

Message to Licensees

The Board decided **not to adopt** the proposed amendment to OAR 833-080-0041 which would have capped independent, asynchronous home study at 20 clock hours per continuing education (CE) reporting period. We listened closely to extensive licensee feedback highlighting the burdens of live CE mandates, and the proposal has been tabled. All other proposed amendments have been adopted.

While this specific home study CE rule will not move forward, the conversation highlights a deeply complex challenge the Board is currently navigating. Our charge is public protection, and we are constantly striving to balance safety with a supportive, accessible environment for practitioners.

Over the past several years, the Board has proactively implemented initiatives intended to reduce barriers to licensure. These well-received changes include reductions in supervised practice hours by 21% (2023), reductions in unaccredited program duration and coursework requirements (2026), eliminating supervision and coursework mandates for reciprocity applicants licensed for three years in other states (2024), removing strict exam deadlines (2023) and automatic denials after a third competency exam failure (2026), expanding Supervisor Registry eligibility (2025), 8-15% licensing fee reductions (2024), and partnering with the Behavioral Health Talent Council to explore alternative pathways that could eliminate the competency exam entirely.

However, as we address barriers, we are tracking a critical and sobering trend in public safety. As noted in the [Summer 2026 Newsletter](#), this profession has experienced an impressive 75% increase in LPCs and LMFTs over the past five years. Unfortunately, that growth is overshadowed by a 202% increase in compliance cases over the same period. More recently, from 2024 to 2025, complaints spiked by 43%, vastly outpacing a 17% increase in licensees. The Board is tasked with making sense of these trends. When new initiatives are introduced, they are not arbitrary hurdles; they are earnest attempts to address these rising compliance numbers and ensure safe practice across Oregon.

We appreciate your partnership and understanding as the Board navigates this complex regulatory landscape. Ensuring robust public protection while actively supporting workforce growth is a delicate balance—one that cannot be achieved in a vacuum. Licensees are encouraged to look at the broader systemic challenges we face and to be a part of the solution. Your constructive, proactive engagement is vital as we work to create solutions that uphold the highest standards of safety and professionalism in Oregon.