

Policy on 3000 Hours of Clinical Experience

For licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) Board rule 1365-01-.04(a)(7)(ii) requires: “At least three thousand (3000) hours of clinical experience, meaning client therapist contact.”

The Rules define clinical experience in two places:

1365-01-.01 DEFINITIONS

- (6) Clinical Experience - The assessment, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment involving the psychotherapy process based on the professional application of social work knowledge, values, and skills.

1365-01-.11 CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical experience includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) The professional application of social work knowledge, values, and skills for the treatment and prevention of psychosocial dysfunction, disability, or impairment, including emotional and mental disorders;
- (2) Interventions directed to interpersonal interactions, intrapsychic dynamics, life-support, and management issues; and
- (3) Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment involving the psychotherapy process based on counseling, client-centered advocacy, consultation, and evaluation of the professional application of social work knowledge values, and skills.

The emphasis in these definitions is assessment, diagnosis, and treatment in the psychotherapy process. Although other types of clinical work exist and may be counted for a portion of the 3000 hours of clinical experience, the expectation is that the 3000 hours will prepare an applicant to practice independently as an LCSW performing these assessment, diagnosis, and treatment tasks without supervision once they are licensed. Therefore the 3000 clinical hours which are reported must demonstrate experience within these definitions.

The experience must take place in a two to six year period. Because most social work positions include many hours of administrative and other work that does not fall within the above definitions, the Board has the expectation that most applicants *will be unable to obtain 3000 hours of clinical experience in two years*, while working in a forty hour a week full-time position.

Supervision logs must be maintained throughout the period of supervision and signed and dated by the applicant and supervisor as the hours are earned.

Supervision logs which do not demonstrate clinical work within these rule definitions or demonstrate an excessive number of clinical hours earned per week will be highly scrutinized.

Applicants may be requested to appear before the Board to demonstrate that their hours reported are accurate and meet these clinical experience definitions.

Adopted at the July 8-9, 2014 meeting of the Board.