**Distance Counseling and Supervision**

Programs are responsible for ensuring that students and site supervisors are trained to use this modality and that this modality is accepted by the respective state licensing board. In Texas both LPC and LMFT licensing boards allow distance counseling and supervision. Although the TX LPC board does not provide guidelines for a minimal level of competence the TX LMFT board requires 15 hours of academic preparation and supervision ( §801.58 Technology-Assisted Services (d)).

\*On Monday, March 16th, the TX LMFT board submitted a waiver request to the Governor’s Office requesting temporary waiver of §801.58(d) of the board’s rules requiring 15 hours of training prior to engaging in technologically assisted counseling. We will update this page when we receive a response from the Governor’s Office.

**Guidelines for Sites and Site Supervisors Providing Distance Counseling**

Students must:

* Have training in distance counseling
	+ **SEU MAC program will provide a training on March 24th, 2020 -stay tuned for more details**
* Have training in the technology being used
* Use HIPAA compliant software (i.e. Vsee, Doxy.me)
	+ Due to the recent guidelines offered by the Office of Civil Rights, US HHS, non-HIPAA compliant software can be used in good faith (i.e. Zoom, FaceTime, Skype)
* Have a plan in place in the case that a client is in crisis
	+ This should come directly from working with the site/site supervisor
* Site supervisors must be available to student in the case of a crisis while conducting sessions remotely
* Notify university supervisor if a plan has been in place to provide remote direct services
* Engage in weekly supervision (minimum 1 hour) with site supervisor, distance supervision is an acceptable form
* Engage in university group supervision as scheduled by the course syllabus
* Adhere to all other ethical and professional guidelines as outlined in the syllabus and practicum/internship manual

**Resources for Site and Site Supervisors**

[Sample Telemental Health Services Informed Consent](http://sites.stedwards.edu/macss/seu-mac-covid-19-resources/)

[Telemental Health Practice Checklists Booklet](https://personcenteredtech.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Person-Centered-Tech-TMH-Checklists-.pdf)

[HPSO Risk Management Spotlight: Counselors and Telehealth/Telemedicine](http://www.hpso.com/Documents/Risk%20Education/individuals/Claim-Reports/Counselor/F-13777-619_Telebehavioral_Health_Spotlight.pdf)

[Person Centered Tech- Video Software Options in the Time of COVID](https://personcenteredtech.com/2020/03/17/apple-facetime-or-facebook-messenger-video-and-hipaa-compliance-yes-for-now/)