

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 14  
ISSUE DATE: JULY 20, 2015  
**RULE ADOPTIONS**  
**LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST EXAMINERS**  
**ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE**

**Adopted New Rules: N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.7 and 2.8**

**Credit Towards Licensure and Certification for Education, Training, and Experience Received While Serving as a Member of the Armed Forces**

Proposed: October 20, 2014, at 46 N.J.R. 2082(a).

Adopted: February 12, 2015, by the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, Ben K. Beitin, Ph.D, President.

Filed: June 17, 2015, as R.2015 d.113, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:1-15 and 45:2D-14 and P.L. 2013, c. 49.

Effective Date: July 20, 2015.

Expiration Date: September 10, 2016.

**Summary** of Public Comment and Agency Response:

The official comment period ended on December 19, 2014. In order to ensure compliance with P.L. 2013, c. 259, the comment period was extended through January 4, 2015. The Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners (Board) and Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee (Committee) received one comment from Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., on behalf of the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

COMMENT: The New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. (NJAMHAA) expressed support for the Board's notice of proposal to provide credit towards the licensure and certification requirements for education, training, and experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces.

RESPONSE: The Board and Committee thank NJAMHAA for its support.

**Federal Standards Statement**

A Federal Standards analysis is not required because the adopted new rules are governed by P.L. 2013, c. 49 and N.J.S.A. 45:2D-14, and are not subject to any Federal requirements or standards.

**Full text** of the adopted new rules follow:

## SUBCHAPTER 2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE; APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

13:34C-2.7 Credit towards licensure for education, training, and experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces

(a) An applicant who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States (Armed Forces) and who does not meet all of the training, education, and experience requirements for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.2 may apply to the Committee for recognition of the applicant's training, education, or experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, which the Committee shall consider, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, for determining substantial equivalence to the training, education, and experience required for licensure.

(b) The Board shall issue a license to the applicant, if the applicant presents evidence to the Committee and the Board that:

1. The applicant has been honorably discharged from active military service;

2. The relevant training, experience, and education the applicant has received in the military, together with any training, experience, and education obtained outside of the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, experience, and education required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.2.

i. An applicant seeking credit for military training and experience shall submit to the Committee the applicant's Verification of Military [page=1876] Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586 or a successor form, as amended and supplemented.

ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military who does not hold a master's degree in counseling from an accredited institution of higher education, as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:34C-1.2, or a master's degree in an addictions or counseling related area that meets the course work requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.2(b), shall submit to the Board a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education/training for a determination that the education courses and/or training completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to the educational requirements described and required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.2. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Board shall consider only those education courses and/or training relevant to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education for substantial equivalence to civilian postsecondary curricula; and

3. The applicant complies with all other requirements for licensure, including successful completion of the written and oral examinations as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3(b).

(c) It is the applicant's responsibility to provide timely and complete evidence of the education, training, and/or experience gained in the military for review and consideration.

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, or experience, or a portion thereof, is deemed not to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure, the Committee and the Board shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, or experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.2 for the issuance of the license.

(e) Satisfactory evidence of such education, training, or experience shall be assessed on a

case-by-case basis.

13:34C-2.8 Credit towards certification for education, training, and experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces

(a) An applicant who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States (Armed Forces) and who does not meet all of the training, education, and experience requirements for certification under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3 may apply to the Committee for recognition of the applicant's training, education, or experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, which the Committee shall consider, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, for determining substantial equivalence to the training, education, and experience required for certification.

(b) The Board shall issue a certificate to the applicant if the applicant presents evidence to the Committee and the Board that:

1. The applicant has been honorably discharged from active military service;

2. The relevant training, experience, and education the applicant has received in the military, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, experience, and education required for certification under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3.

i. An applicant seeking credit for military training and experience shall submit to the Committee the applicant's Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586 or a successor form, as amended and supplemented.

ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military who has not completed the 270 hours of alcohol and drug education described in N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3(b)4 shall submit to the Committee a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education/training for a determination that the education courses and/or training completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to the educational requirements described and required for certification under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3(b)4. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Committee and the Board shall consider only those education courses and/or training relevant to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education for substantial equivalence to civilian postsecondary curricula; and

3. The applicant complies with all other requirements for certification, including successful completion of the written and oral examinations as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3(b).

(c) It is the applicant's responsibility to provide timely and complete evidence of the education, training, and/or experience gained in the military for review and consideration.

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, or experience, or a portion thereof, is deemed not to be substantially equivalent to that required for certification, the Committee and the Board shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, or experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3 for the issuance of the certificate.

(e) Satisfactory evidence of such education, training, or experience shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

