

# ACCREDITATION OF PRE-MARRIAGE (PM) COUNSELORS FAQs

## Is there any validity to the use of the issued DSWD Academy certificates for application?

There is none. However, an issued certificate by the DSWD Academy can only be used as a requirement for an application once.

For refresher course(s), applicants must attend at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the application for renewal of accreditation.

## How can I avail of the DSWD Academy PMC Training?

There are two (2) ways in which the applicant can avail of the offered trainings/courses:

1. Applicants from the Local Government Unit (LGU) or individual professionals, whether new applicants or applicants with soon-to-expire or with an expired certificate of accreditation, must send their letter of request or interest to avail of the PM Counseling training or refresher course addressed to the Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB) Director, and email it to [academy@dswd.gov.ph](mailto:academy@dswd.gov.ph); copy furnished the SB through email address: [sb@dswd.gov.ph](mailto:sb@dswd.gov.ph).
2. A list of endorsed LGUs or individual professionals with expired or near-expiring accredited PM Counselors shall be sent to the DSWD Academy from the Standards Bureau.

## I have an existing valid Certificate of Accreditation from the previous guidelines. Can I apply for renewal under the new guidelines?

No. All applicants for PM Counselor accreditation under the new guidelines shall be treated as “new applicants”.

All PM Counselors with valid accreditation shall still be honored; hence, they may still discharge their function as accredited PM Counselor.

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## How do I apply for accreditation?

All applications must be submitted through an official link that is linked to the DSWD Academy Electronic Learning Management System (E-LMS).

Participants of the PMC training are required to fill out the online pre-registration form of the DSWD Academy. Upon completion of the PMC training through E-LMS, participants will be asked if they want to continue with the PM Counselor Accreditation. Should they choose to move forward, they will be redirected to the PM Counselor Application Form for completion. Moreover, all requirements must be uploaded.

In the event of E-LMS downtime, the submission of applications and their accompanying requirements will only be accepted via the official email address.

## What are the requirements for Application for Accreditation?

1. Completed online application form
2. Copy of the Diploma or Transcript of Records (TOR) or Special Order or any document as proof of the applicant's professional practice for assessment for accreditation.
3. Certificate of Completion issued by the DSWD Academy
4. Notarized Declaration Form

Is there an application/processing fee?

**NONE**

## How many processing days will it take to receive my Certificate of Accreditation?

Three (3) working days.

An electronic Certificate of Accreditation will be issued upon the submission of assessed, complete and compliant application documents. This certificate will be transmitted to the email address provided by the applicant.



## What is the validity of the Certificate of Accreditation?

Five (5) years for both new applicants and those applying for renewal of accreditation. The certificate is non-transferable.

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## What is an Accredited PM Counselor?

A recognized professional duly accredited by the DSWD to conduct PM Counseling sessions for would-be-married couple/s applying for marriage license.

## What is PM Counseling?

A mandatory counseling session required for all contracting parties where one or both parties are 18-25 years old, in addition to their attendance at the Pre-Marriage Orientation (PMO), pursuant to Article 16 of the Family Code.

Contracting parties above 25 years old may also avail of this service. The session provides assistance and guidance to the contracting parties toward an informed decision about their forthcoming married life.

## Can anyone apply for accreditation?

This covers all social workers and other professionals/service providers, both in the private and public sectors, who have met the required eligibility except for those exempted from the DSWD accreditation as aligned with Article 7\* and 16 of Executive Order No. 209 (Family Code of the Philippines).

\*Any priest, rabbi, imam, or minister of any church or religious sect duly authorized by his church or religious sect and registered with the civil registrar general, acting within the limits of the written authority granted by his church or religious sect and provided that at least one of the contracting parties belongs to the solemnizing officer's church or religious sect.



## Who is eligible to apply for the PM Counselor Accreditation?

Interested applicants must have the following:

1. Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Nursing, or any Behavioral and Social Sciences Course, as well as other four-year courses with counseling as part of the academic curriculum or professional practice;
2. Must have a Certificate of Completion on PM Counseling Training/ Capability Building or refresher course/s (for renewal) issued by the DSWD Academy.

## Will you still accept certificates of training from other training institutions?

No. Under the new guidelines, MC No. 20 s2024, 'Revised Guidelines in the Accreditation of Pre-Marriage Counselors (PM Counselors)', only Certificate of Completion issued by the DSWD Academy will be accepted either during the first training or refresher courses.

