

**481—880.3(154B,154C,154D) Examination requirements.****880.3(1) Examination requirements for mental health counselors and marital and family therapists.**

The following criteria shall apply to the written examination(s):

*a.* The applicant will take and pass the following examinations in order to qualify for licensing:

(1) For a marital and family therapist license, the AMFTRB Examination in Marital and Family Therapy.

(2) For a mental health counselor license, the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) of the NBCC.

(3) For a temporary mental health counselor license, the NCMHCE of the NBCC or the National Counselor Examination (NCE) of the NBCC.

If the NCMHCE is passed for the temporary mental health counselor license, it does not need to be taken a second time when applying for the full mental health counselor license.

*b.* The passing score on the written examination shall be the passing point criterion established by the appropriate national testing authority at the time the test was administered.

*c.* An applicant for a marital and family therapist license who is requesting approval to take the licensure examination prior to graduation shall:

(1) Submit a completed online application for licensure and pay the nonrefundable licensure fee specified in rule 481—507.3(147,154D).

(2) Have a letter on official school letterhead sent directly from the program director to the board indicating that the applicant is in good academic standing, that the applicant will graduate from the program within three months of the date on the letter, and the applicant's anticipated date of graduation.

*d.* An applicant for a temporary or full mental health counselor license shall register for the examination directly with the NBCC.

**880.3(2) Psychology examination requirements.** An applicant will pass the national examination to be eligible for licensure in Iowa.

*a.* To be eligible to take the national examination, the applicant will:

(1) Meet all requirements of paragraphs 880.2(3) "a" and "b"; and

(2) Provide official copies of academic transcripts sent directly from the school to the board of psychology verifying completion of a doctoral degree in psychology in accordance with subrule 880.4(4).

*b.* The EPPP passing score shall be utilized as the Iowa passing score.

**880.3(3) Social work examination requirements.**

*a.* The applicant will take and pass the ASWB examination at the appropriate level as follows:

(1) Bachelor-level social worker—the basic level examination.

(2) Master-level social worker—the intermediate level examination.

(3) Independent-level social worker—the clinical level examination.

*b.* The board will accept only official results from the ASWB examination service that are sent directly from the examination service to the board.

*c.* The ASWB passing score will be utilized as the Iowa passing score.

*d.* An applicant may sit for the examination if the applicant meets the requirements stated in subrule 880.2(7). Upon written request of the applicant, the board may authorize a student to sit for the examination prior to the receipt of the official transcript if the student is in the last semester of an approved master of social work program. The student shall submit an application for licensure at the master level and the fee, and, in lieu of a transcript, the student shall request that the school submit a letter directly to the board office. The letter shall state that the student is currently enrolled in a master of social work program and the student's expected date of graduation. Upon completion of degree requirements, the applicant shall have the transcript showing the date of the degree sent directly from the school to the board office.

*e.* In lieu of the requirements in paragraph 880.3(3) "b," the board will accept the ASWB Social Work Registry verification of the ASWB examination results.

*f.* In lieu of the requirements in paragraph 880.3(3) "a," the board will accept verification of passing the state of California equivalent level licensing examination.

[ARC 9401C, IAB 7/9/25, effective 8/13/25]