RULEMAKING ACTION:
PERMANENT final adoption

RULES:
Subchapter 1. General provisions
310:405-1-2.1. Definitions [AMENDED]
Subchapter 3. Rules of professional conduct
310:405-3-2. Competence [AMENDED]
Subchapter 9. Academic requirements
310:405-9-2. Knowledge area required [AMENDED]
Subchapter 17. Continuing education requirements
310:405-17-2. Number of hours required [AMENDED]
310:405-17-3. Acceptable continuing education [AMENDED]
310:405-17-4.1. Continuing education accrual from home-study or technology-assisted distance learning courses [AMENDED]
Subchapter 21. License and specialty renewal
310:405-21-5. Requirements for renewal [AMENDED]
Subchapter 27. Licensure by endorsement
310:405-27-3. License by endorsement [AMENDED]

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Oklahoma State Board of Health, Title 63 O.S. Section 1-104; and Title 59 O.S. Section 1905 et seq.

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ANALYSIS:
These rules address those individuals who are a Licensed
Professional Counselor (LPC), those persons who are LPC candidates, and those individuals holding a license from another jurisdiction who wish to become an LPC in the State of Oklahoma. The rule modifications more closely align the state program with national standards; provide professional standards for forensic services; remove the oral examination component thereby removing subjectivity from the scoring of results; simplify provisions for reporting continuing education; and revise requirements for licensure by endorsement, offering new avenues for licensure.

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PURSUANT TO THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED HEREIN, THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE CONSIDERED FINALLY ADOPTED AS SET FORTH IN 75 O.S., SECTION 308.1(A), WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JULY 25, 2013:

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

310:405-1-2.1. Definitions
When used in this Chapter, the following words or terms shall have the following meaning unless the context of the sentence requires another meaning:

"Act" means Title 59, Sections 1901 et seq. of the Oklahoma Statutes.
"Advisory board" means the Oklahoma Licensed Professional Counselor Advisory Board appointed by the State Board of Health.
"Approved LPC Supervisor" means an individual who is approved by the Department pursuant to Section 310:405-11-4 of this Chapter.
"Counselor" means a person licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor pursuant to this Act.
"Dual relationship" means a familial, social, financial, business, professional, close personal, sexual or other non-therapeutic relationship with a client, or engaging in any activity with another person that interferes or conflicts with the LPC's or LPC Candidate's professional obligation to a client.
"Face-to-face counseling" means the counselor and the client shall be in the physical presence of the other during counseling.
"Face-to-face supervision" means the supervisor and the supervisee shall be in the physical presence of the other during individual or group supervision.
"Forensic services" means the application of knowledge, training and experience from the mental health field to the establishment of facts and/or the establishment of evidence in a court of law or ordered by a court of law.
"Full time" means at least twenty (20) hours of on-the-job experience per week.
"Group supervision" means an assemblage of counseling supervisee consisting of from two (2) to six (6) members.
"Home-study or technology-assisted distance learning" means the delivery of graduate coursework or continuing education by any means
through mailed correspondence or other distance learning technologies, which focuses on using synchronous or asynchronous instructional delivery methods to students who are not in the physical presence of the educator.

"OAC" means the Oklahoma Administrative Code.

"On-site supervisor" means a person who may not be an approved LPC supervisor but is licensed by the state of Oklahoma as a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Behavioral Practitioner, Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, Psychiatrist, or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor employed by the agency employing the LPC Candidate whose assigned job duties include acting as the immediate supervisor to the LPC Candidate and who is available to the candidate at all times when counseling services are being rendered by the LPC Candidate.

**SUBCHAPTER 3. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

310:405-3-2. Competence

(a) **Counseling.** LPCs and LPC Candidates shall practice only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, state and national professional credentials, and appropriate professional experience. An LPC or LPC Candidate shall only practice in a new area when said LPC or LPC Candidate has received the necessary education, training and supervised experience, and shall take steps to ensure the competence of work provided and to protect others from possible harm.

(b) **Testing and assessment.** LPCs and LPC Candidates shall know the limits of their competence and shall therefore perform only those testing and assessment services for which they have been trained and received training and supervision in the administration, scoring and interpretation processes associated with the provisions of such services. LPCs and LPC Candidates shall be responsible for receiving training on testing and assessment instruments that have been revised or updated. LPCs and LPC Candidates shall be familiar with related standardization, and proper application, copyright restrictions and security demands of any testing or assessment technique utilized. LPCs and LPC Candidates shall ensure that any testing instrument selected is the most current edition available, has been properly evaluated for validity and reliability and is culturally appropriate for the clients with whom it is used. LPCs and LPC Candidates using computer-based test interpretations shall be trained in the construct being measured and the specific instrument being used prior to using this type of computer application. LPCs shall ensure the proper use of assessment techniques by persons under their supervision.

(c) **Diagnosis of mental disorders.** LPCs and LPC Candidates shall provide the proper diagnosis of mental disorders in their clients, as published in Section E.5., Diagnosis of Mental Disorders, of the American Counseling Association (ACA) Code of Ethics, approved by the ACA Governing Council, 2005.

(d) **Specialty.** LPCs and LPC Candidates shall not represent themselves as specialists in any aspect of counseling, unless so designated by the Board.
(d) (e) Research. LPCs and LPC Candidates shall plan, design, conduct, and report research only in a manner consistent with current American Counseling Association Code of Ethics as published in Section G., Research and Publication, of the American Counseling Association (ACA) Code of Ethics, approved by the ACA Governing Council, 2005, pertinent ethical principles, federal and state laws, rules, and scientific standards governing research with human subjects.

(e) (f) Impairment. LPCs and LPC Candidates shall not offer or render professional services when such services may be impaired by a personal physical, mental or emotional condition(s). LPCs and LPC Candidates shall seek assistance for any such personal problem(s) with their physical, mental or emotional condition, and, if necessary, limit, suspend, or terminate their professional activities. If an LPC or LPC Candidate possesses a bias, disposition, attitude, moral persuasion or other similar condition that limits his or her ability to recommend a course of treatment or decision-making that is indicated, and under such circumstances where all other treatment and decision options are contra-indicated, then in that event the LPC shall not undertake to provide counseling and will terminate the counseling relationship in accordance with these rules.

(f) (g) Knowledge of impairment. If a LPC or LPC Candidate becomes aware that a LPC or LPC Candidate is violating an obligation described in Section OAC 310:405-3-2(e), (f), OAC 310:405-3-4(b) or other provisions of the Act or this Chapter of regulations, the LPC or LPC Candidate must, within a reasonable time thirty (30) days, report the situation to the Department in accordance with Section OAC 310:405-31-2. The report shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Name of the LPC or LPC Candidate making the report;
(2) Name of the LPC or LPC Candidate who is allegedly impaired;
(3) Any facts that can be revealed concerning the impairment;
(4) The LPC or LPC Candidate shall maintain the confidentiality of the client pursuant to Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1910, unless a signed release is received from the client.

(g) (h) Knowledge of improper any sexual contact conduct. If a LPC or LPC candidate becomes aware that another LPC or LPC Candidate is violating Section 310:405-3-3.1 OAC 310:405-3-3(d) or (e), OAC 310:405-3-4 (c) or OAC 310:405-3-4.1(b), the LPC or LPC Candidate must, within a reasonable time thirty (30) days, report the any improper sexual contact conduct to the Department in accordance with Section OAC 310:405-31-2. The report shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Name of the LPC or LPC Candidate making the report;
(2) Name of the LPC or LPC Candidate who is alleged to have engaged in the sexual conduct;
(3) Any facts that can be revealed concerning the sexual conduct;
(4) The LPC or LPC Candidate shall maintain the confidentiality of the client pursuant to Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1910, unless a signed release is received from the client.

(h) Evaluations Forensic services. LPC candidates and licensees LPCs and LPC Candidates may not perform forensic services, which include, but are not limited to, assessments, interviews, consultations, custody evaluations, reports, or expert testimony, or other such
activity that is undertaken or conducted by the candidate or licensee in contemplation that the results may, or are intended to be, later furnished to a trier of fact or other decision maker, except only under the following conditions:

1. LPC candidates and licensees must demonstrate competence by certification, education, and experience in the subject matter relevant to the issues in question and must certify in writing that they have complied with all applicable provisions of the Rules and Regulations described in Sections 310:405-3-1, 310:405-3-2(a)(f) and 310:405-3-5(f)(1)(2)(3) of this Chapter, as determined by the court.

2. LPC candidates and licensees shall prepare a written report and include a separate section therein containing the author’s findings and conclusions relative to their analysis. Additionally, the candidate or licensee must provide to the person who is the subject of their forensic analysis, and such other person or persons who has/have a legally recognizable right in the subject matter of the proceeding, which may be directly adversely affected by the findings and conclusions made by the candidate or licensee, a copy of the written report at no cost to the person or persons entitled to receive a copy of the written report pursuant to this section. The copy(ies) must be provided at least ten (10) days prior to the report’s publication unless otherwise required by law or court order. LPCs and LPC Candidates shall provide a written notice and make a reasonable attempt to obtain a signature acknowledging receipt of such notice, from each person or persons who is the subject of the forensic services. This written notice shall include:
   - a description of what procedure will be followed in the evaluation process;
   - how such information, interpretations, conclusions, and recommendations will be distributed;
   - fee arrangements; and
   - explanation of the role of the evaluator if subsequently called upon to provide expert testimony before a trier of fact.

3. LPC candidates and licensees shall maintain written records, in a form or format that is legible or readable to third persons, of all contacts and information received and used in the preparation of their report.

4. LPC candidates and licensees must conduct a thorough examination of the person and must utilize face-to-face interviews of the person(s) who is the subject of their forensic analysis, and such other person or persons who has/have a legally recognizable right in the subject matter of the proceeding, which may be directly adversely affected by the findings and conclusions made by the candidate or licensee, and must utilize a "face-to-face" interview of the person who is the subject of the forensic analysis, or any other such person who may be directly adversely affected by the findings and conclusions made by the candidate or licensee.

5. LPC candidates and licensees must shall base their findings and conclusions only upon information gained by
appropriate and lawful means. Interviews of minor children must be preceded by written consent from the joint-custodial parents or from the custodial parent or from the legal guardian or from the legal custodian appointed by the Court.

(6) LPC candidates and licensees who provide counseling services for a client may only provide fact witness testimony, which may include diagnostic impressions, treatment plans and other factual clinical information ordinarily included in a treatment file. Fact witness testimony by LPCs and LPC Candidates shall not include opinions or recommendations pertaining to matters subject to a decision by the Court, in forensic matters involving that client, unless otherwise required by law or court order. LPC candidates and licensees who provide mediation, parent coordinating assistance or any other neutral participation, may not undertake to provide counseling to any person(s) involved or directly affected by the LPC candidate's or licensee's role as a neutral participant. Fact witness testimony means evidentiary statements that are limited to direct observations made by the LPC candidate or licensee and shall not include conclusions, opinions or recommendations.

(7) Assessments, interviews, consultations, custody evaluations, reports or other activity not performed in contemplation that the results would be furnished to a trier of fact or decision maker, must be kept confidential and cannot be utilized in the formation or publication of an opinion by the candidate or licensee.

**SUBCHAPTER 9. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

310:405-9-2. Knowledge area required

(a) Each applicant shall possess as a part of the required sixty (60) semester credit hours or ninety (90) quarter credit hours of graduate curriculum, one (1) or more courses of at least three (3) semester credit hours or four (4) quarter credit hours per course in each of the following core counseling areas:

1. Human growth and development – at least one (1) course which deals with the process stages of human intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of any of the stages of life from prenatal through old age.
2. Abnormal human behavior – at least one (1) course which offers a study of the principles of understanding dysfunction in human behavior or social disorganization.
3. Appraisal/assessment techniques – at least two (2) courses which deal with the principles, concepts and procedures of systematic appraisal, assessment, or interpretation of client needs, abilities, and characteristics, which may include the use of both testing and non-testing approaches.
4. Counseling theories/methods – at least two (2) courses which survey the major theories and/or techniques of counseling.
5. Professional orientation/ethics – at least one (1) course which deals primarily with the objectives of professional counseling organizations, codes of ethics, legal aspects of practice, standards
of preparation and the role of persons providing direct counseling services.

(6) Research – at least one (1) course in the methods of social science or mental health research which includes the study of statistics or a thesis project in an area relevant to the practice of counseling.

(7) Practicum/internship – at least one (1) course of an organized practicum with at least three hundred (300) clock hours in counseling with planned experiences providing classroom and field experience with clients under the supervision of college or university approved counseling professionals.

(8) Knowledge areas – at least five (5) courses of at least three (3) semester credit hours or four (4) quarter credit hours each from the knowledge areas listed below.

(A) Group dynamics counseling – course that provides both theoretical and experiential understandings of group purpose, development, dynamics, theories, methods, skills, and other group approaches in a culturally diverse society, including issues of group counseling leadership, stages, skills, methods, and ethics issues.

(B) Life style and career development – course that provides an understanding of career development and related life factors, as well as an overview of career development theories, program planning, educational planning, assessment techniques, and applied career counseling processes, including those applicable to specific populations in a global economy.

(C) Social and cultural foundations – course that provides an understanding of the cultural context of relationships, issues, and trends in a culturally diverse society, including an overview of social and cultural theories, strategies, and roles to be applied by the pluralistic counselor to establish an environment for optimal client wellness and successful counseling outcomes.

(D) Personality theories – course that examines contemporary and alternative personality theories that provide the student with models to conceptualize client presentation and that help the student select appropriate counseling interventions, including an examination of models of counseling that are consistent with current professional research and practice in the field of counseling.

(E) Crisis intervention – course that provides an overview of crisis and disaster intervention strategies for the professional counselor that addresses areas including, but not limited to, crises of suicide, homicide, disability due to a mental illness, domestic violence, school violence, post-traumatic stress disorder, and vicarious trauma.

(F) Marriage/family counseling – course that provides an overview of the knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to address a wide variety of issues in the context of relationships and families, including historical, theoretical, and developmental issues in systems counseling, in addition to examining the basic skills of marriage, couple, and family counseling.
(G) Addictions counseling - course that provides an overview of assessment and treatment methods available for clients and their family members struggling with substance-related disorders or behavioral/process addiction issues.

(H) Rehabilitation counseling - course that provides an overview of the history, philosophy, and legal basis of rehabilitation programs, the roles of the rehabilitation counselor, and the process of rehabilitation, including the organizational structure of public and private rehabilitation systems, societal trends in rehabilitation, and professional issues related to the role of the rehabilitation counselor.

(I) Gerontology - course that provides a conceptual system for understanding the phenomenon of aging and the counselor’s role in working with an aging client population, including practical counseling skills necessary for meeting the demands of coping with aging in a culturally diverse society.

(J) Human sexuality - course that focuses on sexual development and educational issues as applied to the field of professional counseling with emphases placed upon becoming comfortable with one’s own sexuality, assisting parents with providing sexual education to their children, providing education with regard to sexual matters, and diagnosing and treating sexual dysfunction.

(K) Counseling with children/adolescents - course that provides instruction in the theories and techniques used in counseling children and adolescents, including instruction on the conceptualization of childhood and adolescent problems with an emphasis on age- and developmentally-appropriate interventions.

(L) Clinical supervision - course that serves as a didactic and experiential learning experience for counselors who wish to assume the role of clinical supervisor, including the assimilation and application of major theoretical/conceptual models and approaches to clinical supervision in a variety of settings.

(M) Psychopharmacology - course that provides an overview of commonly prescribed psychotropic medications for psychiatric disorders to assist the counselor in understanding his or her role in working with medical professionals in the concurrent treatment of mental health issues using an interdisciplinary approach.

(N) Consultation - course that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for the delivery of counselor consultation, including basic models of consultation, the content and procedural process for implementing consultation, and characteristics of an effective consultant-consultee relationship.

(O) Physical and Emotional Health - course that deals with the overlap of physiological and psychological health models, examining the neural and hormonal bases of learning, memory, motivation, emotions, mental disorders, and other behaviors.

(P) Grief counseling - course that addresses the mental health, social, and cultural manifestations of grief counseling, including, interventions and the coverage of characteristics of grief throughout the life cycle.
specialty areas when established.

(b) Remaining courses. Effective January 1, 2000, the remaining courses needed to meet the sixty (60) semester or ninety (90) quarter graduate-hour requirement shall be in any of the knowledge areas listed in 310:405-9-2(a) and may be in increments of one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) graduate semester hour courses or one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) graduate quarter hour courses.

SUBCHAPTER 17. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

310:405-17-2. Number of hours required

(a) Licensees shall complete and furnish documentation to the Department of twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education per year. One (1) graduate academic semester credit hour is equal to fifteen (15) clock hours. One (1) graduate academic quarter credit hour is equal to ten (10) clock hours. Current LPC Advisory Board members shall receive clock hours of acceptable continuing education for attendance and participation in advisory board or sub-committee meetings.

(b) A minimum of three (3) clock hours of continuing education hours must be in counseling ethics from programs pre-approved by the Department or its designee. Continuing education in counseling ethics is acceptable as meeting the pre-approval requirements by the Department when the continuing education program:

   (1) Addresses ethics issues, as the sole focus and specifically pertains to the practice of counseling, as defined in Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1902(6) of this Act, counseling treatment interventions, consulting, referral activities, or research activities as defined in Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1902 of this Act.

   (2) Addresses regulations as promulgated in Subchapter 3 of this Chapter.

   (3) Meets all requirements of sections 2-5 of Section OAC 310:405-17-3 of this Chapter.

   (4) As of the July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 renewal period, the three clock hours of counseling ethics continuing education must be accrued in a face-to-face setting.

   (5) Current LPC Advisory Board members shall receive clock hours of acceptable continuing education for attendance and participation in advisory board or sub-committee meetings.

(c) Approved LPC Supervisors must complete a minimum of three (3) clock hours of continuing education in counseling supervision from programs pre-approved by the Department of its designee. Continuing education in Counseling Supervision is acceptable as meeting the pre-approval requirements by the Department when the continuing education program:

   (1) Addresses issues specifically related to the practice of clinical supervision, as the sole focus, pursuant to regulations promulgated in Subchapter 11 of this Chapter.

   (2) Contains content in one or more of the following knowledge areas:
Ethical and legal considerations in the practice of clinical supervision;
(B) Theoretical models of clinical supervision;
(C) Clinical supervision intervention methods and modalities;
(D) Research in clinical supervision; and
(3) Meets all requirements of sections 2-5 of Subchapter OAC 310:405-17-3 of this Chapter.
(4) As of the July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 renewal period, the three clock hours of counseling supervision continuing education must be accrued in a face-to-face setting.

310:405-17-3. Acceptable continuing education
Continuing education (C.E.) is acceptable to the Department when it:
(1) Approximates the content of any of the academic areas listed under subchapter OAC 310:405-9-2 of this chapter and;
(2) Is presented by a person who:
(A) is licensed or certified by counseling related professions;
(B) is a licensed or certified member of a non-counseling field, i.e. medicine, law if the content of the presentation is counselor related and falls within the presenter's area of training; or
(C) has experience teaching, at the graduate level, in a regionally accredited college or university from any of the knowledge areas listed in Section OAC 310:405-9-2 of this Chapter; or
(D) the person is presenting or has presented at a national mental health conference provided by the American Counseling Association (ACA), or any of its divisions, American Psychological Association (APA), Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), National Association for Social Workers (NASW), the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), or other nationally recognized professional organization in the mental health field; or
(E) is presenting in a program sponsored or provided by a state or federal government agency with responsibility for mental health and substance abuse services; and
(3) Takes place in the context of:
(A) a college course, in-service training, institute, seminar, workshop, conference or a Department pre-approved home-study or technology-assisted distance learning course;
(B) takes place in the context of a national mental health conference provided by the American Counseling Association (ACA), or any of its divisions, American Psychological Association (APA), American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), National Association for Social Workers (NASW), the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), or other nationally recognized professional organization in the mental health field; or
(C) a program approved or offered by a state or federal government agency with responsibility for mental health and substance abuse services; and or
(D) Current LPC Advisory Board members shall receive clock hours of acceptable continuing education for attendance and participation in advisory board or sub-committee meetings.

(4) Is accrued during the twelve (12) months preceding the renewal deadline or, in the case of the first licensing period, twenty-four (24) months preceding.

310:405-17-4.1. Continuing education accrual from home-study or technology-assisted distance learning courses

Continuing education may be accrued when the LPC completes home-study or technology-assisted distance learning programs that are approved by the Department. No more than ten (10) hours of continuing education may be accrued per renewal period through home-study or technology-assisted distance learning courses. Presenter or program author must meet all requirements of OAC 310:405-17-3 of this Chapter. Home-study or technology-assisted distance learning is designed to deliver education to learners who are not in the direct physical presence of the educator.

SUBCHAPTER 21. LICENSE AND SPECIALITY RENEWAL

310:405-21-5. Requirements for renewal
Requirements for renewal include:
(1) Compliance with the Act and rules.
(2) Documentation of the required continuing education.
(3) Payment of the renewal fee(s).
(4) Submission of Continuing Education on the Continuing Educations Roster for Renewal of LPC licensure form.

SUBCHAPTER 27. LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

310:405-27-3. License by endorsement
(a) The Department shall issue a license by full endorsement to an applicant who is licensed or certified as a professional counselor in another jurisdiction by another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia and who meets the following:
   (1) The applicant's professional counselor license in the other jurisdiction is active and in good standing which allows the applicant to practice independently without supervision. The applicant shall have with no history of suspension or revocation action against the license and fulfills all the requirements located in OAC 310:405-5;
   (2) The applicant fulfills the requirements of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1906(A), (B) and (C) and (B) (1)(3)(4) of the LPC Act;
   (3) The applicant must have at least a masters degree in a counseling or a mental health related field from a regionally accredited college or university;
   (4) The applicant must show proof of one of the following:
      (A) has held a license in another jurisdiction for at least five years; or
(B) satisfies the requirements located at Title 59 Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1906 (C); and

(4) The applicant takes and passes the examination as provided in Section 1907(A)(1) of the LPC Act, unless the applicant has passed a written, counseling examination that, in the judgment of the Department, is substantially equivalent to the examination established by the Department.

(5) The applicant successfully completes the Oklahoma Legal and Ethical Responsibilities Examination.

(b) The Department shall issue a two (2) year, non-renewable license by endorsement to applicants seeking full endorsement who do not fulfill the requirements set forth in subsection 310:405-27-3(a) of this Chapter, but only under the following conditions:

(1) The applicant must show proof of continuous practice in counseling for five (5) years prior to application in Oklahoma;

(2) The applicant must show proof of professional counselor licensure in the other jurisdiction is current and in good standing, with no history of suspension or revocation against the license;

(3) The applicant takes and passes the examinations as provided in subsection 310:405-15-2 of this Chapter; and

(4) The applicant completes all deficient course work to meet the academic requirements as provided in subchapter 9 of this Chapter.

(c) The license by endorsement will expire after two years from the date of issue. Failure to fulfill the requirements as provided in this subsection, within the two (2) year licensure period, will require the applicant to fulfill licensure requirements set forth in Section 1906 (C)(1)(2) of the Act.