

## Memorandum

March 3, 2020

From: Director of Online & Continuing Education  
To: Academic Department Chair  
Academic Dean  
Associate VPAA

Subj: PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION DISCLOSURE

Please review the Professional Licensure/Certification requirements for Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in the state of Massachusetts below. At the end of the document, please indicate if NSU Counseling: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MSEd) and School Counseling (MSEd) degree/certificate program(s) meets or do not meet these pre-education requirements.

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| State  | Massachusetts   |
| Professional Licensure/Certification Title                               | Licensed Mental Health Counselor  |
| Professional Licensure/Certification Short Title/Acronym                 | LMHC  |
| PLC Agency   | Massachusetts Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions  |
| PLC Agency Address (Address)   | 1000 Washington Street, Suite 710   |
| PLC Agency Address (Address2)  |   |
| PLC Agency Address (City), (State, Zip Code)                             | Boston MA 02118-6100  |
| PLC Agency Contact Name  |   |
| PLC Agency Point of Contact Title  |   |
| PLC Agency Contact Phone   | (617) 727-3080  |
| PLC Agency Contact Email   | amh.board@mass.gov  |
| PLC Agency Website URL   | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/allied-mental-health-professions-licensing">https://www.mass.gov/allied-mental-health-professions-licensing</a>                                 |
| Link to Rules/Regulations/Statutes                                       | <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter112/Section165">https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter112/Section165</a> |
| Link to Agency Regulations   | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/doc/mental-health-counselor-application/download">https://www.mass.gov/doc/mental-health-counselor-application/download</a>                     |
| Parent Agency Name   | Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure  |
| Reciprocity Agreement?   | Other   |
| Is the PLC Agency a member of a Reciprocity or Regional/National Compact | Individual application  |
| Does the PLC Agency require educational institutions be approved in      | No  |

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| the state where the individual will apply for PLC?                              |  |
| URL for approval process information  |  |
| Accreditation required for Degree-Granting Institutions                         | Yes - Regional (HLC, SACS, MSCHE, etc.)  |
| Degree Requirements to be eligible for Professional Licensure/Certification     | Master Degree  |
| The PLC Agency requires specific type of Education Hours to be eligible for PLC | Semester Credit Hours  |
| Total Credit Hours above/Post Education Hours Required to be eligible for PLC   | 60 semester hours  |
| Specific Education Undergraduate Requirements                                   |  |
| Specific Education Graduate Requirements  | All degrees and certifications must be from an educational institution licensed or accredited by the state regional accrediting body in which it is located, which meets regional standards for the granting of a master's or doctoral degree. Your 60 semester credit hours (or 80 quarter credit hours) must cover the following required course areas. You must successfully complete a minimum of 10 graduate courses, covering each of the specific content areas, as each course can be used to fill only one requirement. Each course must be at least three semester credit hours or four quarter credit hours. All courses must focus on mental health counseling. The 10 content areas are:    Counseling Theory: Examination of the major theories, principles and techniques of mental health counseling and their |

application to professional counseling settings. Understanding and applying theoretical perspectives with clients. □ Human Growth and Development: Understanding the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental stages of life. Understanding major theories of physical, cognitive, affective and social development and their application to mental health counseling practice. □ Psychopathology: Identification and diagnosis and mental health treatment planning for abnormal, deviant, or psychopathological behavior, includes assessments and treatment procedures. || Social and Cultural Foundations: Theories of multicultural counseling, issues and trends of a multicultural and diverse society. Foundational knowledge and skills needed to provide mental health counseling services to diverse populations in a culturally competent manner. || Clinical Skills: Understanding of the theoretical bases of the counseling processes, mental health counseling techniques, and their therapeutic applications. Understanding and practice of counseling skills necessary for the mental health counselor. □ Group Work: Theoretical and experiential understandings of group development, purpose, dynamics, group counseling methods and skills, as well as leadership styles. Understanding of the dynamics and processes of mental health (therapeutic, psychosocial, psycho-educational) groups. □ Special Treatment Issues: Areas relevant to the practice of mental health counseling, i.e. psychopharmacology, substance abuse, school or career issues, marriage and family treatment, sexuality and lifestyle choices, treating special populations. □ Appraisal: Individual and group educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal. Examination of the various instruments and methods of psychological appraisal and assessment including, but not limited to, cognitive, affective, and personality assessment utilized by the mental health counselor. The function of measurement and evaluation, purposes of testing, reliability and validity. || Research and Evaluation: Understanding social science research, and evaluative methodologies and strategies, types of research, program evaluation, needs assessments, ethical and legal considerations. □ Professional Orientation: Understanding of professional roles and functions of

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|  | <p>mental health counselors, with particular emphasis on legal and ethical standards. Ethical case conceptualization, analysis and decision making as it relates to clinical practice. Knowledge and understanding of the standards set by the code of ethics of the American Counseling Association and the American Mental Health Counselors Association. Understanding of licensure and regulatory practices.</p> <p>□ Electives Areas: Graduate courses other than required graduate courses must include knowledge and skills in the practice of mental health counseling. Appropriate courses may include, but are not limited to, the areas listed above as well as best practices for maintaining and terminating counseling and psychotherapy; consultation skills; outreach and prevention strategies; diagnosis and treatment issues; working with special populations; professional identity and practice issues, including historical perspectives; mental health regulations and policy; and management of community mental health programs.</p> |
| Does the PLC Agency regulate Post-Licensure/Certification programs?  |  |
| Advanced Degree PLC Information  |  |
| URL to agency responsible for approving Post Education Licensure degree programs                               |  |
| Does PLC Agency approval of a program for an advanced degree indicate eligibility to practice in that capacity | Yes  |
| Agency Name and URL responsible for determining eligibility to practice  |  |
| What additional PLC Agency/State requirements must be met in order to practice in that capacity                |  |
| PLC Agency requires faculty/instructors to be licensed in the Licensing/Certification state to teach           |  |
| Does PLC Agency require Practicum/Internships/Field Work/Clinicals (PIFWC)?                                    | Yes  |
| PIFWC Required to be eligible for PLC  | 1. Practicum As part of your master's degree program, you must complete a pre-internship experience of at least seven weeks and 100 clock hours at the academic campus or a clinical field   |

experience site. A clinical field experience site is a site providing pre- and post-master's degree clinical field experience training that is (1) part of an educational institution licensed or accredited by the state regional accrediting body in which it is located which meets regional standards for the granting of a master's or doctoral degree, or (2) a health or mental health institution regulated by the state, or another appropriate entity regulated by the state or otherwise exempt from regulation, that has integrated programs for the delivery of clinical mental health counseling and has established provisions for appropriate supervision. A clinical field experience site does not include individual private practice or group private practice. The 100 clock hours of experience must include at least:

- □ 40 contact hours of direct client contact experience or peer role plays and laboratory experience in individual, group, couple and family interactions. Direct client contact experience is direct, face-to-face, clinical mental health counseling with a range of individuals, groups, couples, or families, and does not include vocational guidance services, academic school guidance counseling, industrial or organizational consulting services, teaching or conducting research. 25 supervisory contact hours with:
  - o At least 10 hours of individual supervision
  - o At least 5 hours of group supervision, with no more than 10 supervisees in a group
  - o 10 additional supervision hours, which may be individual or group in nature

2. Internship As part of your master's degree program, you must complete a post-practicum experience of at least 600 clock hours at a clinical field experience site (defined above). The 600 clock hours of experience must include at least:

- □ IV. 240 contact hours of direct client contact experience at a clinical field experience site in mental health counseling, which does not include vocational guidance services, academic school guidance counseling, industrial or organizational consulting services, teaching or conducting research. 45 supervisory contact hours with:
  - o At least 15 hours of individual supervision
  - o At least 15 hours of group supervision, with no more than 10 supervisees in a group
  - o 15 additional supervision hours, which may be individual or group in nature

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| <p>PIFWC Requirement Details</p> | <p>1. Practicum As part of your master's degree program, you must complete a pre-internship experience of at least seven weeks and 100 clock hours at the academic campus or a clinical field experience site. A clinical field experience site is a site providing pre- and post-master's degree clinical field experience training that is (1) part of an educational institution licensed or accredited by the state regional accrediting body in which it is located which meets regional standards for the granting of a master's or doctoral degree, or (2) a health or mental health institution regulated by the state, or another appropriate entity regulated by the state or otherwise exempt from regulation, that has integrated programs for the delivery of clinical mental health counseling and has established provisions for appropriate supervision. A clinical field experience site does not include individual private practice or group private practice. The 100 clock hours of experience must include at least: □ □ 40 contact hours of direct client contact experience or peer role plays and laboratory experience in individual, group, couple and family interactions. Direct client contact experience is direct, face-to-face, clinical mental health counseling with a range of individuals, groups, couples, or families, and does not include vocational guidance services, academic school guidance counseling, industrial or organizational consulting services, teaching or conducting research. 25 supervisory contact hours with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o At least 10 hours of individual supervision</li> <li>o At least 5 hours of group supervision, with no more than 10 supervisees in a group</li> <li>o 10 additional supervision hours, which may be individual or group in nature</li> </ul> <p>2. Internship As part of your master's degree program, you must complete a post-practicum experience of at least 600 clock hours at a clinical field experience site (defined above). The 600 clock hours of experience must include at least: □ □ IV. 240 contact hours of direct client contact experience at a clinical field experience site in mental health counseling, which does not include vocational guidance services, academic school guidance counseling, industrial or organizational consulting services, teaching or conducting research. 45 supervisory contact hours with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o At least 15 hours of individual supervision</li> <li>o At least 15 hours of group</li> </ul> |
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|   | supervision, with no more than 10 supervisees in a group o 15 additional supervision hours, which may be individual or group in nature |
| Does the PLC Agency or State require prior notification for PIFWC | No   |
| Do Clinical instructors need to be licensed to supervise PIFWC?   |  |
| PIFWC hours   | See 'PIFWC Requirement Details' above  |
| PIFWC setting   | See 'PIFWC Requirement Details' above  |
| PIFWC period  | See 'PIFWC Requirement Details' above  |
| PIFWC Supervisor requirements/qualifications                      | See 'PIFWC Requirement Details' above  |
| Examinations Required   | Yes  |
| 1. Examination Title  | National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE)   |
| 2. Examination Title  |  |
| 3. Examination Title  |  |
| 4. Examination Title  |  |
| 5. Examination Title  |  |
| 6. Examination Title  |  |
| 7. Examination Title  |  |
| 8. Examination Title  |  |
| 9. Examination Title  |  |
| 10. Examination Title   |  |
| PLC Agency Requires:  |  |

The NSU Counseling: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MSEd) and School Counseling (MSEd) program(s).

Meets Massachusetts Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) PLC pre-education requirements.

DOES NOT meet Massachusetts Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) PLC pre-education requirements.

Additional information is needed to make determination:

Massachusetts Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) PLC pre-education requirements reviewed by Northern State University Academics .

Department Chair Review:

**APPROVAL CHAIR 03/24/20**

Dean Review:

**APPROVAL DEAN 03/25/20**

Associate VPAA Review:

**APPROVAL GRAD/VPAA 03/26/20**

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Website disclosure pages updated.

Director, Online & Continuing Education Review