

**20:68:03:02. Approved counseling program.** Academic requirements to become a professional counselor must be completed through a board approved counseling program. An approved counseling program is:

(1) A counseling program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs; or

(2) An organized sequence of study in the area of counseling that includes graduate course work in each of the following areas:

(a) Counseling theory: including a study of basic theories, principles of counseling, and philosophical bases of the helping relationship;

(b) Counseling techniques: including individual counseling practices, methods, facilitative skills, and the application of these skills;

(c) Practicum: including a supervised training experience consisting of the provision of counseling to clients or groups seeking services from counselors;

(i) A practicum consists of no less than 100 hours, of which 40 hours are direct service;

(ii) Prior to the beginning of the practicum, the student must have completed a course in counseling theory and a course in counseling techniques;

(iii) The practicum must be under the direction of a graduate faculty member; and

(iv) The supervisor's evaluation of the trainee's work shall take place through face-to-face contact;

(d) Internship: including an on-the-job experience in professional counseling under the tutelage of an on-site supervisor who is a licensed professional counselor or licensed mental health therapist. The supervised internship may be no less than 600 hours of which 240 hours must be in direct services;

(e) Human growth and development: including studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of an individual at all developmental levels. Emphasis is placed on psychological, sociological, and physiological approaches, human behavior (normal and abnormal), personality theory, and learning theory;

(f) Social and cultural foundations: including studies of change, ethnic groups, subcultures, changing roles of women, sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, urban and rural societies, population patterns, cultural mores, use of leisure time, and differing life patterns;

(g) Group: including the study of group dynamics, group processes, practices and methods of group counseling, supervised practice, facilitative skills, and theory and types of groups;

(h) Life-style and career development: including vocational-choice theory, relationship of career choice to life-style, sources of occupational and educational information, approaches to career decision-making processes, and career development exploration techniques;

(i) Appraisal of the individual: including the development of a framework for understanding the individual, methods of data-gathering and interpretation, case study approaches, individual and group psychological and educational testing, and the study of individual differences with consideration of ethnic, cultural, and gender factors;

(j) Research and evaluation: including statistics, research design, the development of research and demonstration proposals, and the development and evaluation of program objectives; and

(k) Professional, legal, and ethical considerations: including the study of professional counseling organizations, codes of ethics, legal considerations, standards of preparation, certification and licensure, and the professional role identity of counselors.

**Source:** 18 SDR 67, effective October 16, 1991; 22 SDR 97, effective January 24, 1996; 25 SDR 85, effective December 22, 1998; 47 SDR 42, effective October 14, 2020.

**General Authority:** SDCL 36-32-56.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 36-32-64.