

Matrix of Changes – as of June 13, 2024

General edits throughout the chapter:

1. Edits to align WAC conventions to the DOH style guide (example: use of shall/must).
2. Removed unnecessary repeated requirements to follow general licensing WACs.
3. Made language clearer and more concise wherever possible.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>246-810-010 Definitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed definitions that were not used in the chapter; any definitions that were used only once were moved to the appropriate WAC section. ○ Referred to statute definitions wherever possible. ○ Amended the definition of “agency” to include federally qualified health centers as created by HB2247, located in Washington State. ○ Amended the definition of “agency affiliated counselor” to include certified and licensed agency affiliated counselors and student interns. ○ Amended definition of “licensed health care practitioners” to include licensed behavior analysts and mental health counselors. ○ Amended the definition of “counselor” to remove outdated reference to Registered Counselor credential. ○ Amended the definition of “consultation” to include reference to WAC 246-810-026 (2) in addition to chapter 18.130 RCW. ○ Added definitions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved educational program ○ certified agency affiliated counselor ○ licensed agency affiliated counselor ○ registered agency affiliated counselor ○ student intern ○ Supervised experience ○ Updated other definitions to better align with statutory descriptions or definitions.
<p>246-810-011 Exempt activities and individuals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simplified exemption language by referring to statute.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>246-810-0120 Application process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consolidated and clarified application process language to better mirror statute. ○ Removed requirements covered by statute. ○ Added language specifying what information would be requested from student interns choosing to practice as a registered AAC.
<p>New 246-810-0121 <u>Foreign transcript evaluation requirements.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added process detailing transcript evaluation requirements for international students.
<p>246-810-0130 State agency employee credentialing requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated language to gender neutral pronouns. ○ Removed outdated reference to the discontinued credential type “Registered counselor”.
<p>New 246-810-0131 <u>Requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved requirements for reporting suspected child and adult abuse or neglect from 246-810-040 to this section for appropriate chapter organization. ○ Consolidated and clarified language to better mirror current standards.
<p>New 246-810-0132 <u>Sexual misconduct regulations.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved requirements for sexual misconduct regulations from 246-810-049 to this section for appropriate chapter organization. ○ Consolidated and clarified language to better mirror current standards.
<p>New 246-810-0133 Mandatory reporting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved reporting requirements from 246-810-060 through 246-810-066 to consolidate rules into one section.
<p>246-810-0150 Agency affiliated counselor: Scope of practice and credentialing application requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consolidated scope of practice language. ○ Moved employment requirements to 246-810-0151 for chapter consistency. ○ Clarified applicant’s role and timeline with resolving application deficiencies while practicing on a pending credential. ○ Added student interns to general application submission requirements.
<p>New 246-810-0151 <u>Qualifications to become a Registered agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirements.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved employment requirements from 246-81-0150 to this new section for clarity and consistency. ○ Added student interns as a viable pathway to be a registered agency affiliated counselor.
<p>New 246-810-0152</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added certified agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirement language.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>Qualifications to become a Certified agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added employment requirements from 246-810-0150 to this section for chapter consistency. ○ Clarified supervised experience requirements for out of state applicants, private practice experience, and experience gained under a CAAR supervisor designated as an MHP. ○ Updated listed date for supervised experience obtained before January 1, 2025 to incorporate those practicing under the Policy Statement, filed as WSR 23-23-116, that allows supervised experience to be obtained under a Registered AAC designated as an MHP.
<p>New 246-810-0153 <u>Coursework requirements for certified agency affiliated counselors.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanded the list of bachelor’s degrees that satisfy the certified AAC coursework requirements to include behavioral healthcare. ○ Removed unnecessary coursework option #2 (2 psychology, 2 counseling, and 2 behavior courses). ○ Broadened coursework option (3) for multiple options and reduced number of required courses. ○ Formatted coursework requirements into a table for easier readability.
<p>New 246-810-0154 Qualifications to become a Licensed agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added licensed agency affiliated counselor credentialing requirement language. ○ Added employment requirements from 246-810-0150 to this section for chapter consistency. ○ Clarified supervised experience requirements for out of state applicants, private practice experience, and experience gained under a CAAR supervisor designated as an MHP. ○ Updated listed date for supervised experience obtained before January 1, 2025 to incorporate those practicing under the Policy Statement, filed as WSR 23-23-116, that allows supervised experience to be obtained under a Registered AAC designated as an MHP.
<p>New 246-810-0155 <u>Coursework requirements for licensed agency affiliated counselors.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced number of required courses in option #2. ○ Updated list of courses to reflect current course title offerings.
<p>246-810-016 Agencies, facilities, federally recognized Indian tribes located within the state, or counties that can employ agency affiliated counselors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added language to support the addition of federally qualified health centers located in WA state. ○ Removed unnecessary reference to agency directory. ○ Technical edits to formatting.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>246-810-017 Process to become a recognized agency or facility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated language for clarity.
<p>246-810-018 An agency affiliated counselor must report an employment change. <u>Reporting changes in employment or internship.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated section title to include student interns. ○ Added process language for student interns reporting changes with their internship/practicum.
<p>246-810-019 Co-Occurring disorder enhancement specialist eligibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Made language clearer and more concise. ○ Corrected reference to RCW 18.205.105
<p>246-810-0201 Practice scope and limits for certified counselors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporated reference to RCW 18.19.200 for certified counselor scope of practice and limits. ○ Clarified scope of practice limits for certified counselors.
<p>246-810-021 Practice scope and limits for certified advisers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporated reference to RCW 18.19.200 for certified adviser scope of practice and limits.
<p>246-810-0221 Qualifications to become a certified counselor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consolidated and clarified language to better mirror current standards.
<p>246-810-023 Qualifications to become a certified adviser.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarified language to better mirror current standards.
<p>246-810-024 Counseling related degrees that meet the requirements for certified counselor and adviser.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added 2 additional pathways for certified counselors and certified advisers to meet credentialing requirements. ○ Clarified language to better mirror current standards. ○ Modernized course topic titles to reflect current course offerings.
<p>246-810-025 Supervision and consultation requirements for certified counselors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarified language to better mirror current standards.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
and supervision requirements for certified advisers.	
<p>246-810-026 Qualifications to be a certified counselor supervisor, certified adviser supervisor, or a certified counselor consultant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarified language to better mirror current standards. ○ Changed name from advanced registered nurse practitioner to advanced practice registered nurse to align with standards set by HB2416. ○ Removed outdated reference to discontinued credential type “registered counselor” from list of credentials that qualify to supervise or consult a certified counselor or certified adviser. ○ Added “licensed behavior analyst”, “psychological associate”, and “physician assistant” to list of credentials that qualify to supervise or consult a certified counselor or certified adviser
<p>246-810-027 Continuing education requirements for a certified counselor or certified adviser.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added language that specifies the continuing education mode needed.
<p>246-810-029 Acceptable continuing education courses for certified counselor and certified adviser.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed distance learning requirements on continuing education. ○ Made language clearer and more concise.
<p>246-810-0293 Recognized <u>Accredited</u> institutions of higher learning and local, state, national, and international organizations <u>approved for continuing education</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added organizations that are approved for continuing education and alphabetized list.
<p>246-810-0295 Continuing education credit for preparing and presenting a lecture or course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarified language for certified counselors and certified advisers that prepare and present a lecture or course shall receive the same number of continuing education as the attendees of that lecture or course.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>246-810-0297 Continuing education documentation for certified counselor or certified adviser.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed outdated reference to specific parts of chapter 246-12 WAC. ○ Made language clearer and more concise.
<p>246-810-0298 Suicide assessment training standards.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>246-810-0299 Health equity training standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed time-limited/outdated reference
<p>246-810-031 Disclosure statement to be provided to clients by certified counselors and certified advisers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated reference number for definition of psychotherapy. ○ Specified disclosure statements are for certified counselors and certified advisers only throughout the section. ○ Added clarifying language for who needs to sign the disclosure statement if changes are made.
<p>246-810-032 Failure to provide client disclosure information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed reference to repealed WAC within this chapter.
<p>246-810-035 Record requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specified record requirements are for certified counselors and certified advisers only throughout the section. ○ Lengthened the record retention period from 5 years to 6 years. ○ Technical update for spelling.
<p>246-810-040 Requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0131.
<p>246-810-045 Requirements for client fees paid in advance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed unnecessary reference to RCW 21.20.005, Securities Act. ○ Specified requirements are for certified counselors and certified advisers only throughout the section.
<p>246-810-049 Sexual misconduct regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0132.
<p>246-810-060</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.

WAC TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGE
Mandatory reporting	
246-810-061 Health care institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.
246-810-062 Counselor associations or societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.
246-810-063 Health care service contractors and disability insurance carriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.
246-810-064 Professional liability carriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.
246-810-065 Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.
246-810-066 State and federal agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed. Consolidated and moved applicable requirements to 246-810-0133.
246-810-089 Transitional dates for a registered counselor credential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repealed.
New 246-810-090 Application process for hypnotherapists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added section for consistency with other credentials in chapter.
246-810-990 Counselors fees and renewal cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Made language clearer and more concise. ○ Removed outdated reference to testing company for certified counselor and certified adviser exam payments. ○ Updated section formatting for easier readability.