

QMHP

— Qualified Mental Health Professional —

What is QMHP and how does it impact my career eligibility?

In Virginia and other states, mental health service providers require new employees to be QMHP-credentialed. For graduates with only an undergraduate social science degree, such as psychology or family and child development, this requirement presents a challenge when applying for jobs in the field. When looking at entry level positions, one will often see “1 year of experience” as a requirement; this requirement usually refers to QMHP qualification.

How do I become QMHP Qualified?

More detailed criteria can be found at the website listed at the bottom of this page; however, if you have a human services-related undergraduate degree, there is information you need to know before pursuing QMHP. These descriptions are taken from the [Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services](#). If you complete roughly 2,000 hours (i.e., 1 year of full-time work experience) while in your undergraduate program then you will be QMHP-A or C qualified upon graduation.



QMHP-E: Qualified Mental Health Professional-Eligible: A person who has obtained at least a bachelor’s degree in a human service field or special education from an accredited college without one year of clinical experience. An individual with QMHP-E is generally eligible for volunteer or intern opportunities to build hours toward QMHP-A or QMHP-C.

QMHP-A: Qualified Mental Health Professional-Adult: A person in the human services field who is trained and experienced in providing psychiatric or mental health services to adults who have a mental illness. For a student with a bachelor’s degree in a social sciences field the requirements for QMHP-A include at least a bachelor’s degree in human services or related field from an accredited college and at least one year of clinical experience providing direct services to individuals with a diagnosis of mental illness.

QMHP-C: Qualified Mental Health Professional-Child: A person in the human services field who is trained and experienced in providing psychiatric or mental health services to children who have a mental illness. For a student with a bachelor’s degree in a social sciences field the requirements for QMHP-C include at least a bachelor’s degree in a human services field or in special education from an accredited college and at least one year of clinical experience with children and adolescents.

What qualifies as an appropriate degree and as clinical experience?

Human Services Degrees include social work, psychology, psychiatric rehabilitation, sociology, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, human services counseling, or other degrees deemed equivalent to those described.

Clinical Experience includes providing direct behavioral mental health services and treatment to individuals. In addition, the supervising clinician must be appropriately credentialed for the field (for example, being licensed, QMHP qualified, or other having other relevant certifications).