

Arizona Jurisprudence Tutorial Mission Driven



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Challenge

The Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners mission, “to establish and maintain standards of qualification and licensing mental health professionals as well as regulate practice as it relates to the protection of the public” is the cornerstone of its operation.

Established by law in 1989, the composite board began certifying professionals in the fields of social work, professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, and substance abuse counseling. Voluntary certification changed to mandatory licensure on July 1, 2004.

Today the Board consists of more than 10,000 licensees.

A few years ago, the Board recognized a trend of licensees coming to the Board for disciplinary purposes. The infractions crossed a wide swath of licensees, both new and seasoned professionals alike. The disciplinary actions were largely caused by licensees’ unfamiliarity with the current Arizona state statutes and rules as they relate to their profession.

Solution

The Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners reached out to the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) because of CCE’s affiliation with the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and the reputation held by both organizations in credentialing, licensure and examinations.

The Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners and CCE worked together to develop a jurisprudence tutorial. On January 1, the jurisprudence tutorial became a mandatory continuing education requirement for licensee renewal. As they entered this process, the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners’ primary objective was to uphold its mission. The tutorial for renewals is solely based on the Board’s rules and statutes. It is not meant to be a test, but an educational tool.

“I know a lot of different disciplines out there require a jurisprudence exam,” said Tobi Zavala, Executive Director of the Board. “And that is truly a tool to test your knowledge of can you do it or can you not. We see our tutorial as different because it is truly educating licensees about the rules and statutes that they should already know but we are ensuring that they do know.”

Intended Outcome

Lessen the number of individuals that come before the Board for disciplinary actions because they know the rules.



Process

From the beginning, the Board and CCE developed a collaborative environment in which to work. Both shared an understanding that the educational tool would help candidates realize success in their knowledge of Arizona's regulations and statutes.

Following the exploration phase, when the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiner staff identified the state statutes and rules for assessment, subject matter experts from the Board collaborated with CCE to develop items for the jurisprudence tutorial. CCE staff created a learning tool by modifying the format and presentation of an online multiple choice test and coupling it with Arizona specific laws and regulations. Licensees demonstrate mastery of Arizona laws and regulations through an evolving series of carefully crafted multiple choice items. CCE provides and maintains the online platform that houses the tutorial.

Summary

It is too early to know whether the intended outcome has been met. Two years should provide ample time to revisit to determine if the mandatory jurisprudence tutorial is having a positive effect.



GETTING STARTED WITH CCE

If your board is considering developing an online jurisprudence educational tool to ensure professional counselors are knowledgeable about your state's statutes and laws, let the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) be your partner in the process. CCE will work collaboratively with your Board to develop, launch, host and maintain a jurisprudence educational tool for your state.