



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor
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Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

Notice to Students – Sentio University Accreditation Status

This notice is to inform current and prospective graduates of Sentio University regarding the institution's present accreditation status, and how this status may affect their eligibility for registration and licensure in California.

California law requires all LMFT and LPCC applicants to obtain their qualifying degrees from institutions that are either approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) or accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The law also grants the Board the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all applicable requirements—including, but not limited to, specific course requirements—regardless of an institution's accreditation or approval status (Business and Professions Code §§ 4980.36, 4980.37, 4999.32, and 4999.33).

In 2023, Sentio University received provisional approval from the BPPE to offer degree programs in California. This provisional approval will expire in July 2028 unless the university obtains full accreditation by that time.

Based on this provisional status, the Board has determined that graduates of Sentio University may register as Associates and begin earning supervised experience toward licensure. These Associates will also be permitted to sit for the California Law and Ethics Exam, as taking the exam is required for registration renewal. However, they will not be eligible to sit for the California LMFT Clinical Exam—and therefore will not be eligible for licensure—until Sentio University becomes fully accredited.

If Sentio University does not achieve full accreditation by July of 2028, future applicants will not be eligible to obtain a registration. Additionally, Associates who registered under degrees issued during the university's provisional period will be disqualified from licensure based on that degree, and any supervised experience hours earned under those registrations will not be accepted. Their only alternative will be to obtain a qualifying degree from a fully accredited institution and apply for a new registration.

We strongly encourage all current and prospective students to remain informed of Sentio University's progress toward full accreditation and to consider how the institution's status may affect their long-term professional goals. The Board is committed to transparency and will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.