

1 21 NCAC 53 .0701 is amended with changes as published in NCR 36:17, 1445-48, as follows:

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3 **SECTION .0700 – LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR ASSOCIATE**

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5 **21 NCAC 53 .0701 LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR ASSOCIATE**

6 A license as a licensed clinical mental health counselor associate shall be granted by the Board to persons preparing  
7 for the practice of counseling who have:

8 (1) if applied before July 1, [2022] 2025, completed graduate training as defined in G.S. 90-336(b)(1);  
9 G.S. 90-336(b1) or (b2), as applicable; and

10 ~~(2) — completed a minimum of three semester hours or five quarter hours in each of the required~~  
11 ~~coursework areas of study as follows:~~

12 (a) Coursework in Helping Relationships in Counseling. Studies in this area provide an  
13 understanding of counseling and consultation processes, including the following:

14 (i) counseling and consultation theories, including both individual and systems  
15 perspectives, as well as coverage of relevant research and factors considered in  
16 applications;

17 (ii) basic interviewing, assessment, and counseling skills;

18 (iii) counselor or consultant characteristics and behaviors that influence mental health  
19 counseling relationships, including age, gender, and ethnic differences; verbal and  
20 nonverbal behaviors; personal behaviors; and personal characteristics,  
21 orientations, and skills;

22 (iv) client or consultee characteristics and behaviors that influence mental health  
23 counseling relationships, including age, gender, and ethnic differences; verbal and  
24 nonverbal behaviors; and personal behaviors; personal characteristics,  
25 orientations and skills; and

26 (v) ethical considerations.

27 (b) Coursework in Practicum and Internship. Practicum and internship experience should be  
28 provided in a supervised graduate counseling experience in a regionally accredited program  
29 of study. This graduate counseling experience shall be completed as defined in Rule .0206  
30 of this Chapter.

31 (c) Coursework in Professional Orientation to Counseling. Studies in this area provide an  
32 understanding of all aspects of professional functioning, including history, roles,  
33 organizational structures, ethics, standards, and credentialing, including the following:

34 (i) history of the counseling profession, including significant factors and events;

35 (ii) professional roles and functions of counselors, including similarities and  
36 differences with other types of professionals;

- 1 (iii) professional organizations (primarily the ACA, its divisions, branches and  
2 affiliates), including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and  
3 current emphases;
- 4 (iv) ethical standards of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or ACA  
5 and related ethical and legal issues, and their applications to various professional  
6 activities (e.g., appraisal, group work);
- 7 (v) clinical mental health counselor preparation standards, their evolution, and current  
8 applications;
- 9 (vi) clinical mental health counselor credentialing, including counselor certification,  
10 licensure and accreditation practices and standards, and the effects of public  
11 policy on these issues;
- 12 (vii) public policy processes, including the role of the clinical mental health counselor  
13 advocating on behalf of the profession and its clientele; and
- 14 (viii) ethical considerations.
- 15 (d) Coursework in Human Growth and Development Theories in Counseling. Studies in this  
16 area provide an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental  
17 levels, relevant to counseling practice, including the following:
- 18 (i) theories of individual and family development, and transitions across the life span;  
19 (ii) theories of learning and personality development;
- 20 (iii) human behavior, including an understanding of developmental crises, disability,  
21 addictive behavior, psychopathology, and environmental factors as they affect  
22 both normal and abnormal behavior;
- 23 (iv) counseling strategies for facilitating development over the life span; and  
24 (v) ethical considerations.
- 25 (e) Coursework in Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling. Studies in this area provide  
26 an understanding of issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society that impact  
27 clinical mental health counselors and the counseling profession, including, the following:
- 28 (i) multicultural and pluralistic trends, including characteristics and concerns of  
29 counseling individuals from diverse groups;
- 30 (ii) attitudes and behavior based on factors such as age, race, religious preferences,  
31 physical disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and culture, family patterns,  
32 gender, socioeconomic status, and intellectual ability;
- 33 (iii) individual, family, and group counseling strategies with diverse populations; and  
34 (iv) ethical considerations.
- 35 (f) Coursework in Group Counseling Theories and Processes. Studies in this area provide an  
36 understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group counseling  
37 methods and skills; and other group work approaches, including the following:

- 1 (i) principals of group dynamics, including group counseling components,  
2 developmental stage theories, and group members' roles and behaviors;
- 3 (ii) group leadership styles and approaches, including characteristics of various types  
4 of group leaders and leadership styles;
- 5 (iii) theories of group counseling, including commonalities, distinguishing  
6 characteristics, and pertinent research and literature;
- 7 (iv) group counseling methods, including group counselor orientations and behaviors,  
8 ethical standards, appropriate selection criteria, and methods of evaluation of  
9 effectiveness;
- 10 (v) approaches used for other types of group work in counseling, including task  
11 groups, support groups, and therapy groups; and
- 12 (vi) ethical considerations.
- 13 (g) Coursework in Career Counseling and Lifestyle Development. Studies in this area provide  
14 an understanding of career counseling, development, and related life factors, including the  
15 following:
- 16 (i) career-counseling theories and decision-making process;
- 17 (ii) career, avocational, educational, and labor market information resources; visual  
18 and print media; and computer-based career information systems;
- 19 (iii) career-counseling program planning, organization, implementation,  
20 administration, and evaluation;
- 21 (iv) interrelationships among work, family, and other life roles and factors, including  
22 multicultural and gender issues as related to career counseling;
- 23 (v) career and educational placement counseling, follow-up, and evaluation;
- 24 (vi) assessment instruments and techniques relevant to career counseling;
- 25 (vii) computer-based career-development applications and strategies, including  
26 computer-assisted career-counseling systems;
- 27 (viii) career-counseling processes, techniques and resources, including those applicable  
28 to specific populations; and
- 29 (ix) ethical considerations.
- 30 (h) Coursework in Assessment in Counseling. Studies in this area provide an understanding of  
31 individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation in counseling practice,  
32 including the following:
- 33 (i) theoretical and historical bases for assessment techniques in counseling;
- 34 (ii) validity, including evidence for establishing content, construct, and empirical  
35 validity;
- 36 (iii) reliability, including methods of establishing stability, internal, and equivalence  
37 reliability;

- 1 (iv) appraisal methods, including environmental assessment, performance assessment,  
2 individual and group test and inventory methods, behavioral observations, and  
3 computer-managed and computer-assisted methods;
- 4 (v) psychometric statistics, including types of assessment scores, measures of central  
5 tendency, indices of variability, standard errors, and correlations;
- 6 (vi) age, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, and cultural factors related to the use  
7 of assessment and evaluation in counseling services;
- 8 (vii) strategies for selecting, administering, interpreting and using assessment and  
9 evaluation instruments, and techniques in counseling; and
- 10 (viii) ethical considerations.
- 11 (i) Coursework in Research and Program Evaluation. Studies in this area provide an  
12 understanding of types of research methods, basic statistics, and ethical and legal  
13 consideration in research, including the following:
- 14 (i) basic types of research methods to include qualitative and quantitative research  
15 designs;
- 16 (ii) basic parametric and nonparametric statistics;
- 17 (iii) principles, practices, and applications of needs assessment and program  
18 evaluation;
- 19 (iv) uses of computers for data management and analysis; and
- 20 (v) ethical and legal ~~considerations.~~ considerations; or
- 21 (2) If applied on or after July 1, ~~2022~~ 2025, completed graduate training as defined in G.S. 90-336(b2)  
22 and the required ~~[courses]~~ ~~content~~ ~~areas of study~~ of the current version of the Council for  
23 Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), available at  
24 www.cacrep.org, at the time of the receipt of application as defined in Rule .0308(a). The graduate  
25 coursework shall ~~include~~ ~~[include, but is not limited to, a minimum of]~~ three semester hours or five  
26 quarter hours in each of the required ~~[coursework]~~ ~~content~~ areas of study as follows:
- 27 (a) Theories of counseling and psychotherapy;
- 28 (b) Evaluation and appraisal procedures;
- 29 (c) Group dynamics, theories and techniques;
- 30 (d) Counseling techniques and helping skills;
- 31 (e) Multicultural counseling;
- 32 (f) ~~Introduction to clinical mental health counseling with professional issues and ethics;~~  
33 ~~[Professional issues and ethics;]~~
- 34 (g) Research;
- 35 (h) Career counseling;
- 36 (i) Psychosocial and human development across the lifespan;
- 37 (j) ~~[Clinical practicum]~~ ~~Practicum~~ and clinical mental health internship; and

1 (k) Appraisal and assessment of mental health disorders with use [Use] and application of the  
2 current version of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), appraisal  
3 and assessment of mental health disorders, psychopathology, diagnosis, treatment and  
4 treatment planning, and evidence based intervention and practice; to include  
5 psychopharmacology and differential diagnosis; and

6 (3) passed an examination as defined in Rule .0305 of this Chapter; and

7 (4) submitted a complete application for licensed clinical mental health counselor [~~associate.~~] associate;  
8 and

9 (5) earned 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate training in counseling or related field from  
10 a program that is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
11 Programs (CACREP).

12 To prevent a lapse in licensure, licensed clinical mental health counselor associates who desire to become licensed  
13 clinical mental health counselors shall complete the application process for the licensed clinical mental health  
14 counselor licensure no earlier than 60 days prior to expiration of their licensed clinical mental health counselor  
15 associate license or upon completion of the supervised professional practice hours as set forth in Rule .0208 of this  
16 Chapter to allow for administrative processing and Board action.

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18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-334(h); 90-336(a); 90-336(b);*

19 *Eff. January 1, 2010;*

20 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2014; January 1, 2010;*

21 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. April 27,*  
22 *2019;*

23 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2020 (S.L. 2019-240, s. 3.(k)).*

24 *Amended Eff. February, 2023*