

OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS & THERAPISTS
Rule Amendment Q&A

Rule Caption: Update terms, accuracy in representations to the Board, applications, examination failure and study plan.

1. Q. When does the Board’s rule change become effective?

A. The rule changes became effective on filing June 9, 2026.

2. What does this amendment do?

A. The changes are summarized as follows:

- The requirements for direct and registered associate application methods are clarified. The direct method is for those who have completed the clinical supervised experience requirements for licensure and just need to take one or both exams. The associate registration method is for those who have not yet met the experience requirements and intend to complete their experience under a Board-approved associate registration plan.
- The Board will no longer deny an application– and, if applicable, terminate an associate registration plan– as the result of an applicant failing the competency examination for a third time. If there is a second failure, the Board may require the candidate to submit a written study plan for approval prior to each subsequent re-examination. The Board will also no longer enforce a one-year wait period for reapplication following an application denial.
- The rule clarifies that licensees, registered associates, temporary practitioners, and applicants are prohibited from making misrepresentations to the Board, and must personally provide accurate and complete responses to all questions required by the Board, including but not limited to character and fitness disclosures, criminal history information, history of education, and supervised clinical experience, attestations, and certifications. It is not acceptable to authorize, direct, or permit any third party to submit substantive responses to any Board form on your behalf, including applications and renewals.

3. Q. Does the competency exam rule change apply retroactively to those who previously had their applications denied after three exam failures?

A. No- the amendment applies to current applications as of June 9, 2026. Applications previously denied- including those with associate registrations that were terminated- will not be reinstated. They may now, however, reapply for licensure under the appropriate application method at any time without needing to wait one year from the date of denial.

4. **Q. What are the content requirements for a study plan?**

A. This is very much at the discretion of the applicant and, if applicable, their supervisor. It needs to document the activities they intend to pursue in order to pass the exam. As a reminder, supervisors of registered associates are responsible for assisting their supervisees in developing a plan to prepare for and complete competency exams in a timely manner. This includes, if applicable, navigating available special accommodations for disability or English as a second language offered by the Board. The following resources contain helpful information:

- [Exams Webpage](#)- information about how to request exams and special accommodations.
- [Applicant FAQ](#)- the “Examinations” section contains frequently asked questions about exams.
- [Supervisor Webpage](#)- contains an Overview for Supervisors, including their responsibilities.

The Board encourages applicants to reflect on their individual situation when developing a plan, including the following considerations:

- Study methods and materials
- Preparation courses
- Consultation on clinical reasoning or coaching
- Test-taking strategy
- What you will be doing differently from your prior exam attempts to ensure that you are adequately prepared, such as taking time off work for study, changing learning modality, or practicing relaxation methods (for those with test anxiety).
- Need for special accommodations