



Navigating the Psychedelic Frontier: A Student's Guide to Regulation, Policy Developments, Educational Opportunities, and Career Advancement

Bridger Nicholson



Introduction

In Colorado, the psychedelic landscape offers opportunities for students and professionals, especially those in mental health. Regulatory and legislative changes are transforming engagement with natural medicines, and this poster outlines the current legal framework and policy shifts affecting psychedelic-assisted therapy.

Education, including specialized training programs, is vital for preparing facilitators. The poster discusses educational pathways, from certificate programs to advanced degrees, with suggested courses and training. It also examines various licenses and certifications required for practice in this field.

This guide explores career paths in therapy and facilitation, offering strategies for professional growth, networking, and navigating educational and licensing requirements to support career advancement in this specialized area.

Regulation and Policy Developments

Senate Bill 23-290: Natural Medicine Regulation and Legalization
In 2023 Colorado enacted SB 23-290 which amends the regulatory framework for Natural Medicines.

Purpose: Addresses significant mental health issues in Colorado, while also acknowledging the potential harms of over-commercializing natural medicine, particularly for Indigenous communities.

Natural Medicine Definition: Psilocybin and Psilocin recognized as natural medicines with DMT, Mescaline (excluding peyote), and Ibogaine contingent on the advisory board's recommendation

Establishment of Regulatory Framework:

Natural Medicine Advisory Board consists of 14 experts from various disciplines.

Agencies Involved

Department of Revenue (DOR)

A new division within the DOR will

manage natural medicine businesses:

- Healing Centers
- Cultivations and Manufactures
- Testing facilities

Department of Regulatory

Agencies (DORA)

Responsible for licensing and regulating:

- Facilitators of natural medicine services



Colorado Regulated Natural Medicine Rules DOR:

- 1. General Applicability:** declaratory orders and definitions
- 2. Fees and Applications:** duties, application requirements & qualifications
- 3. Privileges and Limitations:** restrictions, business licenses, required records & reporting, security standards/surveillance, sanitary requirements & safety inspections
- 4. Testing Program:** cultivation facility, manufacturer & and failed test procedures
- 5. Cultivation License Requirements:** prohibited acts, procedures & inventory tracking
- 6. Product Manufacturing License Requirements:** manufacturing procedures
- 7. Testing Facility License Requirements:** certification required & SOPs
- 8. Healing Center License:** license privileges & premises requirements & administration
- 9. Enforcement and Discipline:** administrative warrants, hearings & penalties

Natural Medicine Licensure Rules and Regulation DORA:

- 1. General:** authority, scope, applicability & definitions
- 2. Licensure:** general requirements, facilitator types & training license
- 3. Experience and Education Needs for Facilitator and Clinical Facilitator Licensees**
- 4. Approved Facilitator Training Programs:** enrollment limits & curriculum requirements
- 5. Requirements for all Licensees:** continued education & name changes
- 6. Standards of Practice:** informed consent, confidentiality & use of physical touch
- 7. Advertising:** testimonials, statement of basis & purpose
- 8. Disciplinary Violations and Unlicensed Practice**
- 9. Declaratory Order**

Accessing Natural Medicines

State Certified Healing Centers

- Legal access 21+
- Preparation and integration sessions
- Supervised by a licensed facilitator
- Fees and possible insurance coverage
- Products are tested by the state

Personal Use (decriminalized)

- Decriminalized 21 +
- Consumption, use, cultivation, and manufacturing
- No sales, only sharing not associated with business promotion or commercial activity
- Traditional, spiritual and ceremonial use

Educational Opportunities

Education Pathways

Clinical Facilitator

- Hold secondary licensure
- PsyD/Psy PhD, LSW, LCSW, MFT, LPC, LAC, MD, DO, APN, NP, PA
- Complete the same requirements as non-clinical facilitator or accelerated licensure or legacy healer

Non-Clinical Facilitator

- Basic life support certification
- DORA approved facilitator training program (150 hours)
- 40 hours of supervised practicum
- 50 hours of consultation

Undergraduate Education

Suggested majors/courses: psychology, sociology, biology, chemistry, nutrition, neuroscience, ethics, indigenous studies, public health, research methods, gender studies, anthropology, horticulture, environmental science, philosophy, addiction studies & nursing

Graduate Education

Suggested programs: psychology or counseling masters or doctorate degree, advanced health care degree.

DORA Approved Facilitator Training Program

- 150 hours didactic training in the following areas:
 - facilitator best practices (5) ethics & rules (25), relation boundaries and intro to physical touch (10), physical and mental health and state (25), drug effects contraindications and interactions (5), trauma informed care (10), suicide risk (5), indigenous social and cultural considerations (10), screening (5), preparation (10), administration (10), integration (10) & group facilitation (10)
- Elemental Psychedelics, hybrid model, \$7,500
- Integrative Psychiatry Institute, online model, \$7,000 - \$10,000
- Naropa Center for Psychedelic Studies, hybrid model, \$10,000 + \$1,500 psilocybin practicum

Why Psychologists Should Become Clinical Facilitators

- Provide services to participants with significant mental health risks
- Increase the comprehensivity of care and assess for risk factors
- Ability to include psychedelic services among other therapeutic modalities for holistic care
- Provide care to participants who take lithium or antipsychotic medications with proper consultation with the participants health care provider and prescriber
- Authority to coordinate care with participants health care team
- Increased educational requirements by holding secondary licensure that may lead to better outcomes
- Play a crucial role in expanding psychedelic therapy services to clients with mental health challenges
- Improve public perception of psychedelic therapy and credibility

Career Advancement

Networking and Groups

- NOWAK Society
- MAPS
- Plant Magic Cafe Denver
- Healing Advocacy Fund
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy
- Attending conferences & events
 - Aspen Psychedelic Symposium
 - Psychedelics Science 2025
- Double Blind Magazine
- Third Wave
- Dose Denver
- Zendo Project

Strategies for Professional Growth

- Build a strong foundation of knowledge
- Develop cultural humility and appreciation
- Practical experience
- Build a professional network
- Obtain relevant certifications and education
- Do your own work with the medicine
- Find mentorship
- Volunteer with harm reduction groups
- Use social media to grow a personal brand
- Invest in business and entrepreneurial skills

Career Opportunities

- Psychedelic Facilitator/Therapist
- Research
- Policy Advocate/Legal Advisor
- Public Health or Community Outreach
- Educator or Trainer
- Mycologist/Cultivation/Microbiology
- Laboratory Technician for Testing
- Consultant
- Marketing and Business
- Formulation or Synthetic Chemist
- Ecologist
- Cultural Educator
- Clinical Trial Coordinator
- Ethnographer
- Harm Reduction Specialist
- Support Nurse
- Fundraising and Venture Capital Specialist
- Financial Analyst



Conclusion

The future of the psychedelic field lies in our ability to connect and support one another's growth. Like the mycelial network nurtures and sustains ecosystems through connections, our professional community thrives on shared knowledge, mutual support, and unity. Each contribution in research, therapy, policy, or education acts as a thread in this network. By working together, we reinforce the roots of this field, drawing strength from our connections and ensuring that we grow resiliently and responsibly. As we combine our strengths, we push forward the potential of psychedelics to create meaningful impacts on mental health and well-being. Our ability to uplift one another is what will sustain and elevate the psychedelic movement.

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