

DRAFT Chapter 246-810 WAC

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COUNSELORS

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246-810-010

Definitions.

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the content clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agency" means:

(a) An agency or facility operated, licensed, or certified by the state of Washington to provide a specific counseling service or services;

(b) A federally recognized Indian tribe located within the state; ~~or~~

(c) A county as listed in chapter **36.04** RCW; ~~or~~

(d) After January 1, 2028, a federally qualified health center as defined in WAC 182-548-1100.

(2) "Agency affiliated counselor" means a person registered, certified, or licensed 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.

(3) "Certified adviser" means a person certified under chapter **18.19** RCW, and this chapter, who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent authorized in WAC **246-810-021**.

(4) "Certified agency affiliated counselor" means an individual certified under this chapter and practicing counseling with a recognized agency.

~~(45)~~ "Certified counselor" means a person certified under chapter **18.19** RCW, and this chapter, who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent authorized in WAC **246-810-0201**.

~~(56)~~ "Client" means an individual who receives or participates in counseling or group counseling.

~~(67)~~ "Consultation" means the professional assistance and practice guidance that a certified counselor receives from a counseling-related professional

credentialed under chapter **18.130** RCW and listed in WAC 246-810-026 (2). This may include:

- (a) Helping the certified counselor focus on counseling practice objectives;
- (b) Refining counseling modalities;
- (c) Providing support to progress in difficult or sensitive cases;
- (d) Expanding the available decision-making resources; and
- (e) Assisting in discovering alternative approaches.

~~(78)~~ "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic techniques including, but not limited to, social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, and hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer, assist, or attempt to assist, an individual or ~~groups~~~~individuals~~ in the amelioration or adjustment of mental, emotional, or behavioral problems, and includes therapeutic techniques to achieve sensitivity and awareness of self and others and the development of human potential. For the purpose of this chapter, nothing may be construed to imply that the practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily limited to counseling.

~~(89)~~ "Counselor" means an individual who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a fee, including for the purposes of this chapter, agency affiliated counselors, certified counselors, certified advisers, and hypnotherapists, ~~and until July 1, 2010, registered counselors.~~

~~(910)~~ "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

~~(1011)~~ "Fee" ~~as referred to in RCW~~ means compensation received by the counselor for counseling services provided, regardless of the source.

~~(112)~~ "Hypnotherapist" means a person registered under chapter **18.19** RCW, and this chapter, who is practicing hypnosis as a modality.

(13) "Licensed agency affiliated counselor" means an individual licensed under this chapter and practicing counseling with a recognized agency.

~~(1214)~~ "Licensed health care practitioner" means a licensed practitioner under the following chapters:

- (a) Physician licensed under chapter **18.71** RCW.
- (b) Osteopathic physician licensed under chapter **18.57** RCW.
- (c) Psychiatric registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter **18.79** RCW.
- (d) Naturopathic physician licensed under chapter **18.36A** RCW.
- (e) Psychologist licensed under chapter **18.83** RCW.
- (f) Independent clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, mental health counselor or advanced social worker licensed under chapter **18.225** RCW.
- (g) Licensed Behavioral Analyst under chapter 18.380 RCW.
- (15) "Mental health professional" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 71.05.020.

(~~43165~~) "Private practice counseling" means the practice of counseling by a certified counselor or certified adviser as specified in WAC **246-810-0201** or **246-810-021**.

(~~44176~~) "Psychotherapy" means the practice of counseling using diagnosis of mental disorders according to the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, and the development of treatment plans for counseling based on diagnosis of mental disorders in accordance with established practice standards.

(~~45187~~) "Recognized" means acknowledged or formally accepted by the secretary.

(~~46198~~) "Recognized agency or facility" means an agency or facility that has requested and been recognized under WAC **246-810-017** to employ agency affiliated counselors to perform a specific counseling service, or services for those purposes only.

(~~472049~~) "Registered agency affiliated counselor" means any individual, including juvenile probation counselors and student interns, who is registered under this chapter and practicing counseling with a recognized agency. This includes juvenile probation counselors and student interns.

(~~210~~) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health or the secretary's designee.

(~~48224~~) "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. -Student interns shall be a registered agency affiliated counselor.

(~~48232~~) "Supervised experience" means any counseling experience that was attained with an active credential, during or after completion of a qualifying educational program, under the supervision of a credentialed mental health professional who can independently assess and diagnose as part of their scope of practice.

(~~48243~~) "Supervision" means the oversight that a counseling-related professional credentialed under chapter **18.130** RCW provides.

(~~49254~~) "Unprofessional conduct" means the conduct described in RCW **18.130.180**.

246-810-011

Exempt activities and individuals.

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prevent ~~This chapter does not prevent~~ or restrict:

(1) The practice of a profession by a person who is either registered, certified, licensed, or similarly regulated under the laws of this state and who is performing services within the person's authorized scope of practice, ~~including any attorney admitted to practice law in this state when providing counseling incidental to and in the course of providing legal counsel;~~

(2) The practice of counseling by an employee or trainee of any federal agency, or the practice of counseling by a student of a college or university, if the employee, trainee, or student is practicing solely under the supervision of and accountable to the agency, college, or university, through which he or she performs such functions as part of his or her position for no additional fee other than ordinary compensation;

(3) The practice of counseling by a person for no compensation;

(4) The practice of counseling by persons offering services for public and private nonprofit organizations or charities not primarily engaged in counseling for a fee when approved by the organizations or agencies for whom they render their services;

(5) Evaluation, consultation, planning, policymaking, research, or related services conducted by social scientists for private corporations or public agencies;

(6) The practice of counseling by a person under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or organization, or the practice of religion itself;

(7) The practice of counseling by peer counselors who use their own experience to encourage and support people with similar conditions or activities related to the training of peer counselors; and

(8) Counselors who reside outside Washington state from providing up to ten days per quarter of training or workshops in the state, as long as they do not hold themselves out to be registered or certified in Washington state.

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 [therapeutic](#) orientation, discipline, theory, or technique.

[\(3\) Student interns applying to be an agency affiliated counselor must provide the name of their educational institution, planned internship or practicum](#)

dates, a point of contact from the educational institution, and type of anticipated degree to be completed, on forms provided by the department.

(43) The secretary may require additional documentation to determine whether an applicant meets the qualifications for the credential and if there are any grounds for denial of the credential.

(5) For degree's that were obtained in a foreign country, the transcript must also be translated, evaluated and validated as the equivalent of an academic program approved by CHEA or the USDOE, by:

(a) An organization that is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES); or

(b) An organization that is a current member of the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. (AICE).

(654) Each applicant must pay the applicable fee as identified in WAC **246-810-990**.

246-810-013

State agency employee credentialing requirements.

(1) ~~Until July 1, 2010, an employee of a state agency who is practicing counseling, as part of his or her position, must be credentialed as a registered counselor or an agency-affiliated counselor unless they are exempt under WAC 246-810-011.~~

(2) ~~On and after July 1, 2010, an~~ An employee of a state agency who is, practicing inge counseling, as part of his or her position, must be credentialed as an agency affiliated counselor unless they are exempt under WAC **246-810-011**.

(32) A person may not, for a fee or as a part of his or her position as an employee of a state agency, practice hypnotherapy without being registered to practice as a hypnotherapist unless they are exempt under WAC **246-810-011**.

246-810-01501

Agency affiliated counselor: Scope of practice and credentialing requirements.

(1) ~~(1)~~ An agency affiliated counselor may only provide counseling services as defined in RCW 18.19.215 with an agency. ~~part of his or her~~

~~(a) employment as an agency-affiliated counselor for a recognized agency or~~
practicum.

(2) ~~(2)~~ An applicant for an agency affiliated counselor must:

(a) ~~B~~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 for the duration of their student internship or practicum. The placement of a student intern must be coordinated with the educational program.

(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.

(b) Applicants must complete any outstanding deficiencies within ninety days of the date the department issues a deficiency letter. If the applicant does not satisfy the outstanding licensure requirements within ninety days, the applicant must stop working.

246-810-0151

Qualifications to become a registered agency affiliated counselor.

An applicant for a registered agency affiliated counselor must:

(1) Be employed by, or have an offer of employment from, an agency or facility identified in WAC **246-810-016**,or

(2) Be a student intern working in an agency for the duration of their student internship or practicum. The placement of a student intern must be coordinated with the educational program.

246-810-0152

Qualifications to become a certified agency affiliated counselor.

(1) An applicant for a certified agency affiliated counselor credential must:

(a) Have a bachelor's degree in counseling or the social sciences from an accredited college or university;

(b) Meet the minimum coursework requirements in WAC 246-810-0153; and

(c) Have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the direct treatment of persons with a mental disorder under the supervision of a mental health professional who is able to independently provide assessments and diagnoses within the scope of practice of their credential.

(2) For applicants whose experience was obtained prior to the creation of this credential, supervision may have been provided by a registered agency affiliated counselor who was designated as a mental health professional.

(3) Supervised experience must be obtained under a credential to practice and begins after the completion of their degree or through an internship or practicum that is part of the degree program requirements.

(4) For supervised experience obtained in private practice, the supervision must be provided by an individual who meets the definition of a mental health professional as defined in this chapter.

(5) Experience earned out of state may be considered if the applicant held a credential in good standing as a counselor in that state and supervision was provided under a mental health professional as described in section (1)(c).

246-810-0153

Coursework requirements for certified agency affiliated counselors

(1) Applicants for the agency affiliated counselor certification must meet the coursework requirements in this section. The coursework in section (2) must be from an approved school and taken for credit.

(2) Applicants must meet one of the following coursework pathways to qualify for certification:

(a) Completion of a bachelor's degree in psychology or social work;

(b) Completion of two counseling courses, two psychology courses, and two behavioral courses from each core area of study in subsection (3) of this section; or

(c) Completion of 21 total credits or 7 total courses in specific topics. Topics must include the content areas and the minimum number of credits or courses specified in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) Core areas of study in the following content areas include:

(a) Counseling;

i. Addiction counseling.

ii. Adolescent and child counseling.

iii. Anger management counseling.

iv. Counseling persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

v. Counseling ethics.

vi. Domestic violence counseling.

vii. Elder counseling.

viii. Grief counseling.

- ix. Human services counseling.
- x. Learning disabilities counseling.
- xi. Marriage and family counseling.
- xii. Mental health counseling.
- xiii. Ministerial or pastoral counseling.
- xiv. Multicultural counseling.
- xv. Sexual disorder counseling.
- xvi. Stress disorder counseling.
- xvii. Substance and chemical abuse counseling.

(b) Psychology:

- i. Developmental psychology.
- ii. Organizational psychology.
- iii. Physiological psychology.
- iv. Psychiatry and psychiatric nursing.
- v. Psychological measurement and research.
- vi. Psychology.
- vii. Psychopathology and abnormal psychology.
- viii. Transpersonal psychology.

(c) Behavioral:

- i. Applied behavioral science.
- ii. Behavior management or behavior modification.
- iii. Biofeedback.
- iv. Child development.
- v. Clinical social work.
- vi. Community mental health.
- vii. Human development.
- viii. Personality theory.
- ix. Social work.
- x. Special education.

(4) Course topics and content areas include:

(a) 9 credits or 3 courses in Human behavior and counseling, defined as- the study of human behavior, psychological processes and the application of counseling theories and techniques to promote mental health and well-being; and

(b) 6 credits or 2 courses in Justice and Society, defined as the study of how justice is understood, applied, and upheld within societies. and

(c) 6 credits or 2 courses in Cultural Competency and Diversity defined as the study of interacting respectfully with people from different cultures within various contexts, including workplaces, educational institutions, and communities.

246-810-0154

Qualifications to become a licensed agency affiliated counselor.

(1) An applicant for a licensed agency affiliated counselor credential must:

(a) Have an advanced degree in counseling or the social sciences from an accredited college or university;

(b) Meet the minimum coursework requirements in WAC 246-810-0155; and

(c) Have a minimum of 2 years of experience in the direct treatment of persons with a mental disorder under the supervision of a mental health professional who is able to independently provide assessments and diagnoses within the scope of practice of their credential.

(2) For applicants whose experience was obtained prior to the creation of this credential supervision may have been provided by a registered agency affiliated counselor who was designated as a mental health professional.

(3) Supervised experience must be obtained under a credential to practice and begins after the completion of their degree or through an internship or practicum that is part of the degree program requirements.

(4) For supervised experience obtained in private practice, the supervision must be provided by an individual who meets the definition of a mental health professional as defined in this chapter.

(5) Experience earned out of state may be considered if the applicant held a credential in good standing as a counselor in that state and supervision was provided under a mental health professional as described in section (1)(c).

246-810-0155

Coursework requirements for licensed agency affiliated counselors

(1) Applicants for the agency affiliated counselor license must meet the coursework requirements in this section. The coursework in section (2) must be graduate-level classes from an approved school and taken for credit.

(2) Applicants must meet one of the following coursework pathways to qualify for licensure:

(a) Completion of an Assessment and Diagnosis course in addition to one of the following courses:

(i) Counseling individuals.

(ii) Counseling groups, or

(iii) Counseling couples and families.

(b) Completion of at least 5 of the following courses:

- [\(i\) Assessment/diagnosis.](#)
- [\(ii\) Ethics/law.](#)
- [\(iii\) Counseling individuals.](#)
- [\(iv\) Counseling groups.](#)
- [\(v\) Counseling couples and families.](#)
- [\(vi\) Developmental psychology \(may be child, adolescent, adult or life span\).](#)
- [\(vii\) Psychopathology/abnormal psychology.](#)
- [\(viii\) Research and evaluation.](#)
- [\(ix\) Career development counseling.](#)
- [\(x\) Multicultural concerns.](#)
- [\(xi\) Substance/chemical abuse.](#)
- [\(xii\) Physiological psychology.](#)
- [\(xiii\) Organizational psychology.](#)
- [\(xiv\) Mental health consultation.](#)
- [\(xv\) Developmentally disabled persons.](#)
- [\(xvi\) Abusive relationships.](#)
- [\(xvii\) Chronically mentally ill.](#)

246-810-016

Agencies, facilities, federally recognized Indian tribes located within the state, or counties that can employ agency affiliated counselors.

Agencies or facilities that may employ an agency affiliated counselor are:

- (1) Washington state departments and agencies: ~~listed in the Agency, Commission & Organization Directory available on the state of Washington website;~~
- (2) Federally recognized Indian tribes located within the state;
- (3) Counties as listed in chapter **36.04** RCW;
- (4) Community and technical colleges governed by the Washington state board for community and technical colleges;
- (5) Colleges and universities governed by the Washington state higher education coordinating board;
- (6) Hospitals licensed under chapter **70.41** RCW;
- (7) Home health care agencies, home care agencies, and hospice care agencies licensed under chapter **70.127** RCW;
- (8) Agencies and facilities licensed or certified under chapters **71.05** or **71.24** RCW;

(9) Psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities, hospitals, and alcohol and chemical dependency entities licensed under chapter **71.12 RCW**;

(10) After January 1, 2028, a federally qualified health center; or

(11) Other agencies or facilities recognized by the secretary as provided in WAC **246-810-017**.

246-810-017

Process to become a recognized agency or facility.

(1) To become a recognized agency or facility, an agency or facility must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the secretary that it is operated, licensed, or certified by the state of Washington to provide specific counseling services.

(2) When reviewing requests for recognition, the secretary may:

(a) Require forms and documentation;

(b) Consult with other state agencies and entities.

(3) In determining whether or not to recognize the agency or facility, the secretary may consider multiple criteria, including, but not limited to:

(a) Counseling quality assurance standards and requirements that are applicable to the agency or facility;

(b) Protections for ensuring patient safety in the delivery of supervised counseling services by counselors employed by the agency or facility; and

(c) Mechanisms for receiving and reporting complaints regarding counselors, investigating counselor conduct and practices, and taking corrective and disciplinary actions against counselors.

(4) The department will maintain a list of recognized agencies and facilities that may employ agency affiliated counselors to perform a specific counseling service or services under this section.

(5) Recognized agencies or facilities that cease to be operated, licensed, or certified by the state of Washington will no longer be recognized and will be removed from the list of recognized agencies.

246-810-018

Reporting changes in employment or internship. An agency affiliated counselor must report an employment change.

(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.](#)

246-810-019

Co-occurring disorder enhancement specialist eligibility.

Agency affiliated counselors licensed under chapter **18.19** RCW and this chapter who meet the conditions of RCW **18.205.105** (1)(e) are eligible to apply for a co-occurring disorder specialist enhancement to their existing credential according to the conditions of RCW **18.205.160** and chapter **246-804** WAC.

246-810-0201

Practice scope and limits for certified counselors.

The scope of practice of certified counselors consists exclusively of the following:

(1) Appropriate screening of the client's level of functional impairment using the global assessment of functioning as described in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Recognition of a mental or physical disorder or a global assessment of functioning score of sixty or less requires that the certified counselor refer the client for diagnosis and treatment to a licensed health care practitioner.

(2) If the client has a global assessment of functioning score greater than sixty, a certified counselor may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards.

(3) If the client has a global assessment of functioning score of sixty or less, a certified counselor may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards if:

(a) The client has been referred to the certified counselor by a licensed health care practitioner and care is provided as part of a plan of treatment developed by

the referring practitioner who is actively treating the client. The certified counselor must adhere to any conditions related to the certified counselor's role as specified in the plan of care; or

(b) The certified counselor referred the client for diagnosis and treatment from a licensed health care practitioner and the client refused, in writing, to seek diagnosis and treatment from the other provider. The certified counselor may provide services to the client consistent with a treatment plan developed by the certified counselor and the consultant or supervisor with whom the certified counselor has a written consultation or supervisory agreement.

(4) A certified counselor must not be the sole treatment provider for a client with a global assessment of functioning score of less than fifty.

246-810-021

Practice scope and limits for certified advisers.

The scope of practice of certified advisers consists exclusively of the following:

(1) Appropriate screening of the client's level of functional impairment using the global assessment of functioning as described in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Recognition of a mental or physical disorder or a global assessment of functioning score of sixty or less requires that the certified adviser refer the client to a licensed health care practitioner.

(2) If the client has a global assessment of functioning score greater than sixty, a certified adviser may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards.

[\(3\) A certified adviser must not be the sole treatment provider for a client with a global assessment of functioning score of less than sixty \(60\).](#)

246-810-0221

Qualifications to become a certified counselor.

~~(1) Until July 1, 2010, an applicant for certified counselor who has been a registered counselor for a minimum of five years must:~~

- ~~(a) Hold a valid, active registration that is in good standing or be in compliance with any disciplinary process and orders;~~
- ~~(b) Show evidence of having completed at least six clock hours of course work that included risk assessment, ethics, appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law;~~
- ~~(c) Pass an examination in risk assessment, ethics, appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law; and~~
- ~~(d) Have a written consultation agreement which meets the requirements in WAC with a credential holder who meets the qualifications to be a consultant in WAC.~~

~~(12) Unless eligible for certification under subsection (1)(a) of this section,~~

~~(1) A~~ applicants for a certified counselor must:

~~(aa1)~~ Have a bachelor's degree in a counseling-related field, as defined in WAC **246-810-024**;

~~(bb2)~~ Pass an examination in risk assessment, ethics, and appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law; and

~~(cc3)~~ Have a written supervisory agreement which meets the requirements in WAC **246-810-025** with a credential holder who meets the qualifications to be a supervisor in WAC **246-810-026**.

(2) Individuals who obtained a certified counselor credential prior to July 1, 2010, may practice under a consultation agreement as described in WAC 246-810-025.

246-810-023

Qualifications to become a certified adviser.

Applicants for certified adviser must:

(1) Have an associate degree which included a supervised internship in a counseling-related field as defined in WAC **246-810-024**;

(2) Pass an examination in risk assessment, ethics, and appropriate screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, client referral, and Washington state law; and

(3) Have a written supervisory agreement which meets the requirements in WAC **246-810-025** with a credential holder who meets the qualifications to be a supervisor in WAC **246-810-026**.

246-810-024

Counseling-related degrees that meet the requirements for certified counselor and certified adviser.

(1) [For certified counselors, Aa](#) counseling-related bachelor's degree must be from an [accredited college or university](#) ~~recognized educational program or institution~~. The degree must have required the equivalent of at least four years of full-time study and at least:

[\(a\)](#) ~~One~~ one third of the courses must ~~have included~~ one or more of [the](#) subjects listed in subsection (4); ~~or of this section.~~

[\(b\)](#) [42 credits in one or more of the subjects listed in subsection \(4\); or](#)

[\(c\)](#) [10 individual courses in one or more of the subjects listed in subsection \(4\) of this section.](#)

(2) [For certified advisers, Aa](#) counseling-related associate degree must be from an [accredited college or university](#) ~~recognized educational program or institution~~. The degree must have the equivalent of at least two years of full-time study and a supervised internship ~~and, a~~ [At least](#):

[\(a\)](#) one fourth of the ~~required~~ courses must ~~have included~~ one or more of the subjects listed in subsection (4); ~~or of this section.~~

[\(b\)](#) [21 credits in one or more of the subjects listed in subsection \(4\); or](#)

[\(c\)](#) [Five individual courses in one or more of the subjects listed in subsection \(4\) of this section.](#)

(3) An advanced ~~or graduate~~ degree from an [accredited college or university](#) ~~recognized educational program or institution~~ in any of the subject areas listed in subsection (4) of this section will meet the education requirements for certified counselor or certified adviser.

(4) Counseling-related subjects:

(a) Addiction counseling;

(b) Adolescent and child counseling;

(c) Anger management counseling;

(d) Applied behavioral science;

(e) Behavior management or behavior modification;

(f) Biofeedback;

(g) Child development;

(h) Clinical social work;

(i) Community mental health;

(j) Counseling persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities;

(k) Counseling ethics;

- (l) Developmental psychology;
- (m) Domestic violence counseling;
- (n) Elder counseling;
- (o) Grief counseling;
- (p) Human development;
- (q) Human services counseling;
- (r) Learning disabilities counseling;
- (s) Marriage and family counseling;
- (t) Mental health counseling;
- (u) Ministerial or pastoral counseling;
- (v) Multicultural counseling;
- (w) Organizational psychology;
- (x) Personality theory;
- (y) Physiological psychology;
- (z) Psychiatry and psychiatric nursing;
- (aa) Psychological measurement and research;
- (bb) Psychology;
- (cc) Psychopathology and abnormal psychology;
- (dd) Sexual disorder counseling;
- (ee) Social work;
- (ff) Special education;
- (gg) Stress disorder counseling;
- (hh) Substance and chemical abuse counseling; and
- (ii) Transpersonal psychology.

(5) The secretary may accept other equivalent counseling-related education or training programs in the subjects listed in subsection (4) of this section.

246-810-025

Supervision and consultation requirements for certified counselors and supervision requirements for certified advisers.

(1) Supervision. Certified counselors ~~who are not eligible under~~ ~~ho do not meet the requirements in~~ WAC **246-810-0221(21)** and certified advisers must meet the following supervision requirements:

(a) Written agreement. A written agreement ~~is required~~ between a qualified supervisor and the certified counselor or certified adviser. ~~They shall~~ ~~is required and must be~~ review, ~~update,~~ ~~ed~~ and renew ~~ited~~ at least every two years. The agreement must address:

- (i) The agreement duration;
- (ii) Expectations of both parties;
- (iii) Frequency and modalities of supervision;
- (iv) Recordkeeping;
- (v) Financial arrangements;
- (vi) Client confidentiality; and
- (vii) Potential conflict of interest.

(b) Frequency of supervision.

(i) During the first five years of practice, a minimum of two hours of supervision is required in any calendar month in which the certified counselor or certified adviser has had forty or more client contact hours.

(ii) After five years of practice, a minimum of one hour of supervision is required in any calendar month in which the certified counselor or certified adviser has forty or more client contact hours.

(iii) A minimum of two hours of supervision is required in any calendar quarter, regardless of the years in practice or number of client contact hours.

(iv) Up to half of the required supervision time may be supervision of practice in a group setting.

(c) Recordkeeping. A written record of supervision hours and topics must be maintained by both the supervisor and the certified counselor or certified adviser.

(2) Consultation. Certified counselors who ~~are eligible meet the requirements of~~under WAC ~~246-810-0221(24)~~, must meet the following consultation requirements:

(a) Written agreement. A ~~certified counselor must have a~~ written agreement ~~with~~between a consultant who meets the requirements in WAC ~~246-810-026~~, and ~~the certified counselor is required, They~~and must ~~be~~ review, ~~update, ed~~ and renew ~~it~~ed at least every two years. The agreement must address:

- (i) The agreement duration;
- (ii) Expectations of both parties;
- (iii) Frequency and modalities of consultation;
- (iv) Recordkeeping;
- (v) Financial arrangements;
- (vi) Client confidentiality; and
- (vii) Potential conflict of interest.

(b) Frequency. When a certified counselor has 40 or more direct client contact hours per calendar quarter, they must complete at least 1 hour of consultation. The certified counselor is responsible for determining the appropriate frequency of additional consultation. ~~The certified counselor will determine the consultation he or she needs. However, a minimum of one hour of consultation is~~

~~required during any calendar quarter in which the certified counselor has forty or more client contact hours.~~

(c) Recordkeeping. A written record of [the supervision agreement](#), consultation hours and topics must be maintained by the consultant and the certified counselor.

246-810-026

Qualifications to be a certified counselor supervisor, certified adviser supervisor, or a certified counselor consultant.

(1) The following qualifications are required to be a certified counselor supervisor, certified adviser supervisor, or a certified counselor consultant.

~~(1)(a)~~ [The supervisor or certified counselor consultant for a certified counselor](#) must have held a Washington state credential in counseling-related fields for a minimum of five years.

~~(b) If the supervisor or consultant for a certified counselor consult holds multiple credentials, a~~ All credentials ~~held by the supervisor or consultant~~ must be in good standing ~~and at least. If the supervisor or certified counselor holds~~ At least one credential must be active.

(2) For purposes of this section, counseling-related fields means a credential issued under chapter **18.130** RCW for:

- (a) Certified counselor;
- (b) Hypnotherapist;
- (c) Mental health counselor;
- (d) Marriage and family therapist;
- (e) Independent clinical social work;
- (f) Advanced social work;
- (g) Psychologist;
- (h) Substance use disorder professional;
- (i) Sex offender treatment provider;
- (j) Sex offender treatment provider affiliate;
- (k) Medical physician;
- (l) Osteopathic physician;
- (m) Advanced [practice](#) registered nurse ~~practitioner~~; [and](#)
- (n) Naturopathic physician. ~~and~~
- ~~(o) Until July 1, 2010, registered counselor.~~

Additional credentials may be accepted by the secretary as counseling-related.

(3) The supervisor or consultant may not be a blood or legal relative or cohabitant of the credential holder, or someone who has acted as the credential holder's counselor within the past two years. A supervisor or consultant may not have a reciprocal supervisory or consultant arrangement with another credential holder.

(4) Prior to the commencement of any supervision or consultation, the supervisor or consultant must provide the certified counselor or certified adviser with a declaration on a form provided by the department.

(5) The supervisor must have completed education and training in:

(a) Supervision or management of individuals who provide counseling or mental health services;

(b) Risk assessment;

(c) Screening using the global assessment of functioning scale;

(d) Professional ethics; and

(e) Washington state law.

(6) The consultant must have completed education and training in:

(a) Risk assessment;

(b) Screening using the global assessment of functioning scale;

(c) Professional ethics; and

(d) Washington state law.

246-810-027

Continuing education requirements for a certified counselor or certified adviser.

(1) A certified counselor or a certified adviser must complete 36 credit hours of continuing education [courses](#) every two years.

(2) At least six hours of the 36 credit hours must be in law and professional ethics related to counseling.

(3) At least once every six years a certified counselor or a certified adviser must complete three hours of training in suicide assessment, including screening and referral, as specified in WAC **246-810-0298**.

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the first training must be completed during the first full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure.

(b) An individual applying for initial certification as a certified counselor or a certified adviser may delay completion of the first required training for six years

after initial certification if they can demonstrate successful completion of a three-hour training in suicide assessment, screening, and referral that:

(i) Was completed no more than six years prior to the application for initial certification; and

(ii) Meets the requirements listed in WAC **246-810-0298**.

(c) The hours spent completing training in suicide assessment count towards the total 36 hours of continuing education.

(4) Beginning January 1, 2024, at least once every four years, a certified counselor or certified adviser must complete two hours of health equity training as specified in WAC **246-810-0299**.

(5) Nothing in this section is intended to expand or limit the existing scope of practice of a certified counselor or a certified adviser as defined by WAC **246-810-0201** and **246-810-021**.

246-810-029

Acceptable continuing education courses for certified counselor and certified adviser.

(1) Continuing education courses ~~A continuing education program or course~~ must:

(a) be directly related ~~relevant~~ to counseling and

(b) must contribute to the advancement, extension, and enhancement of the professional competence of the credential holder.

(2) Relevant courses include those that are related to counseling theory and practice, modality(ies) of the counseling services the credential holder will provide, professional ethics, courses related to risk assessment, screening using the global assessment of functioning scale, referral of clients, and Washington state law applicable to counseling.

(23) Acceptable ~~C~~continuing education courses (including distance learning), seminars, workshops, training programs, and institutes are those which must have a featured instructor, speaker(s), or panel approved by an ~~industry-recognized~~ accredited institution of higher learning, or an industry-recognized local, state, national, or international organization.

(34) Distance learning programs approved by an industry-recognized local, state, national or international organization or accredited educational organization ~~may meet these requirements. The programs~~ must require a test of comprehension upon completion. ~~Distance learning programs are limited to twenty hours per reporting period.~~

(54) Other learning experiences, such as serving on a panel, board or council, community service, research, peer consultation, or publishing articles for professional publications are acceptable if the experience contributes to the advancement, extension, and enhancement of the professional competence of the certified counselor or certified adviser. The experience is limited to six hours per reporting period.

246-810-0293

Recognized institutions of higher learning and local, state, national, and international organizations approved for continuing education.

Activities that meet the requirements of WAC **246-810-029** and are offered by the following entities are eligible for continuing education credit:

- [\(1\) American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;](#)
- [\(2\) American Mental Health Counselors Association;](#)
- [\(3\) Association for Humanistic Psychology;](#)
- [\(4\) Association for Integrative Psychology;](#)
- [\(5\) Clinical Social Work Association;](#)
- [\(6\) Institutions of higher learning that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;](#)
- [\(7\) National Association of Social Workers;](#)
- [\(8\) National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors;](#)
- [\(9\) National Board for Certified Counselors;](#)
- [\(10\) Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care;](#)
- [\(11\) State Association and National Association for the Treatment of Sexual ———Abusers;](#)
- [\(12\) Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;](#)
- [\(13\) Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Work;](#)
- [\(14\) Washington Mental Health Counselors Association;](#)
- [\(15\) Washington Professional Counselors Alliance;](#)
- [\(16\) Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work; and](#)
- ~~[\(1\) Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;](#)~~
- ~~[\(2\) Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work;](#)~~
- ~~[\(3\) Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Work;](#)~~
- ~~[\(4\) American Mental Health Counselors Association;](#)~~
- ~~[\(5\) American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;](#)~~
- ~~[\(6\) Clinical Social Work Association;](#)~~

~~(7) National Association of Social Workers;~~
~~(8) Washington Mental Health Counselors Association;~~
~~(9) National Board for Certified Counselors;~~
~~(10) Association for Humanistic Psychology;~~
~~(11) The Association for Integrative Psychology;~~
~~(12) Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care;~~
~~(13) Institutions of higher learning that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;~~
~~(14) Washington Professional Counselors Association;~~
~~(15) State Association and National Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers;~~
~~(16) National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors; and~~
~~(17) Other organizations recognized by the secretary and included on a list maintained by the department.~~

246-810-0295

Continuing education credit for preparing and presenting a lecture or course.

A certified counselor or certified adviser who prepares and presents lectures or education that contributes to the professional competence of other counselors or mental health providers may accumulate the same number of [continuing education](#) hours obtained ~~for continuing education purposes~~ by attendees. The hours for presenting a lecture or education on a specific topic may only be used for continuing education credit once during each reporting period.

246-810-0297

Continuing education documentation for certified counselor or certified adviser.

(1) Acceptable continuing education documentation for certified counselor or certified adviser includes transcripts, signed letters from course instructors, certificate of completion, or other formal certification, as required in chapter **246-12 WAC, Part 7**.

(2) The credential holder must provide documentation ~~which demonstrates fulfillment~~ of [completing](#) continuing education requirements if requested by the secretary.

246-810-0298

Suicide assessment training standards.

(1) Approved qualifying training in suicide assessment, including screening and referral must be on the department's model list developed in accordance with RCW [43.70.442](#).

(2) A certified counselor or certified adviser who is an employee of a state or local government employer is exempt from the requirements of this section if they receive a total of at least three hours of training in suicide assessment including screening and referral from their employer every six years.

(3) A certified counselor or certified adviser who is an employee of a licensed or certified behavioral health agency under chapter [71.05](#) or [71.24](#) RCW is exempt from the requirements of this section if they receive a total of at least three hours of training in suicide assessment, including screening and referral from their employer every six years.

(4) For purposes of this section, the training may be provided in one three-hour block or shorter training sessions.

(5) A certified counselor or certified adviser that obtained training under the exemptions listed in subsections (2) and (3) of this section may obtain continuing education credit subject to documentation as defined in WAC [246-810-0297](#).

246-810-0299

Health equity training standards.

(1) Beginning January 1, 2024, a certified counselor or certified adviser must complete training in health equity as a part of their continuing education requirements. The certified counselor or certified adviser must complete at least two hours of health equity trainings every four years. The training may be in person or virtual but must meet the course requirements in WAC [246-12-830](#), including strategies to reduce implicit bias and assess the providers ability to apply health equity concepts into practice.

(2) The hours spent completing training in health equity education count towards the total of 36 hours of continuing education.

246-810-031

Disclosure statement to be provided to clients by certified counselors and certified advisers.

(1) Certified counselors and certified advisers must provide a disclosure statement to each client prior to starting a program of treatment.

(2) The following must appear in the disclosure statement:

(a) The name of the certified counselor or certified adviser and the name of their firm, agency, or business, if any.

(b) The certified counselor's or certified adviser's business address and telephone number.

(c) The certified counselor's or certified adviser's Washington state credential number.

(d) The certified counselor's or certified adviser's education, training, and experience.

(e) The name and description of the types of counseling provided by the certified counselor or certified adviser, including the therapeutic orientation, methods, and techniques employed in their practice, and a list of resources relevant to the therapeutic orientation.

(f) The type and duration of counseling expected, if known at the time of providing the disclosure information.

(g) Fee information, including:

(i) The cost for each counseling session;

(ii) Billing practices, including any advance payments and refunds;

(iii) A statement that clients are not liable for any fees or charges for services rendered prior to receipt of the disclosure statement.

(h) The limits of confidentiality under RCW **18.19.180**.

(i) Disclosure of the certified counselor's or certified adviser's supervisory or consultation agreement as defined in WAC **246-810-025**.

(j) Disclosure that the certified counselor or certified adviser is not credentialed to diagnose mental disorders or to conduct psychotherapy as defined in WAC **246-810-010**(~~16~~14).

(k) All of the following:

(i) Counselors practicing counseling for a fee must be credentialed with the department of health for the protection of the public health and safety.

(ii) Credentialing of an individual with the department of health does not include a recognition of any practice standards, nor necessarily imply the effectiveness of any treatment.

(iii) The purpose of the Counselor Credentialing Act, chapter **18.19** RCW, is to:

(A) Provide protection for public health and safety; and

(B) Empower the citizens of the state of Washington by providing a complaint process against those counselors who would commit acts of unprofessional conduct.

(iv) Clients have the right to choose counselors who best suit their needs and purposes.

(l) A copy of the acts of unprofessional conduct in RCW **18.130.180** and the name, address, and contact telephone number within the department of health for complaints.

(m) Signature and date blocks for the client, and the certified counselor or certified adviser, including an attestation that the client agrees that the required disclosure statement has been provided and that the client has read and understands the information.

[\(n\) Any changes to the disclosure statement form or information requires all current clients to sign the updated form.](#)

246-810-032

Failure to provide client disclosure information.

Failure to provide to the client any of the disclosure information as set forth in WAC ~~246-810-030~~ and **246-810-031**, and as required by the law shall constitute an act of unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW **18.130.180**(7).

246-810-035

Record requirements.

(1) A counselor providing professional services to a client or providing services billed to a third-party payee~~or~~, must document services, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The documentation must include:

(a) Client name;

(b) The fee arrangement and record of payments;

(c) Dates counseling was received;

(d) Disclosure form, signed by counselor and client;

- (e) The presenting problem(s), or purpose of counseling;
- (f) Notation and results of formal consults, including information obtained from other persons or agencies through a release of information;
- (g) Progress notes sufficient to support responsible clinical practice for the type of theoretical orientation/therapy the counselor uses.

(2) If a client requests that no treatment records be kept, and the counselor agrees to the request, the request must be in writing and only the following must be retained:

- (a) Client name;
- (b) Fee arrangement and record of payments;
- (c) Dates counseling was received;
- (d) Disclosure form, signed by counselor and client;
- (e) Written request that no records be kept.

(3) The counselor may not agree to the request if maintaining records is required by other state or federal law.

(4) All records must be secured, with properly limited access. ~~Within this five-year period, all records must be secured, with properly limited access.~~

(5) All records must be kept for a period of six years following the last visit. For minor clients, records must be retained for six years after the date they turned eighteen years old.

(6) Special provisions must be made for the retention or transferal of active or inactive records and for continuity of services in the event of a counselor's death, incapacitation, or cessation of practice. Such special provisions may be made by having another counselor review records with a client and recommend a course of action; or other appropriate means as determined by the counselor.

(7) After the six-year retention period, the counselor may dispose of the record. Disposal must be done in a secure and confidential manner that includes:

- (a) Shredding;
- (b) Deleting, erasing, or reformatting electronic media; and
- (c) Other readable forms of media that are defaced or rendered unusable or unreadable.

246-810-040

Requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult.

(1) Chapter **26.44** RCW requires that all counselors must report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, when they have reasonable cause to believe that such an incident has occurred.

(2) Chapter **74.34** RCW requires that all counselors report when there is reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult has occurred.

(3) The report must be made to the local law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services within twenty-four hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child or vulnerable adult has suffered abuse or neglect.

246-810-045

Requirements for client fees paid in advance.

(1) The practice of collecting fees in advance and refund policies must be included in the disclosure statement to the client before any funds are collected.

(2) Counselors who collect fees in advance of the service provided must separate such funds from operating/expense funds. ~~Failure to properly account for such funds may be a violation of the Securities Act, RCW 21.20.005.~~ The counselor may not spend the funds until the service is provided. Any funds left in the account, for services not provided must be returned to the client within thirty days of the request.

(3) Room rental fees or similar expenses, for example, as relating to group therapy, are not considered fees paid in advance.

246-810-049

Sexual misconduct regulations.

(1) The definitions and prohibitions on sexual misconduct in chapter **246-16** WAC apply to counselors except WAC **246-16-100** (3) and (4).

(2) A counselor shall never engage, or attempt to engage, in the activities listed in WAC **246-16-100**(1) with a former patient, former client or former key party.

246-810-060

Mandatory reporting.

[Individuals and other entities must report unprofessional conduct in compliance with the Uniform Disciplinary Act in chapter 18.130 RCW and the standards of professional conduct in chapter 246-16 WAC. All individuals credentialed under this chapter are subject to the mandatory reporting requirements of chapter ~~246-16~~ WAC.](#)

246-810-061

Health care institutions.

~~The chief administrator or executive officer or their designee of any hospital, nursing home, licensed or certified behavioral health agency as defined in RCW ~~71.24.025~~, and residential treatment facility licensed under chapter ~~71.12~~ RCW, shall report to the department when any counselor's services are terminated or are restricted based upon a determination that the counselor has committed an act which may constitute unprofessional conduct or that the counselor may be unable to practice with reasonable skill or safety to clients by reason of a mental or physical condition. Reports are to be made in accordance with WAC ~~246-810-060~~.~~

246-810-062

Counselor associations or societies.

~~The president or chief executive officer of any counselor association or society within this state shall report to the department when the association or society determines that a registered counselor has committed unprofessional conduct or that a counselor may not be able to practice counseling with reasonable skill and safety to clients as the result of any mental or physical condition. The report required by must be made regardless of whether the counselor appeals, accepts, or acts upon the association or society's determination. The report must include notification of appeal. Reports must meet the requirements of WAC ~~246-810-060~~.~~

246-810-063

Health care service contractors and disability insurance carriers.

~~The executive officer of every health care service contractor and disability insurer, licensed under chapters **48.20**, 48.21, 48.21A, and **48.44** RCW, operating in the state of Washington shall report to the department all final determinations that a counselor has engaged in fraud in billing for services. Reports are to be made in accordance with WAC **246-810-060**.~~

246-810-064

Professional liability carriers.

~~Every institution or organization providing professional liability insurance directly or indirectly to counselors shall send a complete report to the department of any malpractice settlement, award, or payment in excess of twenty thousand dollars as a result of a claim or action for damages alleged to have been caused by an insured counselor's incompetency or negligence in the practice of counseling. Such institution or organization shall also report the award, settlement, or payment of three or more claims during a twelve-month period as a result of the counselor's alleged incompetence or negligence in the practice of counseling. Reports are to be made in accordance with WAC **246-810-060**.~~

246-810-065

Courts.

~~The department requests the assistance of the clerk of trial courts within the state to report all professional malpractice judgments and all convictions of counselors, other than minor traffic violations.~~

246-810-066

State and federal agencies.

~~The department requests the assistance of executive officers of any state or federal program operating in the state of Washington, under which a counselor is employed to provide client care services, to report to the department whenever such a counselor has been judged to have demonstrated his/her incompetency or negligence in the practice of counseling, or has otherwise committed unprofessional conduct, or may not be able to practice with reasonable skill and~~

safety by reason of any mental or physical condition. These requirements do not supersede any federal or state law.

246-810-089

Transitional dates for a registered counselor credential.

(1) ~~The department of health will not issue any new registered counselor credentials after July 1, 2009.~~

(2) ~~Individuals with a current or prior credential as a registered counselor may renew or reinstate their credential if all fees are paid and credentialing requirements are met. No registered counselor credentials will be renewed or reinstated after June 30, 2010.~~

(3) ~~To continue to practice counseling, all registered counselors must hold a different counseling credential by July 1, 2010.~~

(4) ~~All registered counselor credentials are abolished on July 1, 2010.~~

246-810-990

Counselors fees and renewal cycle.

(1) Under chapter **246-12** WAC, a counselor must renew their credential every year on the practitioner's birthday.

(2) Examination and reexamination fees are the responsibility of the applicant ~~and are paid directly to the testing company.~~

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged:

Title	Fee
Registered hypnotherapist:	
Application and registration	\$155.00
Renewal	\$80.00
Late renewal penalty	\$75.00
Expired registration reissuance	\$75.00
Duplicate registration	\$10.00
Verification of registration	\$25.00
Certified counselor:	
Application and certification	\$680.00
Examination or reexamination	\$85.00
Renewal	\$800.00
Late renewal penalty	\$300.00
Expired credential reissuance	\$100.00
Duplicate credential	\$10.00
Verification of credential	\$25.00
Certified adviser:	

Application and certification	\$620.00
Examination or reexamination	\$85.00
Renewal	\$745.00
Late renewal penalty	\$300.00
Expired credential reissuance	\$100.00
Duplicate credential	\$10.00
Verification of credential	\$25.00

Registered aAgency affiliated counselor:

Application and credentialing registration	\$175.00
Renewal	\$185.00
Late renewal penalty	\$95.00
Expired credential registration reissuance	\$50.00
Duplicate credential registration	\$10.00
Verification of credential registration	\$25.00

Certified agency affiliated counselor

Application and credentialing

Renewal

Late renewal penalty

Expired credential reissuance

Duplicate credential

Verification of credential

Licensed agency affiliated counselor

Application and credentialing

Renewal

Late renewal penalty

Expired credential reissuance

Duplicate credential

Verification of credential

