

## Frequently Asked Questions

### MFT Supervised Experience Changes Related to SB 33

#### General Questions

*When do the new supervised experience requirements take effect?*

The new requirements apply to all hours gained on or after January 1, 2010.

*How should I keep track of hours gained prior to this time vs. hours gained after this time?*

The BBS strongly suggests that you “close out” any hours earned prior to January 1, 2010 by asking your supervisor to complete experience verification forms and weekly logs ending December 31, 2009. We suggest you complete separate forms for hours gained after that time. Registrants should retain all experience verification and weekly log forms and only send them in with an MFT Examination Eligibility Application upon completion of all supervised experience requirements.

*When will BBS forms that reflect the new supervised experience changes be available?*

We hope to have the new forms available prior to January 1, 2010.

#### Client Centered Advocacy

*What is client centered advocacy (CCA)?*

CCA is defined in Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 4980.34(h) as including, but not limited to “researching, identifying, and accessing resources, or other activities, related to obtaining or providing services and supports for clients or groups of clients receiving psychotherapy or counseling services.”

#### Documents Verifying Employment of Interns

1. *Do I need to submit verification of employment for pre-degree (trainee) hours?*

No.

2. *What if my W-2 has not yet been issued at the time I submit my application?*

For the current tax year, submit a copy of your most recent pay stub.

3. *Do I need to send in originals of my W-2, pay stub or volunteer letter?*

Please do not send originals. Photocopies are acceptable.

*4. When should I submit these documents to the BBS?*

Your W-2, pay stub or volunteer verification letter must be submitted with your application for Examination Eligibility. If you send them prior to this time, they will be returned to you.

### **Group Supervision**

*1. Can group supervision be provided in half-hour or other segments?*

Group supervision must be provided for a minimum of one continuous hour at a time.

*2. What if I have one hour of group supervision during one week and make up the other hour during the next week?*

The hours gained during the first week would not qualify. Two full hours of group supervision (or one hour of individual) must occur within the same week as the hours claimed.

### **Intern Supervision Ratio and Averaging**

***NOTE: One "unit" of supervision equals one hour of individual supervision or two hours of group supervision.***

*1. Is the supervision ratio and averaging of supervision hours also changing for pre-degree (trainee) hours?*

Supervision ratios and averaging are not changing for pre-degree (trainee) hours.

*2. Can those earning post-degree hours continue to average their weekly supervision hours?*

No. Post-degree supervision hours earned after January 1, 2010 may no longer be averaged.

*3. I need more help to understand how the new post-degree supervision ratio works.*

The new post-degree supervision ratio is exactly the same as the ratio required for associate clinical social workers (ASWs). The basics are as follows:

- One "unit" of supervision must be received during each week in each setting in which experience is gained; and,
- One additional "unit" of supervision must be received during any week in which more than 10 hours of client contact is gained in each setting.

**EXAMPLE #1:** An intern works one job and has 25 hours of client contact in the same week. This intern must have two (2) "units" of supervision during that week.

**EXAMPLE #2:** An intern works two jobs, has 12 hours of client contact at Job #1 and nine (9) hours at Job #2 in the same week. This intern is required a total of three (3) "units" of supervision during that week (two (2) for the first job and one (1) for the second.

EXAMPLE #3: An intern works three jobs, has 10 hours of client contact at Job #1; five (5) hours at Job #2; and 12 hours at Job #3 in the same week. This intern is required a total of four (4) “units” of supervision during that week.

**Put another way...**

	JOB 1		JOB 2		JOB 3	
	<i>Client Contact Hours</i>	<i>Units of Supervision</i>	<i>Client Contact Hours</i>	<i>Units of Supervision</i>	<i>Client Contact Hours</i>	<i>Units of Supervision</i>
EXAMPLE #1	25	2				
EXAMPLE #2	12	2	9	1		
EXAMPLE #3	10	1	5	1	12	2

**Supervision via Videoconferencing**

1. *How is videoconferencing defined?*

Videoconferencing has not been defined other than it must be two-way and occur in real time (live). Videoconferencing is considered the same as face to face direct supervisor contact.

2. *Can trainees or those earning hours post-degree who don't yet have an intern registration receive supervision via videoconferencing?*

This type of supervision is not permitted pre-degree or prior to issuance of the intern registration.

3. *I'm an intern. Can I obtain my supervision via videoconferencing in any work setting?*

Supervision provided via videoconferencing is only allowed for interns working in one of the following settings:

- Government entity
- School, college, or university
- An institution that is both nonprofit and charitable.

Not allowed in private practice or other settings not mentioned.

4. *How many hours of supervision may I obtain via this method?*

All of your supervision could theoretically be gained via this method if you work in one of the allowed settings mentioned above.

**Telemedicine & Telephone Counseling**

1. *What is telemedicine?*

For a full definition of telemedicine, see Business and Professions Code Section 2290.5. **A telephone conversation or email message is not considered telemedicine except when services are being delivered to the client.** For example, telemedicine is **not** provided when a telephone call is made to schedule an appointment with the client. A telephone conversation in which the client is being provided with services by the intern or trainee **is** considered telemedicine.

*2. Can I still count hours providing counseling over the telephone?*

Yes – these now fall into the “telemedicine” category. See response to question 1 above.

### **Treatment of Couples and Families**

*1. What is the new incentive for gaining hours relating to conjoint treatment of couples and families?*

The incentive allows persons gaining hours either pre- or post-degree to “double-count” up to the first 150 hours of conjoint treatment of couples or families. This means that 150 hours (for example) will be counted as 300 hours.