

Ohio Request: Addictions Counseling Course
From Jim Rough
4-10-13

I would like to ask the listserv if their state/jurisdiction requires a course in Addictions counseling and/or a marriage and family course. Some states have added these requirements and are making therapists with years of experience from out of state take the courses despite expertise in those areas.

Ohio is working toward requiring the CACREP clinical mental health counseling degree for in-state students and as an automatic qualifying degree as well.

CACREP accreditation standards for clinical mental health counseling requires under their standards:

- ∞ Knowledge: 4. Knows the disease concept and etiology of addiction and co-occurring disorders.
- ∞ Skills and Practice: 8. Provides appropriate counseling strategies when working with clients with addiction and co-occurring disorders.
- ∞ Assessment: 4. Identifies standard screening and assessment instruments for substance use disorders and process addictions.
- ∞ Skills and Practices: 3. Screens for addiction, aggression, and danger to self and/or others, as well as co-occurring mental disorders.
- ∞ Diagnosis: 3. Knows the impact of co-occurring substance use disorders on medical and psychological disorders.

How does your state or jurisdiction deal with these areas?

Jim

WYOMING requires a CACREP accredited degree. We do not require additional education/training in addictions or MFT since we have separate licenses in these fields.

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OREGON does not require it.

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ARKANSAS

Jim- Good argument for not requiring the CACREP standard for licensure, what if they require something your state does not see as relevant to licensure or does not want to regulate, hence creating a conflict with the purpose of one or both. Arkansas decided to add MFT course and Psychopharmacology because we determined they were important for counselor/therapist competencies, not because a counseling program accreditation agency determined either was important or unimportant.

John Carmack, PhD.
Division of Counseling, Chair
Professor, Marriage & Family Therapy



MISSOURI

Missouri does not require an addictions or MFT course. Such courses would be part of the core area Helping Relationship.

Lori Kessler

Missouri does not require a course in addictions or marriage/family at present. It does have a requirement for coursework in diagnosis, which would include diagnosis of substance-related disorders.

Where states change their requirements, it is extremely helpful to establish a path for therapists coming into the state with existing experience - ways to meet the requirement through continuing ed, online courses acceptable, etc. I'm looking at moving out of state within the next few years and am floored that in this day and age some states (Missouri included) still do not recognize graduate courses taken online.

Kathryn Stinson

VIRGINIA

Virginia requires a 3 hour graduate class in both addictive disorders and marriage/family theories as part of the core curriculum

Catherine Chappell