



LICENSING ALERT 03-2021

Replaces Licensing Alert 01-2019

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Effective: Immediately

Subject: Staffing Regulations Qualifications/Degree in a Related Field

Purpose: To compile a list of acceptable degrees that meet the requirements outlined in 28 Pa. Code §§ 704.5(c) - 704.8(c).

Background: Staffing regulations, [28 Pa. Code Chapter 704](#), establish minimum qualifications for the positions of project director, facility director, clinical supervisor, counselor, and counselor assistant. Those regulations allow persons to meet those qualifications with a degree in an “other related field.” The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (Department) has recognized various degrees in “other related fields” over the years and has recently recognized others. The Department is providing this Licensing Alert to list the degrees in “other related fields” that meet qualifications for various staff positions. Please note that degrees that are not included in this list may meet the regulatory qualifications as well. The Department will review those degrees on a case-by-case basis.

ACCEPTABLE DEGREES

Project Director/Facility Director:

Accounting	Human Resources	Organizational Development
Actuarial Science	Health Care Management	Organizational Leadership
Advertising	Human Services Administration	Project Management
Economics	Law/Pre-Law	Public Health/MPH
Finance	Management	Public Relations
Health Care Administration	Marketing	Social Administration

Project/Facility Director, Clinical Supervisor, Counselor/Counselor Assistant:

Addiction Counseling	Criminal Justice	Juvenile Justice
Addiction Studies	Criminology	Long-Term Care
Administration of Justice	Dance Therapy	Marriage/Family Therapy
Anthropology	Divinity	Music Therapy
Audiology	Education	Nutrition
Art Therapy	Family Counseling	Pastoral Ministries/Studies
Behavioral Health	Family Mediation	Physical Therapy
Child Development	Family Relations	Rehabilitative Counseling
Clinical Pastoral Counseling	Gerontology	Rehabilitative Services

Communications	Health Administration	Religion
Community Advocacy	Health/Human Services	Social Policy
Community Counseling	Human Behavior	Sociology
Community Psychology	Human Communication Studies	Special Education
Counseling/Guidance	Human Development	Theology Related Degrees
Counseling Psychology	Individual/Family Studies	Trauma Counseling
Counselor Education		Vocational Counseling

A potential hire may still meet the regulatory requirements even if the individual does not hold a qualifying degree by meeting one of the following conditions:

1 - Qualifying under a minor (A minor represents a specialization in a particular field):

If a person has a bachelor's degree or higher in an unrelated field, not listed in the regulations or the Licensing Alert 03-2021, but has a minor in Chemical Dependency, Psychology, Social Work, Counseling, or Nursing, and has the required experience, they will qualify as a counselor.

2 - Qualifying with 18 credits:

If a person has a bachelor's degree or higher in an unrelated field, not listed in the regulations or above, but has at least 18 credits in Chemical Dependency, Psychology, Social Work, Counseling, or Nursing, and has the required experience, they will qualify as a counselor. Courses must have a final grade of C- or above.

3 - Exceptions for other degrees

Facilities may continue to submit exception requests for degrees not listed in this Licensing Alert. When requesting an exception, the facility must include a copy of the individual's official transcripts. The department will not grant exceptions for anticipated degrees.

Please send all questions regarding this Licensing Alert, and direct exception requests to the Bureau of Program Licensure at RA-licensuredivision@pa.gov.