board.
- B. Except as otherwise provided by statute, a licensee who provides counseling, social work, marriage and family therapy, or substance abuse counseling via telepractice to a client located outside Arizona shall comply with not only A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 33, and this Chapter but also the laws and rules of the jurisdiction in which the client is located.
- C. An individual who provides counseling, social work, marriage and family therapy, or substance abuse counseling via telepractice shall:

1. In addition to complying with the requirements in R4-6-1101, document the limitations and risks associated with telepractice, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Inherent confidentiality risks of electronic communication,
 - b. Potential for technology failure,
 - c. Emergency procedures when the licensee is unavailable, and
 - d. Manner of identifying the client when using electronic communication that does not involve video;
2. In addition to complying with the requirements in R4-6-1103, include the following in the progress note required under R4-6-1103(H):
 - a. Mode of session, whether interactive audio, video, or electronic communication; and
 - b. Verification of the client's:
 - i. Physical location during the session; and
 - ii. Local emergency contacts.