



Practicum Bridging and Supplemental Candidacy Hours

Approved	Revised	Related Policy	Supporting Documents
December 2020	n/a		CTA Regulations 6(f)(i)(ii)

Policy

As a requirement for registration in the Registered Counselling Therapist – Candidate (RCT-C) category, applicants must provide evidence that they have successfully completed a supervised practicum or internship as part of the counselling-therapy education program completed, with a minimum of 120 practice hours of direct contact between the counselling therapist and clients.

The College recognizes that some otherwise qualified applicants may not have acquired the compulsory 120 hours of direct client contact within their academic program. For this purpose, The *Counselling Therapists Regulations* allows the above requirement to be fulfilled by completion of a supervised practicum or internship after completing the counselling-therapy education program, with a minimum of 120 practice hours of direct contact between the counselling therapist and clients and in a setting approved by the Registration Committee.

For applicants who cannot provide evidence of having completed the required 120 direct client contact hours, the Board of Directors has approved this policy which allows three (3) options for completing the 120-hour requirement after completion of the graduate counselling degree.

Option 1:

Through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Acadia University, NSCCT has partnered with Acadia's MEd Counselling program to provide applicants with an opportunity to meet the College's practicum requirement. Applicants who have accrued less than 60 hours of direct client contact during their graduate counselling program are eligible to enroll in EDUC 5066 *Counselling Practicum and Group Supervision* as an 'open student' at Acadia.

In order to exercise Option 1, applicants must:

- Provide to Acadia University, a letter from the College indicating that the practicum course EDUC 5066 (Counselling Practicum & Supervision) is required for registration.
- Pay all required tuition and mandatory fees directly to Acadia University.
- Satisfy all requirements outlined in *Appendix A* of this document
- On successful completion of EDUC 5066, send an official copy of the transcript to the College along with your application for registration.

Option 2:

Applicants who have gained 60 or more hours of direct client contact hours through a practicum offered as part of their graduate program, may choose to add the remaining contact and supervision time to their Candidacy period. Because the learning goals of a Supervised Practicum differ from those of the Candidacy Period, all practicum hours must include direct client contact and supervised hours. There must be 1 supervised hour for every 4 hours of direct client contact.

For example, If you have 100 client contact hours of supervised practicum from your graduate program, you are 20 hours short of the required 120 hours. You must therefore accrue 20 additional direct client contact hours PLUS 5 additional hours of supervisor contact time.

In order to exercise Option 2, applicants must:

- At the time of applying for registration as an RCT-C indicate the number of hours of supplemental practicum hours that will be added to the candidacy period
- Have an approved supervisor agree to include these additional hours into the supervised candidacy period
- Provide a detailed description of the practicum plan to the Registration Committee for review, including details of how the supplemental practicum hours will differ in content and assessment than those required during candidacy

- Receive written approval from the Registration Committee before beginning the candidacy period
- In addition to what is required of the candidacy period, the supervisor must submit a practicum progress report upon completion of 50% of the approved practicum; and at the completion of the practicum portion of hours.
- Pay all costs associated with completing the practicum.

Note: All supplemental practicum hours must be completed before candidacy hours can be accrued.

Option 3:

Applicants with less than the 120 hours of direct client contact may also elect to pursue their own means of meeting the requirement with prior approval of the Registration Committee.

In order to exercise Option 3, applicants must:

- Arrange a supervised practicum which includes a minimum 120 direct client contact hours and at least 120 hours of supervisor contact time
- Provide a detailed description of your practicum plan to the Registration Committee for review, including the name and qualifications of the supervisor and all assessment criteria
- Receive written approval from the Registration Committee before starting the practicum
- Submit a practicum progress report from the supervisor upon completion of 50% of the approved practicum; and at the completion of the practicum.
- Pay all costs associated with completing the practicum.

Purpose

To assist applicants in meeting the practicum requirement for registration as a Registered Counselling Therapist-Candidate.

To help ensure that all RCT-Cs have adequate practical training and supervision to prepare them for their candidacy period.

Appendix A

Provides details of application requirements and process specific to practicum

1. RCT-C Applicant has formally made application to NSCCT Registrar
2. NSCCT Registrar has assessed that the applicant:
 - a. Has not completed a required practicum
 - b. Has completed a required practicum, but is missing the required supervised practicum hours
 - c. The applicant has completed required pre-requisite graduate coursework in: Counselling Theories, Counselling Ethics, Group Counselling, and Counselling Skills.
 - d. The applicant has attained a minimum of 2 years relevant, full-time, paid work experience since completion of their undergraduate degree.
3. NSCCT Registrar informs the RCT-C Applicant that they can apply to Acadia University Counselling Program to complete EDUC 5066.
4. NSCCT Registrar provides a list of RCT-C Applicants to the bridging program to the Coordinator of Acadia University's Counselling Program by December 1st for a Fall Practicum (September – December) and April 1st for a Winter Practicum (January 1 – April 30) of each calendar year. NSCCT Registrar will include the following documents for each applicant:
 - a. A letter verifying the applicant meets all other NSCCT requirements but requires enrollment in EDUC 5066 for full registration.
 - b. A copy of official transcripts of applicant.
 - c. A professional reference of applicant provided for NSCCT registration.
5. The RCT-C Applicant applies to the Coordinator of the Counselling Program by December 1st for a Fall Practicum (September – December) and April 1st for a Winter Practicum (January 1 – April 30) of each calendar year and include the following with their application:
 - a. An application form
 - b. An up-to-date Resumé or Curriculum Vitae
6. The RCT-C Applicant is interviewed by the Program Coordinator and/or faculty of the M.Ed. in Counselling program.
7. The RCT-C Applicant is approved or denied permission to complete EDUC 5066*

*Approval to complete EDUC 5066 as an independent student requires that the applicant:

(a). Follow procedures outlined in the agreement between NSCCT and Acadia Counselling Program,

(b.) Meet all Counselling Program entry requirements, and,

(c.) Agree that permission will be granted to take EDUC 5066 only if there is room in an upcoming section**

8. If the RCT-C Applicant is approved to take EDUC 5066, they complete an application to Graduate Studies to take the course as an independent student. The Coordinator of the Counselling Program in collaboration with the School of Education Graduate Coordinator informs Graduate Studies that approval is given to enroll the student in EDUC 5066.

** If approval is granted, the RCT-C must not contact any practicum sites themselves but must work with the Counselling Program's Practicum Associate and Clinical Coordinator to obtain a placement.