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ISSUE DATE: **JULY 6, 2015**
RULE ADOPTIONS
LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

Adopted New Rules: N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.5, 11.8, 11.9, and 21.6

Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, Associate Counselor, and Rehabilitation Counselor: Credit Towards Licensure and Certification for Education, Training, and Experience Received While Serving as a Member of the Armed Forces

Proposed: November 17, 2014, at 46 N.J.R. 2262(a).

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

Filed: June 2, 2015, as R.2015 d.110, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:1-15 and 45:8B-13; and P.L. 2013, c. 49.

Effective Date: July 6, 2015.

Expiration Date: September 10, 2016.

Summary of Public Comment and Agency Response:

The official comment period ended on January 16, 2015. **The Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners and Professional Counselor Examiners Committee received no comments.**

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. 45:8B-1 et seq., and are not subject to any Federal requirements or standards.

Full text of the adopted new rules follow:

SUBCHAPTER 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE; APPLICATION PROCEDURES

13:34-4.5 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. 13:34-4.2 and 4.3 may apply to the Board for recognition of the applicant's training, education, or experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, which the Board 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 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 the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, experience, and education required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2 and 4.3.

i. An applicant seeking credit for military training and experience shall submit to the Board the applicant's Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586.

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 marriage and family therapy or a master's degree in social work or a graduate degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution which provides the training and course work described in N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2, 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. 13:34-4.2. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Board shall consider only those courses relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education for substantial equivalence to civilian postsecondary curricula.

iii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses completed while in the military who does not hold a post graduate degree recognized by the Board which includes the course work required in N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2(b), or who has not completed a program of training and course work at an institute or training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, shall submit to the Board a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education, for a determination that the education courses completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to a post graduate degree or a program of training and course work, as described and required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Board shall consider only those courses relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy 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 as a professional counselor including successful completion of the National Marriage and Family Therapy Examination administered by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards or its successor as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.1.

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

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, and experience, or a portion thereof, is not deemed to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure, the Board shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, or experience that is substantially equivalent [page=1638] towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2 and 4.3 for the issuance of the license.

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

(f) An applicant who meets the educational requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2 and does not meet the experience requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.3 may be eligible to apply for a temporary permit in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:34-5.2.

SUBCHAPTER 11. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND ASSOCIATE COUNSELORS: APPLICATION PROCEDURE; DEFINITIONS

13:34-11.8 Professional counselor: 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. 13:34-11.2 and 11.3 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 licensure.

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

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

2. The relevant training, experience, and education the applicant 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 licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2 and 11.3.

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.

ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military, who does not hold a master's degree or a doctorate in counseling as described in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2, shall submit to the Committee a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education for a determination that the education courses and/or training completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to a master's degree or a doctorate in counseling as described and required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Committee shall consider only those courses relevant to the practice of

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 as a professional counselor, including successful completion of the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or its successor, administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or its successor, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.4.

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

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, and experience, or a portion thereof, is not deemed to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure as a professional counselor, the Committee shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, and experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2 and 11.3 for the issuance of the license as a professional counselor.

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

13:34-11.9 Associate counselor: 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. 13:34-11.5 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 as an associate counselor to the applicant, if the applicant presents evidence to the Committee 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 and outside of the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, education, and experience required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.5.

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.

ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military, who does not hold a master's degree or a doctorate in counseling as described in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.5, 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 a master's degree or a doctorate in counseling, as described and required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.5. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Committee shall consider only those courses relevant to the practice of

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 as an associate counselor, including successful completion of the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or its successor, administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or its successor, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.6.

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

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, and experience, or a portion thereof, is not deemed to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure, the Committee shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, and experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.5 for the issuance of the license as an associate counselor.

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

SUBCHAPTER 21. REHABILITATION COUNSELORS: APPLICATION PROCEDURE; DEFINITIONS

13:34-21.6 Rehabilitation counselor: 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. 13:34-21.2(b) and 21.3, 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 licensure.

[page=1639] (b) The Board shall issue a license as a rehabilitation counselor to the applicant, if the applicant presents evidence to the Committee that:

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

2. The relevant training, experience, and education the applicant received in the military, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, education, and experience required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-21.2(b) and 21.3.

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.

ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military, who does not hold a master's degree from a rehabilitation counseling degree program accredited, at the time of the applicant's graduation, by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) or its successor, shall submit to the Committee a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education for a determination that the education courses

and/or training completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to a CORE accredited program as required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:34-21.2(b). For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Committee shall consider only those education courses and/or training relevant to the practice of rehabilitation 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 as a professional counselor including successful completion of the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination administered by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-21.4.

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

(d) If the applicant's military training, education and experience, or a portion thereof, is not deemed to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure as a rehabilitation counselor, the Committee shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, and experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:34-21.2(b) and 21.3 for the issuance of the license as a rehabilitation counselor.

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