

August AAC Office Hour topics

Supervised Experience

Certified AAC requirements

Licensed AAC requirements

Legacy Provisions

Scopes of practice

Supervised Experience

Supervised Experience must be:

1. In direct treatment of persons with a mental disorder
 2. Gained under the supervision of a mental health professional who can independently assess and diagnose within the scope of practice of their credential
 3. Obtained after the completion of their degree or through an internship or practicum that is part of their degree program requirements
 4. Obtained under a credential to practice counseling or through a supervised internship or practicum
- Supervised experience earned out-of-state may be considered if:
- The applicant held a credential in that state that was substantially equivalent to a counselor or MHP; and
 - Supervised experience met all other requirements above.

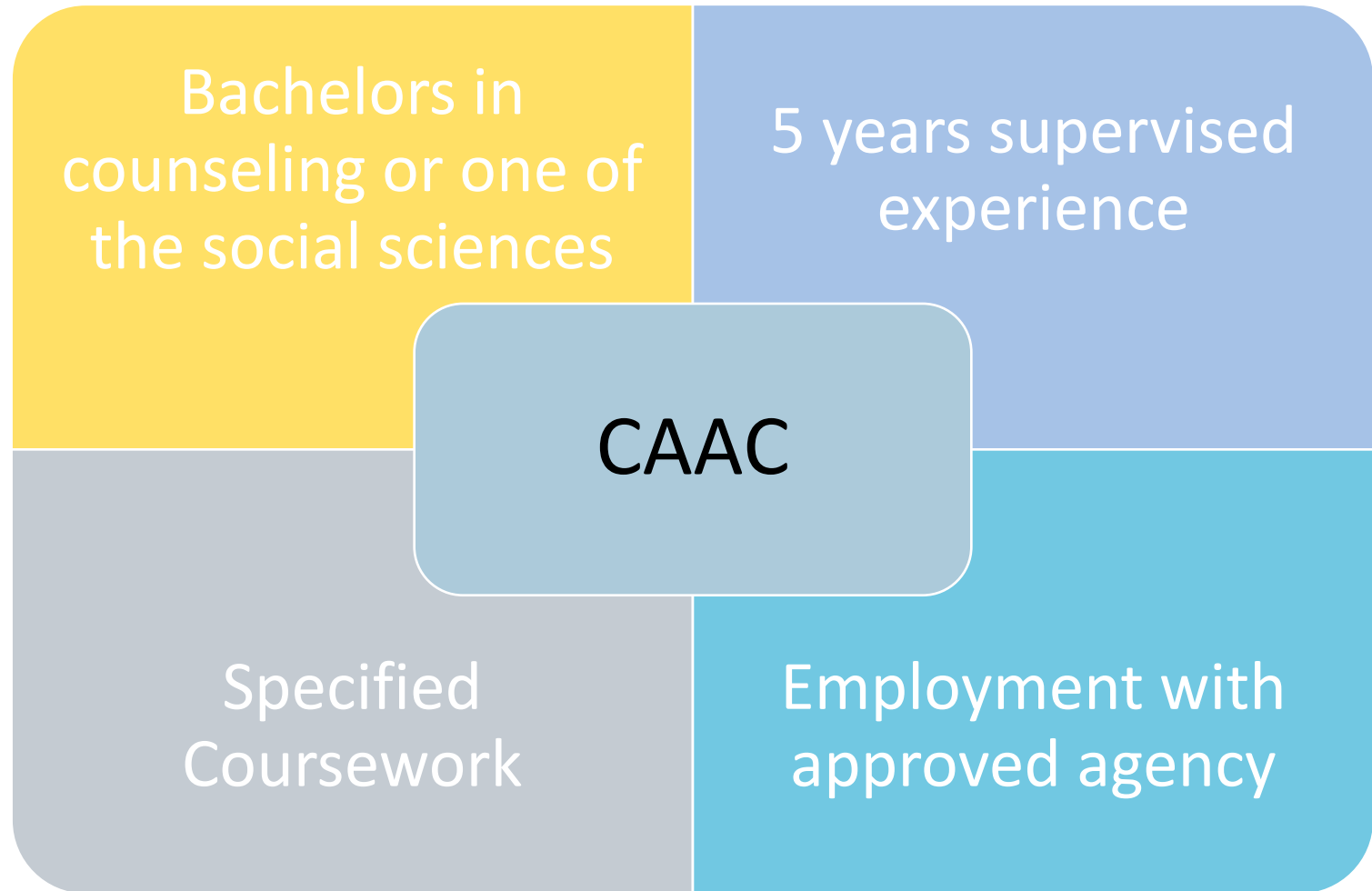
Coursework Identification

- The department uses course titles to identify course relevance to the knowledge areas (Certified AAC) or the identified course list(Licensed AAC).
- If the title and/or topic of the course is unclear, applicants are encouraged to submit supplemental documentation demonstrating its connection/relation to the knowledge area.

Supplemental documentation may include

- course syllabi
 - course descriptions
 - letters from instructors
- Courses will only be counted once.

Certified AAC requirements



Certified AAC coursework

You must satisfy coursework requirements by one of the following 2 ways:

1. If your bachelor's degree is in any of the following, your degree alone satisfies the coursework requirements necessary for the credential:
 - psychology
 - social work
 - behavioral healthcare

- OR -

2. 4 total courses from 2 separate knowledge areas.

CAAC Knowledge Areas and course examples

Human Behavior and Counseling

- counseling
- psychology
- applied behavior science
- social work, social welfare
- behavioral health care
- human development

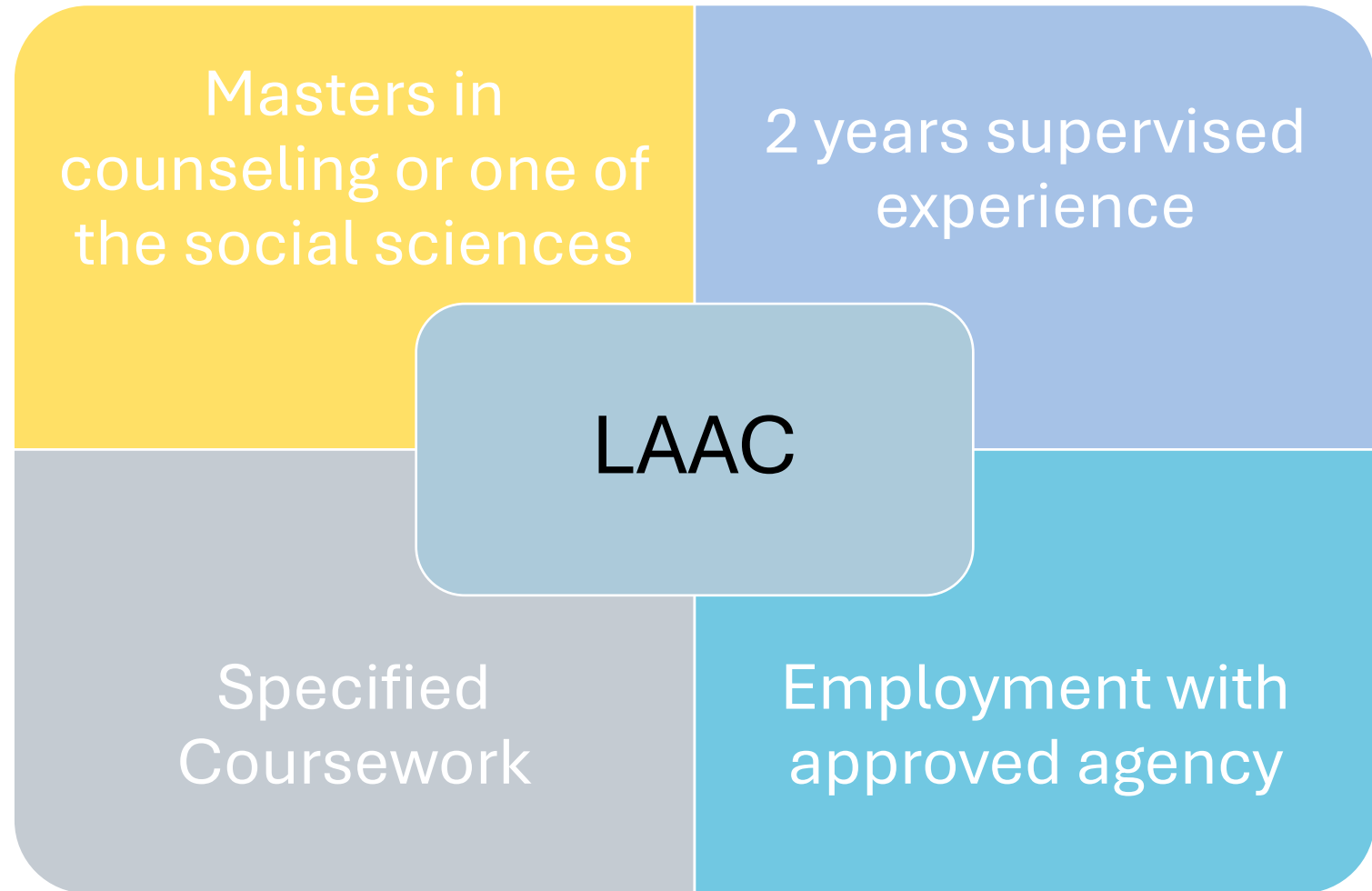
Justice in Society

- ethics
- political science
- philosophy
- criminal justice
- social justice

Cultural Competence

- communications
- gender studies
- human services
- ethnic studies
- history of culture(s)
- sociology

Licensed AAC requirements



Licensed AAC coursework

You must satisfy coursework requirements by one of the following 2 ways:

1. An assessment and diagnosis course and (1) of the following counseling courses:

- Counseling individuals
- Counseling couples and families
- Counseling groups

- OR -

2. 5 total courses from an identified course list.

Licensed AAC identified course list

- Assessment and diagnosis
- Counseling couples and families
- Counseling groups
- Counseling individuals
- Career development counseling
- Chronic mental illness
- Developmental disabilities
- Developmental psychology (child, adolescent, adult, lifespan)
- Domestic Violence
- Ethics/law
- Group Dynamics
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health consultation
- Multicultural concerns in counseling
- Organizational psychology
- Physiological psychology
- Psychopathology/abnormal psychology
- Research and evaluation
- Sexuality and Lifestyle choices
- Social and cultural foundations
- Substance use disorders
- Treating special populations

Legacy Provisions

Certified AAC: Applicant must have a bachelor's degree in counseling or one of the social sciences and all 5 years of supervised experience completed by July 1, 2025.

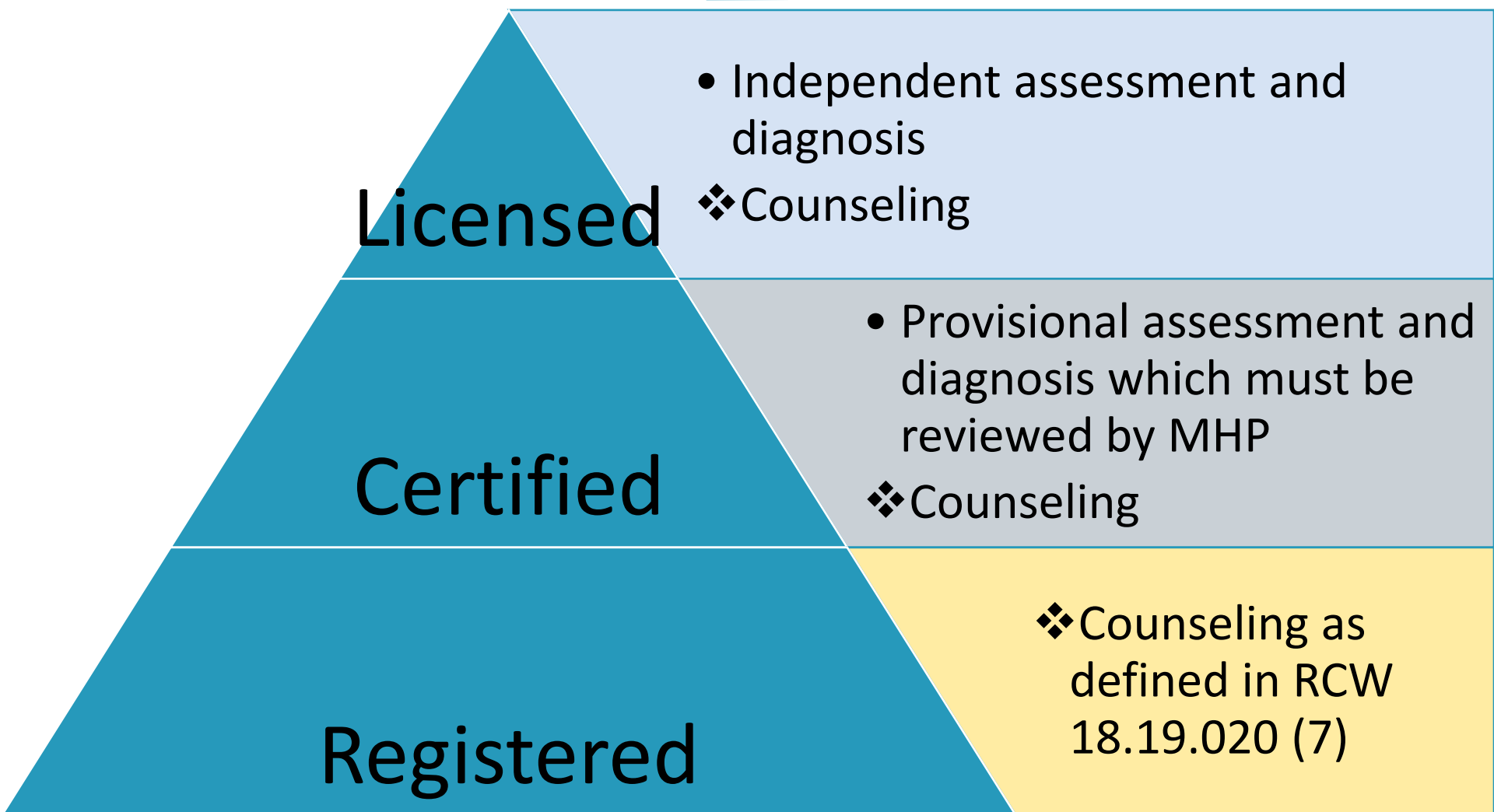
Licensed AAC: Applicant must have been previously designated as a mental health professional before July 24, 2023.

Acceptable designations include

- certificate or letter from the Department of Social and Health Sciences,
- letter from the Department of Health
- attestation/verification from behavioral health agency indicating designation.

***Applicants who meet legacy provision requirements must apply before July 1, 2027**

AAC Scopes of Practice





Questions? Contact carmen.leso@doh.wa.gov

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