

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 738

By: Brooks

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1876, which relates to certificate or license to practice as alcohol or drug counselor; permitting certified alcohol and drug counselor to qualify for licensure as licensed alcohol and drug counselor under certain conditions; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1876, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1876. A. Unless exempt pursuant to Section 1872 of this title, any person wishing to practice alcohol and drug counseling in this state shall obtain a certificate or license to practice pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors Act.

B. An application for a certificate or license to practice as a certified or licensed alcohol and drug counselor shall be made to the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors in writing. Such application shall be on a form and in a manner

1 prescribed by the Board. The application shall be accompanied by  
2 the fee required by the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors Act,  
3 which shall be retained by the Board and not returned to the  
4 applicant.

5 C. Each applicant for a certificate or license to practice as a  
6 certified or licensed alcohol and drug counselor shall:

7 1. Pass an examination based on standards established by the  
8 International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium, any  
9 successor organization to the International Certification and  
10 Reciprocity Consortium or another national or international  
11 organization recognized by the Board to have similar standards equal  
12 to or higher than the International Certification and Reciprocity  
13 Consortium;

14 2. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;

15 3. Not have engaged in, nor be engaged in, any practice or  
16 conduct which would be grounds for denying, revoking or suspending a  
17 license pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug  
18 Counselors Act; and

19 4. Otherwise comply with the rules promulgated by the Board  
20 pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug  
21 Counselors Act.

22 D. In addition to the qualifications specified by the  
23 provisions of subsection C of this section, an applicant for a  
24 license to practice as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor shall:

1           1. Have at least a master's degree in alcohol and substance  
2 abuse counseling or other clinical counseling field recognized by  
3 the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors that  
4 includes, at a minimum, the following knowledge areas and graduate  
5 credit hours from a college or university accredited by an agency  
6 recognized by the United States Department of Education:

- 7           a. three courses in foundational knowledge, including one  
8           course in alcohol and drug addiction, one course in  
9           drug and alcohol counseling theory, and one course in  
10           the pharmacology of drugs and abuse,
- 11           b. three courses in assessment and treatment of  
12           behavioral health problems, which may include group  
13           dynamics, individual and family counseling skills,  
14           specific counseling approaches, assessment methods,  
15           community resources and referral, or other courses  
16           primarily related to the assessment and treatment of  
17           behavioral health problems,
- 18           c. one course in human development,
- 19           d. one course in psychopathology,
- 20           e. one course in multicultural and cultural competency  
21           issues,
- 22           f. one course in family systems theory,
- 23           g. one course in addiction in the family theory,
- 24           h. one course in addiction in the family counseling,

- i. one course in ethics, which includes established ethical conduct for alcohol and drug counselors,
- j. one course in research methods, and
- k. one three-hour practicum/internship in the field of drug and alcohol counseling of at least three hundred (300) clock hours.

All courses shall be graduate level courses and shall be three (3) semester hours or four (4) quarter credit hours which shall include a minimum of forty-five (45) class hours for each course;

2. Have successfully completed at least one (1) year of full-time supervised work experience providing behavioral health services. For the purpose of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors Act, one (1) year of full-time work experience shall mean two thousand (2,000) hours of work experience, of which at least one thousand (1,000) hours shall consist of direct client contact; or

3. Be a licensed mental health professional as defined in Section 1-103 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes and have completed a minimum of fifteen (15) hours in master's level substance abuse specific coursework, including, but not limited to, chemical addiction, counseling, alcohol/drug counseling theory, pharmacology of drugs and abuse, assessment and treatment of alcohol and drug problems, theories in family addiction, and/or family addiction counseling.

1 E. The scope of practice of a licensed alcohol and drug  
2 counselor who meets the educational requirements set forth in  
3 paragraph 1 of subsection D of this section may include the  
4 assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health disorders.  
5 Licensees who have been determined by the Board to meet these  
6 requirements shall have the designation "licensed alcohol and drug  
7 counselor/mental health" or "LADC/MH" noted on their license and  
8 wallet card.

9 F. The scope of practice of a licensed alcohol and drug  
10 counselor who made application for license or who was licensed prior  
11 to the effective date of the educational requirements set forth in  
12 paragraph 1 of subsection D of this section shall not include the  
13 assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health disorders  
14 unless:

15 1. The licensed alcohol and drug counselor holds a master's  
16 degree that meets the educational requirements for licensure in the  
17 following behavioral health professions:

- 18 a. licensed professional counselor as defined in Section  
19 1902 of this title,
- 20 b. licensed clinical social worker as defined in Section  
21 1250.1 of this title,
- 22 c. licensed marital and family therapist as defined in  
23 Section 1925.2 of this title, or  
24

1 d. licensed behavioral practitioner as defined in Section  
2 1931 of this title; or

3 2. The licensed alcohol and drug counselor holds a valid Co-  
4 Occurring Disorders Certification based on standards established by  
5 the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium, any  
6 successor organization to the International Certification and  
7 Reciprocity Consortium, or any other national or international  
8 organization recognized by the Board to have similar standards equal  
9 to or higher than the International Certification and Reciprocity  
10 Consortium.

11 G. In addition to the qualifications specified in subsection C  
12 of this section, each applicant for a certificate to practice as a  
13 certified alcohol and drug counselor shall have:

14 1. At a minimum, a bachelor's degree in a behavioral science  
15 field that is recognized by the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol  
16 and Drug Counselors as appropriate to practice as a certified drug  
17 and alcohol counselor in this state;

18 2. Successfully completed at least two (2) years of full-time  
19 supervised work experience. For the purpose of the Licensed Alcohol  
20 and Drug Counselors Act, "two years of full-time work experience"  
21 shall be defined as four thousand (4,000) hours of work experience  
22 of which at least two thousand (2,000) hours shall consist of  
23 providing alcohol and drug counseling services to an individual  
24 and/or the individual's family;

1           3. Successfully completed at least two hundred seventy (270)  
2 clock hours of education related to alcohol and drug counseling  
3 subjects, theory, practice or research;

4           4. Successfully completed, as part of or in addition to the  
5 education requirements established in paragraph 3 of this  
6 subsection, a minimum of forty-five (45) clock hours of specialized  
7 training approved by the Board in identifying co-occurring disorders  
8 and making appropriate referrals for treatment of co-occurring  
9 disorders; and

10          5. Successfully completed at least three hundred (300) hours of  
11 supervised practicum experience in the field of drug and alcohol  
12 counseling.

13          H. Any licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor wishing  
14 to be certified for co-occurring disorders in this state may obtain  
15 such certification pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed  
16 Alcohol and Drug Counselors Act.

17          I. An application by a licensed or certified alcohol and drug  
18 counselor for certification for co-occurring disorders shall be made  
19 to the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors in  
20 writing. Such application shall be on a form and in a manner  
21 prescribed by the Board. The application shall be accompanied by  
22 the fee required by Section 1884 of this title, which shall be  
23 retained by the Board and not returned to the applicant.

1 J. Each applicant for certification for co-occurring disorders  
2 shall:

3 1. Be a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor in  
4 good standing with the Board;

5 2. Meet the requirements promulgated by the Board to establish  
6 the applicant's competency to include treatment of co-occurring  
7 disorders within his or her scope of practice;

8 3. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;

9 4. Not have engaged in, nor be engaged in, any practice or  
10 conduct which would be grounds for denying, revoking or suspending a  
11 license pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug  
12 Counselors Act; and

13 5. Otherwise comply with the rules promulgated by the Board  
14 pursuant to the provisions of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug  
15 Counselors Act.

16 K. Applicants with degrees from schools outside the United  
17 States may qualify with Board approval by providing the Board with  
18 an acceptable comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a  
19 foreign credential evaluation service that is acceptable to the  
20 Board, and any other requirement the Board deems necessary.

21 L. Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection D of this  
22 section, an applicant may qualify for a license to practice as a  
23 licensed alcohol and drug counselor if the applicant:



1       1. Meets all requirements for certification as a certified  
2 alcohol and drug counselor including, but not limited to, the  
3 requirements of subsections C and G of this section and has obtained  
4 a certificate to practice as a certified alcohol and drug counselor;  
5 and

6       2. Has successfully completed at least two (2) years of full-  
7 time work experience providing behavioral health services since  
8 obtaining such certification. For the purpose of this paragraph,  
9 two (2) years of full-time work experience shall mean four thousand  
10 (4,000) hours of work experience, of which at least two thousand  
11 (2,000) hours shall consist of providing alcohol and drug counseling  
12 services to an individual or the individual's family. The work  
13 experience requirements of this paragraph shall be in addition to  
14 any work experience required by subsection G of this section for  
15 certification as a certified alcohol and drug counselor, which shall  
16 not count toward work experience required for licensure under this  
17 subsection.

18       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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20       59-1-1251       DC       1/18/2023 5:02:17 PM