

Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists

Requirements For Licensure As A Registered Counselling Therapist

Under *An Act Respecting the Practice of Counselling Therapists*, the minimum academic credential required to make application for Candidacy leading to licensure is a Master's level degree in a counselling therapy education program. This degree must include a supervised practicum with a minimum of 120 hours of direct therapist/client contact and an Ethics course.

If the counselling therapy education program did not include an Ethics Course, an equivalent course must be completed as part of the Candidacy.

As part of the application process, an applicant must provide a current Canada-wide Criminal Record with Vulnerable Sector Check.

Candidates must complete two thousand (2000) hours of supervised clinical practice in a time frame of no less than two years and no more than five years. In order to meet this requirement, these hours must include a minimum of eight hundred (800) hours of direct therapist/client therapy with individuals, couples, families or groups and a minimum of fifty (50) hours of direct contact hours with the Supervisor. A Supervisor must be a Registered Counselling Therapist, or another registered mental health professional, who has a minimum of a Masters degree in their discipline and has been registered and practicing as a mental health practitioner for a minimum of three years in Nova Scotia. Two such possibilities are a Registered Psychologist or Registered Clinical Social Worker.

To maintain licensure Registered Counselling Therapists and Registered Counselling Therapist Candidates must undertake a minimum of twelve (12) hours of professional development during each licensing year and must have professional liability insurance coverage through their own policy or that of their employer.

For further information visit the NSCCT website at www.nscct.ca or contact the Registrar at registrar@nscct.ca or (902) 225-7531.

