

**TITLE 86. STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LICENSURE  
CHAPTER 20. LICENSED BEHAVIORAL PRACTITIONERS**

**SUBCHAPTER 11. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

**86:20-11-1. Graduate degree requirements**

(a) Pursuant to the Act, all applicants shall possess at least a masters degree from a program in psychology from a regionally accredited college or university recognized by one of the following six regional accrediting associations: The New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSCHE), The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), or their predecessors or successors.

(b) The program must be intended to prepare a scientist-practitioner in the field of psychology at the masters level and meet all the following criteria:

(1) The masters program must be clearly identified as a psychology program. Such a program must specify in a pertinent institutional catalogue, its intent to educate and train students in the field of psychology at the masters level;

(2) The pertinent institutional catalogue must state the structure and content of the curriculum of the program; and

(3) The program must have faculty who hold graduate degrees in psychology or closely related fields.

(c) The applicant must submit their educational credentials to the Board or the Board's designated credentialing agency for evaluation and determination of whether the program satisfies the requirements of Subchapter 20. Applicants with degrees earned from institutions outside the United States must provide an acceptable comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is acceptable to the Board or the Board's designated credentialing agency, and any other requirement(s) the Board deems necessary.

**86:20-11-2. Required knowledge areas**

On or after January 1, 2008, all applicants shall have the following core knowledge areas as part of the required 60 graduate semester hours:

(1) Assessment and Diagnosis - at least six (6) semester hours. Psychological theory, research, and methods concerning the measurement and assessment of an individual's behavioral or psychological functioning, such as the assessment of psychopathology, personality characteristics, intellectual functioning, skills and interests, and neuropsychological functioning;

- (2) Intervention - at least nine (9) semester hours. Psychological theory, research, and methods regarding empirically validated treatment modalities for the remediation, treatment, or prevention of behavior disorders, adjustment problems, and psychopathology, or other disturbances in psychological functioning;
- (3) Experimental Foundations - at least six (6) semester hours. Psychological theory, research, and methods concerning the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of psychological research, or concerning the general principles and processes for the core areas of experimental psychology;
- (4) Psychopathology - at least six (6) semester hours. Psychological theory, research, and methods concerning the descriptive characteristics, diagnosis, and etiology of psychopathology, or mental and behavioral disorders of children and adults;
- (5) Personality and Social Psychology - at least six (6) semester hours. Psychological theory, research, and methods concerning the psychological or behavioral development and functioning of the individual and group differences. Three (3) of these hours shall be in a course in multicultural issues or cultural bases of behavior;
- (6) Professional orientation/ethics - at least (3) semester hours. Objectives of professional behavioral health services organizations, codes of ethics, legal aspects of practice, standard of preparation and the role of persons providing direct behavioral health services.
- (7) Biological bases of behavior - at least three (3) semester hours. Physiological, or genetic underpinnings of behavior.
- (8) Practicum/internship. Organized practicums/internships with at least three hundred (300) clock hours in behavioral health services with planned experiences providing classroom and field experience with clients under the supervision of college or university approved behavioral health services professionals; and
- (9) Elective courses. The remaining courses needed to meet the sixty (60) graduate hour requirement shall be in any of the knowledge areas listed above.