



INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST Endorsement Requirements

Requirements	
Education	<p>Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Education (MEd), Doctorate in Education (EdD), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) or other degree specific to one's professional focus in infant mental health; university certificate program, and/or course work in areas such as infant/very young child development, family-centered practice, cultural sensitivity, family relationships and dynamics, assessment, and intervention, in accordance with NMAIMH Endorsement Competencies. Official transcript(s) required.</p> <p>Applicants may ask to use intensive in-service training to fulfill some of the recommended coursework.</p>
Training	<p>Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health. Applicants will include as many hours as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in <i>Competency Guidelines</i>) have been met.</p>
Specialized Work Experience	<p>Two years, postgraduate, supervised work experiences providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused, infant mental health services. This specialized work experience must be with both the infant/very young child and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent¹ on behalf of the parent-infant relationship. Infant mental health services will include concrete assistance, advocacy, emotional support, developmental guidance, early relationship assessment, and parent-infant/very young child relationship-based therapies and practices. These therapies and practices may include but are not limited to parent-infant psychotherapy, interaction guidance, and child-parent psychotherapy and are intended to explore issues related to attachment, separation, trauma, and unresolved losses as they affect the development, behavior, and care of the infant/very young child.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>One year supervised graduate internship with direct service experience in providing culturally sensitive, relationship-based, infant mental health services and one year, postgraduate, supervised work experience as described above.</p>
Reflective Supervision/Consultation	<p>Relationship-focused, reflective supervision/consultation with an approved supervisor/consultant, individually or in a group, while providing services to infants, very young children, and families. Minimum: 50 clock hours within a one- to two-year timeframe.</p>
Professional Reference Ratings	<p>Total of three ratings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, or consultant, and 2. One from person providing reflective supervision/consultation, and 3. One from another supervisor, teacher, trainer, or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if candidate is a supervisor).

¹ Infant mental health services that meet Level 3 specialized work criteria are provided by professionals whose role includes intervention or treatment of the infant/toddler's primary caregiving relationship, (i.e., biological, foster, or adoptive parent); these experiences are critical to the development of a specialization in infant mental health. Infant Family Specialist, Level 2 is broader and includes practitioners whose work experiences come solely from programs that provide education/support/consultation to infant and early childhood care providers or whose intent is primarily to educate parents.



INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
Endorsement Requirements
 continued

Requirements, continued	
Code of Ethics Statement & Endorsement Agreement	Signed
Documentation of Competencies:	1. Professional portfolio will document that competencies have been adequately met through course work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences. 2. Successful completion of the NMAIMH written examination.
Professional Membership:	Membership in NMAIMH or another infant mental health association.
Continuing Endorsement Requirements	
Education and Training	Minimum of 15 clock hours per year of relationship-based education and training, pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health (eg, regional training, related course work at colleges or universities, infant mental health conference attendance). For those who earn endorsement at Level III and provide reflective supervision or consultation to others, at least three of the hours of specialized training must be about reflective supervision or consultation.
Professional Membership	Annual renewal of membership in NMAIMH or another infant mental health association.
Continuing Endorsement Recommendations	
Reflective Supervision	NMAIMH recommends that all Endorsed professionals seek reflective supervision or consultation. It is especially recommended that Endorsed professionals who provide reflective supervision or consultation participate in reflective experiences, individual or group, while providing reflective supervision or consultation to others.

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