



Psychotherapy & Counselling
Federation of Australia

Grandfathering arrangements for PACFA Accredited Programs

On 14 April 2018, the PACFA Training Standards changed. The new Training Standards (2018) are available at the PACFA website, www.pacfa.org.au/practitioner-resources/training-standards/.

The key requirements under the PACFA Training Standards (2018) are:

- Training in counselling and psychotherapy must be undertaken in a qualification approved by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) or the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) at either undergraduate or postgraduate level (AQF level 7 to 9).
- The minimum volume of learning required is 400 hours of instruction in counselling or psychotherapy. 50% of this instruction must be direct person-to-person instruction, however the other 50% may be via online training for theory-based studies.
- A minimum of 40 hours of face-to-face client contact hours and 10 hours of supervision must be completed within training and assessed as successful by the training provider.
- The core curriculum must meet the requirements of the Training Standards (2018) in terms of subject knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills.
- No academic credit is allowed for the supervised practice requirements.

Grandfathering arrangements to apply for PACFA membership

To apply for PACFA membership, applicants must meet the requirements the new Training Standards (2018). However, for Graduates of PACFA-accredited programs, grandfathering is available to join PACFA under the old rules for a limited period of time.

If your training was accredited by PACFA under the former PACFA Training Standards (2014), you will be eligible to apply for PACFA membership via grandfathering. Grandfathering formally comes to an end on 31/12/2023, after which no applications via grandfathering will be accepted.

Grandfathering is available in the following circumstances:

1. The Graduate has completed a program that was accredited by PACFA under the PACFA Training Standards (2014).
2. The training provider has maintained its PACFA accreditation up until the date of course completion by the Graduate.
3. If the above requirements are satisfied, the Graduate has 2 years to apply for PACFA membership or registration from the date of course completion.

For assistance with the grandfathering arrangements, please contact PACFA on register@pacfa.org.au or telephone (03) 9486 3077.