



RULES WORKSHOP

Agency Affiliated Counselors

Presenters

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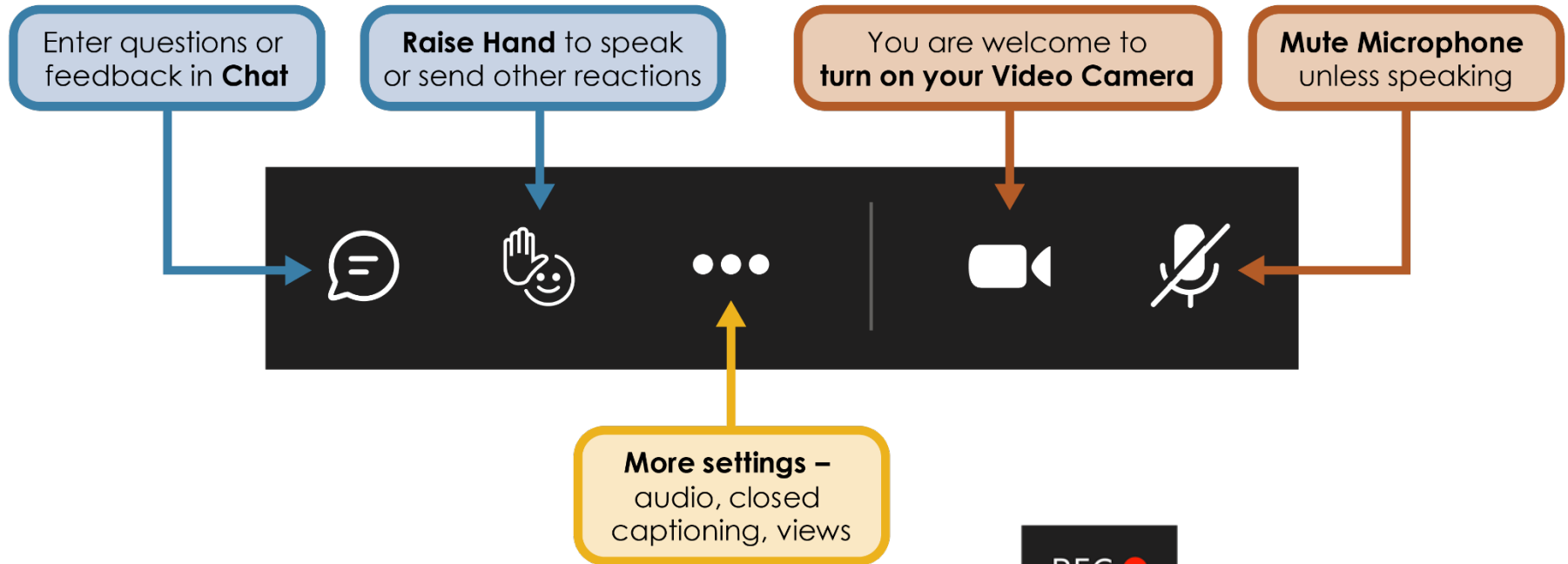
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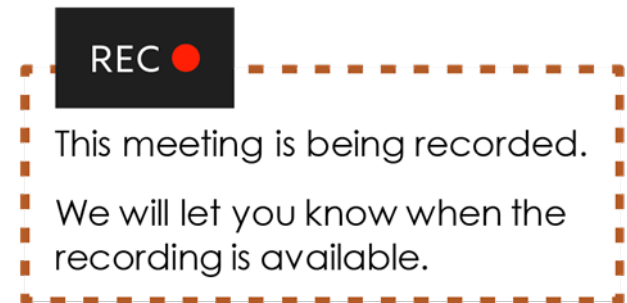
MEETING GUIDELINES

MS Teams Features We Will Use Today



Tips

- Try to be present
- State your name before speaking
- Speak clearly





WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Agenda

- Bill Overviews
 - HB 1724
 - HB 1504
- Rulemaking Process
 - Future Workshops - Timeline
- Student Interns
 - Draft Language from previous workshops
- AAC Rule Development
 - LAAC Coursework
 - CAAC Coursework

Bill Overview

House Bill 1724 (2023) established two new agency affiliated counselor credentials, the licensed agency affiliated counselor (LAAC) and the certified agency affiliated counselor (CAAC). These were created to address the Behavioral Health Workforce and to bring the agency Mental Health Professional (MHP) designation into alignment with the AAC statute.

- Certified AACs require a Bachelor's degree and 5 years of supervised experience. They can provide a provisional assessment and diagnosis that must be reviewed by an MHP.
- Licensed AACs require a Master's degree and 2 years of supervised experience. They can independently provide an assessment and diagnosis in their scope of practice.

Bill Overview

Subsection 5 of RCW 18.19.090:

“(5) Applicants for a certified or licensed agency affiliated counselor credential must have **counseling-specific coursework as determined by the department in rule**”

Initiated Rulemaking Steps:

- WSR 23-16-044 was filed July 25, 2023, to begin the standard rulemaking process to develop those coursework requirements
- WSR 23-23-136 was filed as emergency rules since Sections 13 through 20, which create the new AAC credentials and amends the definition of MHP, are among the sections that became effective immediately. The emergency rules will be continued while permanent rule making is in progress under WSR 23-16-044.

Bill Overview

House Bill 1504 (2021) allowed Student Interns to become Agency Affiliated Counselors (AACs), as defined by the department, and is supervised by agency staff.

- This was implemented immediately through the statute, RCW 18.19.010, and the definition of an AAC.
- Because this was available already, the rulemaking was delayed due to other rulemaking with specific deadlines.
- The passage of HB 1724 (2023) made many more changes to the Agency Affiliated Counselor profession, adding two new credentials and requiring additional rulemaking.
- The original CR 101 was closed, and a new CR 101 was filed to implement the changes in HB 1724, develop the definition of a student intern, and incorporate recommendations for Certified Counselors and Advisors from the advisory committee



RULEMAKING PROCESS

What is a Rule?

Rule: a regulation that helps give clarity if the underlying statute is broad or unclear.

An enforceable directive that:

- Subjects a person to a penalty or sanction if that person violates a regulation
- Sets qualifications for conveying privileges to people or entities
- Sets procedures or practices for agency hearings
- Licenses or permits individuals or entities and revokes licenses or permits
- Sets product or material standards for goods before they can be sold or distributed in Washington

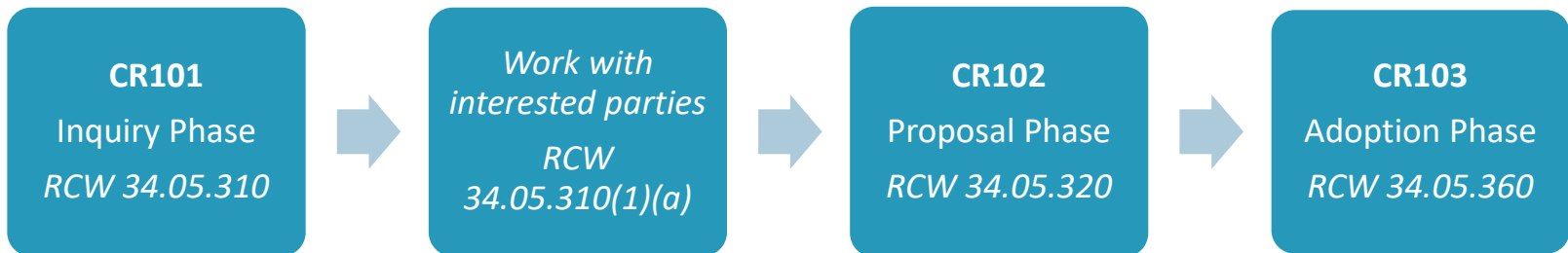
What may Generate Rulemaking?

- New or revised legislation
- Board/Commission or Department of Health (DOH) identifies need
- Formal petitions by interested parties under RCW 34.05.330
- Changes in technology or national standards
- Court decision
- Governor's directives

Standard Rulemaking Process

All phases include:

- Review and approval from DOH staff
- Filing with the Code Reviser(CR) office and issued a Washington State Register (WSR) number
- Example: WSR 20-10-100
- Notification of interested parties



Standard Rule Process*



*Standard rulemaking may take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Emergency Rulemaking

- Emergency Rulemaking only has a CR103 phase under RCWs 34.05.350 and 35.05.380 due to...
 - Immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule necessary to preserve public health, safety, or general welfare
 - State/federal law, federal rule, or federal deadline requiring immediate rule adoption to secure federal funds for the state
- Rule in place for 120 days but can be renewed

Approximate rulemaking timeline

File a new
CR101 –
completed
July 2023

File CR102
– January
2025

File CR103
– Spring
2025

Rules
workshops
–
Spring &
Summer
2024

Public
Hearing –
Spring
2025

New AAC
coursework
becomes a
requirement –
July 1, 2025



STUDENT INTERNS

Student Intern Draft Language

WAC 246-810-010 Definitions

(2) **"Agency affiliated counselor"** means a person registered under chapter **18.19 RCW**, and this chapter, who is engaged in counseling and employed by, or a student intern working in, an agency listed in WAC 246-810-016 or an agency recognized under WAC 246-810-017 to provide a specific counseling service or services.

(18) **"Student intern"** means a person currently enrolled in an educational program for a degree that requires an internship or practicum as a component of that program. The placement of the student intern must be coordinated with the educational program.

Student Intern Draft Language

WAC 246-810-012 Application process

- (1) Applicants for agency affiliated counselor, certified counselor, certified adviser, or hypnotherapist must apply on forms established by the secretary.
- (2) The application for agency affiliated counselor, certified counselor, or certified adviser, must include a description of the applicant's orientation, discipline, theory, or technique.
- (3) Student interns applying to be an agency affiliated counselor must provide information about their educational program and planned internship dates.

Student Intern Draft Language

WAC 246-810-015 Agency affiliated counselor: Scope of practice and credentialing requirements

- (1) An agency affiliated counselor may only provide counseling services as part of their:
 - (a) employment as an agency affiliated counselor for a recognized agency, or
 - (b) Internship as an agency affiliated counselor for a recognized agency
- (2) An applicant for an agency affiliated counselor must:
 - (a) Be employed by, or have an offer of employment from, an agency or facility identified in WAC 246-810-016, or
 - (b) Be a student intern working in an agency or facility identified in WAC 246- 810-016 for the duration of their student internship.
- (3)(a) Applicants must submit an application to the department within the first thirty days of employment or student internship placement at an agency in order to continue working while the application is processed.

Student Intern Draft Language

WAC 246-810-018 An agency affiliated counselor must report an employment change or completion of an internship.

- (1) Agency affiliated counselors must notify the department within thirty calendar days if they are no longer employed by the agency identified on their application, are now employed with another agency, or both. Agency affiliated counselors may not practice counseling unless they are employed by, or a student intern working in, an agency.
- (2) Student interns practicing as agency affiliated counselors must notify the department within thirty days of the completion of their internship or practicum.

Questions on Student Interns?



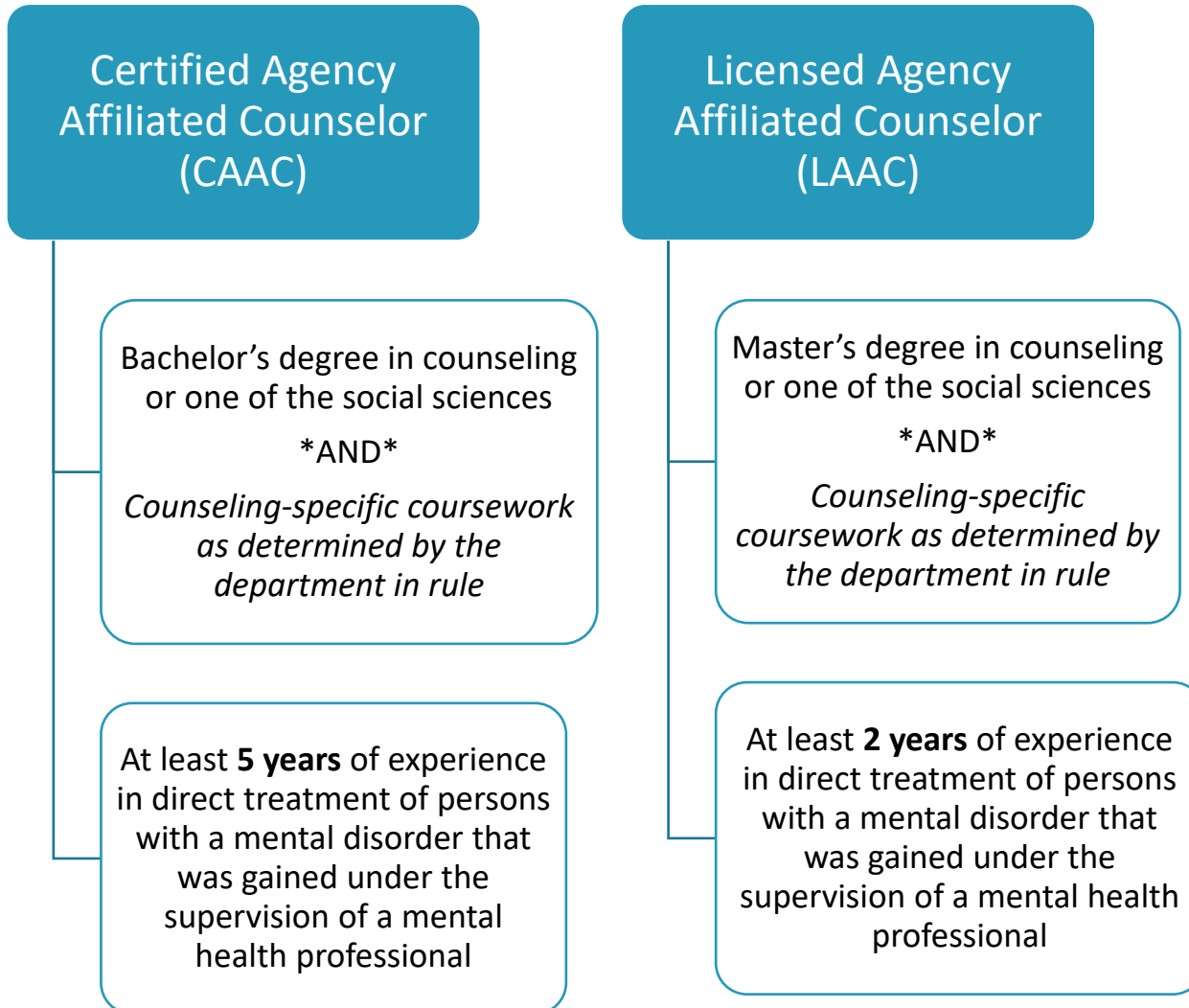
AAC RULE DEVELOPMENT

AAC Policy Statement

3 Options for current AAC's

1. Keep the Registered AAC. An individual can remain a Registered AAC if they do not meet requirements for the new AAC credentials or if their job duties do not require them to assess or diagnose.
2. Apply for one of the new credentials now. An individual can apply for a new credential; however, they will need to pay the initial application fee now and the renewal fee later in 2024.
3. Wait for the current AAC Registration to expire. A Registered AAC designated as an MHP prior to July 24, 2023, can wait to apply for the new Licensed AAC credential until their current registration is up for renewal in 2024. Between now and their next renewal, they can continue to practice as an MHP under this policy statement.

Current Requirements

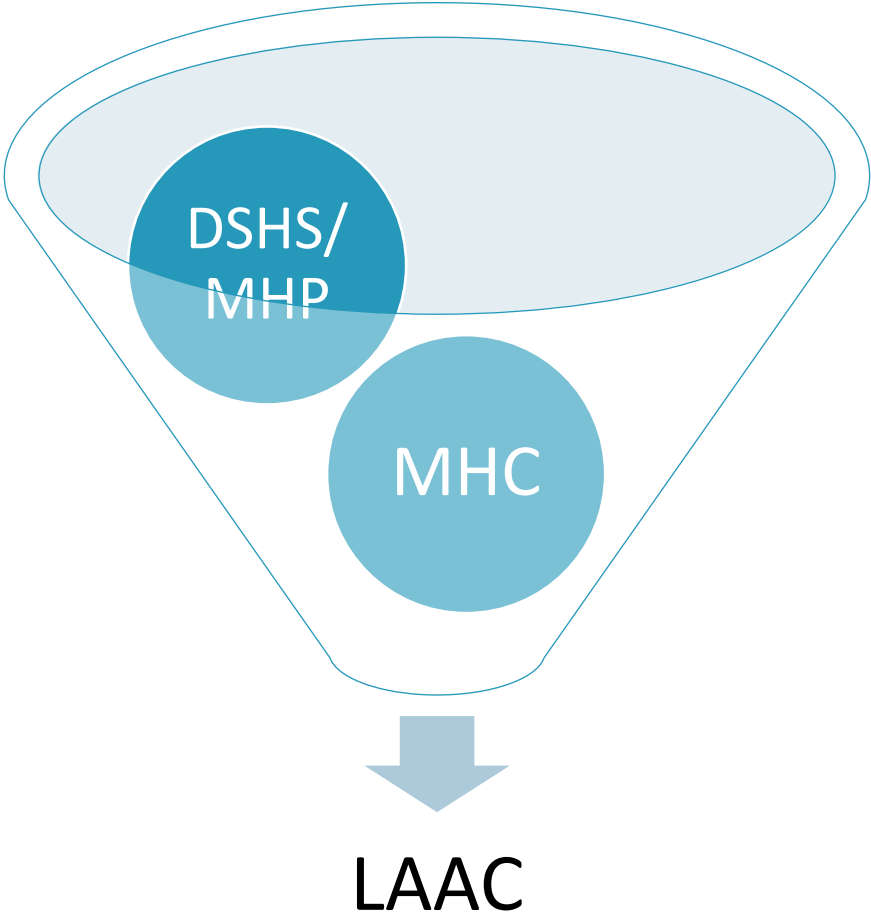


LAAC Coursework



AAC RULE DEVELOPMENT

LAAC Coursework



LAAC Coursework Precedent (MHP)

1. Assessment/diagnosis
2. Ethics/law
3. Counseling individuals
4. Counseling groups
5. Counseling couples and families
6. Developmental psychology (All stages)
7. Psychopathology/abnormal psychology
8. Research and evaluation
9. Career development counseling
10. Multicultural concerns
11. Substance/chemical abuse
12. Physiological psychology
13. Organizational psychology
14. Mental health consultation
15. Developmentally disabled persons
16. Abusive relationships
17. Chronically mentally ill

7 total

5 must
be from
here

LAAC Coursework Option #1:

1. Assessment/diagnosis
2. Ethics/law
3. Counseling individuals
4. Counseling groups
5. Counseling couples and families
6. Developmental psychology (All stages)
7. Psychopathology/abnormal psychology
8. Research and evaluation
9. Career development counseling
10. Multicultural concerns
11. Substance/chemical abuse
12. Physiological psychology
13. Organizational psychology
14. Mental health consultation
15. Developmentally disabled persons
16. Abusive relationships
17. Chronically mentally ill

5 total

3 must
be from
here

LAAC Coursework Option #1:

- Provides a framework similar to the previous Mental Health Professional designation requirements, but less overall coursework.
- Requires the majority of courses to be in the first set, which is more directly related to providing counseling.
- Provides flexibility to match what the applicant may have taken in their coursework rather than specific classes.
- The number of courses is flexible, it doesn't have to be 3 from the top and 5 total. Could be 2 from the top and 4 total, or just something like 5 of any of them.



These do not have to meet the previous requirements. It should be somewhere in-between those requirements and nothing at all.

LAAC Coursework Option #2:

1. Assessment/diagnosis

2. Ethics/law

3. Counseling individuals

4. Counseling groups

5. Counseling couples and families

6. Developmental psychology (All stages)

7. Psychopathology/abnormal psychology

8. Research and evaluation

9. Career development counseling

10. Multicultural concerns

11. Substance/chemical abuse

12. Physiological psychology

13. Organizational psychology

14. Mental health consultation

15. Developmentally disabled persons

16. Abusive relationships

17. Chronically mentally ill



Must
have 4
certain
specific
courses

LAAC Coursework Option #2:

- The inverse of the previous option, this would require specific classes to meet the coursework requirements.
- Lack of flexibility could be a hinderance, as it may be that only people with a counseling degree could meet it.
- Requiring specific coursework could meet the overall intent with less courses overall. For example, if there were 3 courses in the top 8 that were identified as the best options requiring just those would only require 3 courses total.
 - This could be helpful if they are commonly taken classes and applicants don't have a lot of counseling courses overall.
 - This could be unhelpful if applicants are unlikely to have taken these specific courses if they have a degree in social sciences.

LAAC Coursework Option #3:

5 total
classes
needed

1. Assessment/diagnosis

2. Ethics/law

3. Counseling individuals

4. Counseling groups

5. Counseling couples and families

6. Developmental psychology (All stages)

7. Psychopathology/abnormal psychology

8. Research and evaluation

9. Career development counseling

10. Multicultural concerns

11. Substance/chemical abuse

12. Physiological psychology

13. Organizational psychology

14. Mental health consultation

15. Developmentally disabled persons

16. Abusive relationships

17. Chronically mentally ill

★ Required

★
One of
these 3
required

LAAC Coursework Option #3:

- This option would be a blend of the first 2 options. It would have some specific coursework that is required, but the rest would be any on the list.
- In this model, we chose to require an Assessment and Diagnosis course and one of the Counseling-specific courses (either individual, group, or couples/family). They would also need 3 of any of the other courses to qualify.
 - This was chosen for this example because assessment and diagnosis is specifically within the scope of practice for a Licensed AAC, and at least one counseling course would ensure they have some education in the practice of counseling.
- The number of courses is flexible, as are the courses that should be required.

LAAC Coursework Discussion:

- Which option or options do you prefer? Which do you dislike?
- If courses are required, which ones?
- What does the optimal total required coursework look like?
- Is the order in which classes are taken a concern?
 - For example, are some courses offered later in a counseling program and unlikely to be taken by someone who hasn't gone deep into the program.
- Is there any other ideas for the structure? Other classes to consider within the core competencies of counseling?
- Are there any other things we have not considered?

CAAC Coursework



AAC RULE DEVELOPMENT

CAAC Coursework Option #1

1. Assessment/diagnosis
2. Ethics/law
3. Counseling individuals
4. Counseling groups
5. Counseling couples and families
6. Developmental psychology (All stages)
7. Psychopathology/abnormal psychology
8. Multicultural concerns
9. Career development counseling
10. Research and evaluation
11. Substance/chemical abuse
12. Physiological psychology
13. Organizational psychology
14. Mental health consultation
15. Developmentally disabled persons
16. Abusive relationships
17. Chronically mentally ill

3 total

2 must
be from
here

CAAC Coursework Option #1

- Essentially mirrors LAAC coursework option #1 but reduces overall course amount and deviates from that option by exchanging *Research and Evaluation* for *Multicultural Concerns* to be more applicable to bachelor's level coursework.
- Requires majority of courses to be in the first set, which is more directly related to providing counseling.
- Provides framework familiar to agencies and applicants.
- The number of courses is flexible, it doesn't have to be 2 from the top and 3 total. Could be 1 from the top and 3 total, or just something like 3 of any of them.

CAAC Coursework Option #2

Assessment and Diagnosis CE hours/courses would be **required** in addition to one course from each of the groups below

Counseling (1)

- Adolescent/Child
- Domestic Violence
- Elder/Grief
- Marriage+Family/Mental Health
- Ministerial/Pastoral
- Multicultural
- Sexual Disorder
- Stress Disorder
- Substance/chemical abuse

Psychology(1)

- Developmental
- Organizational
- Physiological
- Psychopathology/Abnormal
- Transpersonal

Behavior(1)

- Applied Behavioral Science
- Behavior Management or Behavior Modification
- Child/Human Development
- Personality Theory
- Special Education

CAAC Coursework Option #2

Addiction counseling	Domestic violence counseling	Marriage and family counseling	Stress disorder counseling	Personality theory	Psychological measurement and research
Adolescent and child counseling	Elder counseling	Mental health counseling	Substance and chemical abuse counseling	Special education	Psychopathology and abnormal psychology
Anger management counseling	Grief counseling	Ministerial or pastoral counseling	Applied behavioral science	Developmental psychology	Physiological psychology
Counseling ethics	Human services counseling	Multicultural counseling	Behavior management or behavior modification	Human development	Psychology
Counseling persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities	Learning disabilities counseling	Sexual disorder counseling	Child development	Organizational psychology	Transpersonal psychology

CAAC Coursework Option #2:

- In this model, we chose to require one counseling-specific course, one psychology-specific course, and one behavior-specific course. Applicants would also be required to take at least 20 hours of assessment and diagnosis CE.
 - This was chosen for this example because assessment and diagnosis isn't necessarily taught at the bachelor's level.
- Most limited option since counseling, psychology, and behavior courses aren't typically required for the gamut degrees that fall within the social sciences.
- The number of courses is flexible, as is the number of assessment and diagnosis CE hours.

CAAC Coursework Option #3

Human Behavior (3 courses or 9 credits)

- Behavioral, Psychology, Anthropology courses
 - Sex, Evolution, and Human Nature (WSU)
 - Evolution of Cooperation (WSU)

Justice and Society (2 courses or 6 credits)

- Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Political Science courses
 - Social Inequality (WSU)
 - Social Justice in the Built Environment (WSU)

Human Cultural Diversity (2 courses or 6 credits)

- Social Work, Human Development, Communications courses
 - COM: Intercultural Communications (WSU)
 - HD: Perspectives in Human Services (WSU)

CAAC Coursework Option #3

- Most accommodating option that includes a blend of competencies from social science degrees.
- Provides the most flexibility of coursework:
 - Allows many combinations of courses to fit within each grouping for the various degrees that fit within the social sciences.
 - Realistically matches what the applicant may have taken in their coursework rather than specific classes.
- Most cumbersome for application processing.
 - Responsibility lies with the applicant to prove that their coursework meets the requirement, outside of a class title, how else can it be proved?
- Doesn't require a specified ratio of courses/credits, but maybe total number of either.

CAAC Coursework Discussion:

- Which option or options do you prefer? Which do you dislike?
- When considering which courses to count, should they be counted as individual equally weighted classes or as the number of credits they were worth?
- If assessment and diagnosis CE was required, what would be an equitable number of hours to require?
- Are there any other ideas for the structure? Is there a blend of the options offered that might be easier to attain?
- Are there any other courses/options we have not considered?

Questions?



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