

**Clinical Mental Health Counseling Certification  
Requirements by State - 2018**

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)

## Alabama

Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling  
 950 22<sup>nd</sup> Street North  
 Suite 7655  
 Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: (205) 458-8716

### Alabama Requirements

#### **255-X-3-.01 Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)**

All applicants must meet the qualifications specified in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-8A-7(1) through (6)

#### **Education**

- Prior to September 1, 2003, a minimum master's degree program in counseling is defined as a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours at a regionally accredited college or university (e.g. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).
- Beginning September 1, 2003, a master's degree in counseling (or its substantial equivalent) is defined as a minimum of forty-eight (48) graduate semester hours or seventy-two (72) graduate quarter hours at a regionally accredited college or university (e.g. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).
- All applicants shall have a master's degree from a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) or CORE (Commission on Rehabilitation and Education) accredited program, or the content equivalent of CACREP or CORE. Content equivalent is minimally defined as graduate course work in each of the following:
  - Counseling Theory.
  - Human Growth and Development
  - Social and Multicultural Foundations
  - The Helping Relationship
  - Group Dynamics, Processing and Counseling.
  - Lifestyle and Career Development
  - Appraisal of Individuals
  - Research and Evaluation
  - Professional Orientation
  - Practicum: Provides for the development of individual and group counseling skills under supervision. The practicum must be taken through a regionally accredited institution, for a total of one hundred (100) clock hours. A minimum of forty (40) clock hours must be direct service work with clients. At least 80% of the direct service work with clients in the practicum must be in counseling sessions with clients. Assessment activities with clients may not account for more than 20% of the direct services in the practicum. A minimum of one (1) clock hour per week must be of individual supervision by program faculty, and a minimum of one and one-half (1 ½) clock hours per week must be group supervision.
  - Internship: Provides an opportunity for the student to perform all the activities that a regularly employed staff member in the setting would be expected to perform. The internship must be a minimum of six hundred (600) clock hours, to include: a minimum of two hundred and forty (240) hours of direct service work with clients. At least 80% of the direct service work with clients in the internship must be in counseling sessions with

clients. Assessment activities with clients may not account for more than 20% of the direct services in the internship. A minimum of one (1) clock hour per week must be of individual supervision by program faculty, and a minimum of one and one-half (1 1/2) clock hours per week must be group supervision.

### **Experience**

All educational requirements for licensure must be completed prior to accruing post-master's supervised experience and/or post-master's academic work used to substitute for post-master's supervised experience. No accrual of required supervised experience shall occur until the Associate Licensed Counselor license has been issued.

- Three thousand (3000) hours of required supervised experience in professional counseling acceptable to the Board must include the following minimum requirements:
  - Two thousand, two hundred and fifty (2,250) hours will be direct counseling service with individuals, couples, families, or groups;
  - Seven hundred and fifty (750) hours will be indirect counseling services to include, but not limited to, documentation, consultation, referral development, etc.
- An applicant may subtract one thousand hours of the required professional experience for every 15 graduate semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours obtained beyond the master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, provided that such hours are clearly related to the field of professional counseling, are focused on increasing knowledge and use of skills in the private practice of counseling in one or more of the following areas: counseling theory and practice, human growth and development, social and multicultural foundations, helping relationships, group dynamics, lifestyle and career development, appraisal of individuals, research and evaluation, or professional orientation, and are acceptable to the Board.
- An applicant who is able to subtract one thousand hours of the required professional experience must have two thousand hours of supervised professional experience.
- Two thousand hours of the required supervised professional experience must include the following minimum requirements:
  - Fifteen hundred (1,500) hours will be direct counseling service with individuals, couples, families or groups;
  - Five hundred (500) hours will be indirect counseling services to include, but not limited to documentation, consultation, referral development, etc.
- An applicant who is able to subtract two thousand hours of the required professional experience must have one thousand hours of supervised professional experience.
- One thousand hours of the required supervised professional experience must include the following minimum requirements:
  - Seven hundred and fifty (750) hours will be direct counseling service with individuals, couples, families or groups;
  - Two hundred and fifty (250) hours will be indirect counseling services to include, but not limited to documentation, consultation, referral development, etc.

Please visit [Laws and Rules](#) for more information.

## Alaska

Board of Professional Counselors  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, STE 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567

Phone: (907) 465-2694

Contact: [professionalcounselor@alaska.gov](mailto:professionalcounselor@alaska.gov)

### Alaska Requirements

#### **Sec. 08.29.110. Qualifications for licensure**

The board shall issue a professional counselor license to a person who applies for the license, submits the required fee, submits two letters of recommendation from professional counselors who are familiar with the applicant's practice of professional counseling, and presents evidence satisfactory to the board that the person

- is at least 18 years of age;
- is not under investigation in this or another jurisdiction for an act that would constitute a violation of this chapter;
- has not had a license related to the practice of counseling, psychology, marital and family therapy, or social work in this or another jurisdiction suspended, revoked, or surrendered in lieu of discipline unless the license has been fully reinstated in that jurisdiction;
- has passed a written examination as required by the board; the board may provide that passing a nationally recognized examination for professional counselors is sufficient to meet the examination requirement of this paragraph;
- has successfully completed either
  - an earned doctoral degree in counseling or a related professional field from a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education approved by the board; or
  - an earned master's degree in counseling or a related professional field, from a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education approved by the board, and at least 60 graduate semester hours in counseling during or after earning the master's degree; and
- has, after earning the degree required under either (5)(A) or (B) of this subsection, had at least 3,000 hours of supervised experience in the practice of professional counseling performed over a period of at least two years under the supervision of a supervisor approved under AS 08.29.210, with at least 1,000 hours of direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups and at least 100 hours of face-to-face supervision by a supervisor approved under AS 08.29.210 unless, under regulations of the board, the board allows the supervision to be by telephonic or electronic means because of the remote location of the counselor.

Please visit <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov> for more information.

## Arizona

Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
1740 West Adams Street, #3600  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Phone: (602) 542-1882

Contact: [information@azbbhe.us](mailto:information@azbbhe.us)

### Arizona Requirements

#### **R4-6-301. Application for a Regular License**

#### **PART III. EDUCATION INFORMATION**

##### *Section 1. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS*

- If you have recently graduated, you must wait until the qualifying degree has been posted on your transcript before requesting the official copy.
- The transcript must be submitted in a sealed envelope.
- List your degree and date earned in part A, and note any accreditation/approval your college/university held in part B. Accredited/approved programs can be viewed on the Board's website.
- If your program was accredited or approved by CACREP or CORE, it is not necessary to fill out PART III, Section 2. Curriculum.
- If your program curriculum was approved by the Board, you will need to complete PART III, Section 2. Curriculum with any core content coursework taken PRIOR to the semester/year the approval became effective. If all coursework was taken during or after the semester/year the approval became effective, it is not necessary to complete Section 2. Curriculum, Part A., however you must complete Part B – Verification of Practicum

##### *Section 2, Part A. CURRICULUM*

- The curriculum rule for counselor licensure can be found in **SECTION 3** of this guide.
- You must have a master's degree program consisting of 60 semester credit or 90 quarter credit hours with a major emphasis in counseling.
- The degree program must contain: coursework meeting the eight core content areas required for licensure, the remainder of the hours in counseling related coursework, and include 700 hours of practicum including 240 hours of direct client contact.

##### *Section 2, Part B. VERIFICATION OF PRACTICUM*

- The college or university must verify completion of a supervised practicum as part of the degree program including the total hours and hours of direct client contact.
- You must complete the top part including briefly describing the practicum setting and your activities, and then mail to the college/university for verification

#### **PART VII. CLINICAL SUPERVISION:**

- The Board's rules applicable to clinical supervision were revised effective November 1, 2015. Please carefully review the rules and additional instruction relating to clinical supervision in **SECTION 5** of this guide.
- Throughout the period of clinical supervision, applicants can request an exemption to several clinical supervisor requirements. If you answer "NO" to questions A and B in

PART VII, you likely need to include a clinical supervisor exemption request form with your application

**PART IX. EXAMINATION:**

If you have previously passed the exam required for licensure, you must obtain an official score report from the testing entity and submit the unopened envelope with your application

Please visit <https://www.azbbhe.us> for more information.

## Arkansas

Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling  
101 E Capitol Ave #202  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: (501) 683-5800

### Arkansas Requirements

Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling issues generalist licenses for counselors at two levels, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC). LAC is intended to be a temporary license while you work on experience requirements for the LPC.

#### **Education Requirements:**

- You must have a graduate degree that meets Commission on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP) standards.
- Specific coursework requirements include the following:
  - Professional identity
  - Social and cultural diversity
  - Career development
  - Human growth and development
  - Helping relations and theories
  - Group work
  - Assessment
  - Research and program evaluation
  - Abnormal psychology/ DSM and ICD/ psychopathology
  - Family and relationships
  - Psychopathology
- The requirement for each of the above is three semester hours or the equivalent (four quarter hours or forty-five didactic contact hours).
- have at least nine semester hour of practicum and/ or internship

#### **Supervised Practice:**

- An additional 30 semester hours of graduate work can reduce your experience mandate to two years. A total of 60 semester hours of counseling coursework beyond the master's level can reduce it to one year.
- Another option for reducing the supervision requirement is taking and passing the NCMHCE. One year of supervised work experience is the minimum for any candidate, however, regardless of experience
- 1,000 client contact hours to be a year and divides the total time into phases accordingly. Supervision requirements will depend on your current phase. The amount of supervision you will require depends on what phase you are in. You will automatically begin in Phase I, whatever your educational level
- standard 3,000 hours of supervision takes place over three years, but this can be extended. You are expected to complete all supervised practice requirements within six years

#### **Testing Requirements:**

- need to pass both written and oral examinations. A situational exam may be required as well
- written exam for LAC is the NCE, which is contracted through the National Board for Certified Counselors. The Arkansas board also contracts with the NBCC for administration of the NMHCE. You may take the NCMHCE once you've completed the second phase of your supervision requirement
- The Arkansas board will schedule you for an oral exam after receiving your NCE scores, final transcripts, and other required materials. The board may question you about your credentials, statement of intent, and knowledge of the profession

Please visit [Counselor License Requirements in Arkansas LPC Requirements in AR | Counselor-License.com](#) for more information.



## **California**

Board of Behavioral Sciences  
1625 N Market Blvd S-200  
Sacramento, CA 93834

Phone: (916) 574-7830

### **California Requirements**

#### **Education:**

- 60-semester-unit master's or doctoral degree from an accredited or approved institution, which is counseling or psychotherapy in content
- 6 semester units of supervised practicum or field work study (280 face-to-face hours)
- at least 3 semester units, or four and one half quarter units, of coursework in 10 of the following 13 core content areas
  - Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques (includes counseling theories, selection of counseling interventions, orientation to wellness and prevention, etc.)
  - Human growth and development across the lifespan (includes psychopathology, normal and abnormal behavior, developmental crises)
  - Career development theories and techniques
  - Group counseling theories and techniques
  - Assessment, appraisal and testing
  - Multicultural counseling theories and techniques
  - Principles of diagnosis, treatment planning and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and dysfunctional behavior
  - Research and evaluation
  - Professional orientation, ethics and law in counseling, including California law and professional ethics
  - Psychopharmacology (includes biological bases of behavior)
  - Addictions counseling (includes substance abuse, co-occurring disorders)
  - Crisis/Trauma Counseling (includes multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies or disasters).
  - Advanced counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques

#### **Additional Courses:**

- fifteen semester- units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or special populations, must be included in the degree.
  - Human sexuality and the study of the physiological, psychological and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity and psychosexual dysfunction
  - Spousal or partner abuse assessment, intervention strategies and same-gender abuse dynamics
  - Child abuse assessment and reporting (seven hours required)
  - Aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive and psychological aspects of aging

#### **Supervision:**

- minimum of 3,000 post-degree hours of supervised experience, by a LPCC, LMFT, LCSW, licensed psychologist or licensed physician and surgeon, who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, over a period of not less than two years, including not less than 1,750 hours of direct counseling with individuals or groups in a clinical mental health counseling setting and 150 hours in a hospital or community mental health setting.

**Examination:**

- Passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) and the California Law and Ethics Exam, which are taken at the completion of the supervised hours

Please visit [CALPCC - Requirements After 2012](#) for more information.

## **Colorado**

Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies  
 State Board of Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners  
 1560 Broadway, Suite 110  
 Denver, CO 80202

Phone: (303) 894-7800

### **Colorado Requirements**

#### **Rule 14 – Licensure by Examination**

##### **Criteria for Application:**

- Applicant must submit to the Board a completed application for licensure, all fees, official transcript(s), and all supporting documentation require by the Board in order for the board to review application for licensure.
- Applicant for licensure must pass the required examination, meet the experience requirement and become licensed within five (5) years of the date of initial application for licensure.

##### **Education and Training:**

- Applicant obtained a master’s or doctoral degree form a program that was approved by the Council for Accreditation of counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

##### **Post-graduate Experience Requirements:**

- Each applicant shall file with the Board, a verified statement signed under penalty of law by their approved supervisor attesting to the applicant’s satisfactory completion.
- Supervisors include licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or psychologist.
- Post-masters practice of 24 months’ in psychotherapy under supervision
  - 2000 hours of psychotherapy obtained and distributed over 24 months
- Post-doctoral practice of 12 months’ in psychotherapy under supervision
  - 1000 hours of psychotherapy obtained and distributed over 12 months

##### **Examination:**

- Applicants must pass the Board developed jurisprudence exam
- Examination in professional counseling shall by the counselor certification examination administered under contract with the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)

Please visit [Professional Counselor Rules.pdf - Google Drive](#) for more information.

## Connecticut

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
 Professional Counselor Licensure  
 410 Capitol Ave, MS #12 APP  
 P.O. Box 340308  
 Hartford, CT 06134

Phone: (860) 509-7603

Contact: [dph.counselorsteam@ct.gov](mailto:dph.counselorsteam@ct.gov)

### Connecticut Requirements

- Earned from a regionally accredited institution of higher education a master's or doctoral degree in social work, marriage and family therapy, counseling, psychology or a related mental health field
- Completed sixty graduate semester hours in or related to the discipline of counseling at a [regionally accredited institution of higher education](#), which included coursework in each of the following areas:
  - human growth and development
  - social and cultural foundations
  - counseling theories and techniques or helping relationships
  - group dynamics
  - processing and counseling
  - career and lifestyle development
  - appraisals or tests and measurements for individuals and groups
  - research and evaluation
  - professional orientation to counseling
- Acquired three thousand (3000) hours of postgraduate supervised experience in professional counseling performed over a period of not less than one year that included a minimum of one hundred (100) hours of direct supervision by either;
  - a licensed physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
  - a licensed psychologist
  - a licensed advanced practice registered nurse certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center
  - a licensed marital and family therapist
  - a licensed clinical social worker
  - a licensed professional counselor
- Successfully completed the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors.

Please visit [Professional Counselor Licensing Requirements](#) for more information.

## Delaware

Division of Professional Regulation  
 Cannon Building, Suite 203  
 861 Silver Lake Blvd.  
 Dover, Delaware 19904

Phone: (302) 744-4500

### Delaware Requirements

These items are required for all applications, regardless of whether you are applying by examination or reciprocity:

- Submit completed, signed and notarized *Application for Professional Counselor of Mental Health Licensure*
- Enclose the non-refundable [processing fee](#) by check or money order made payable to the “State of Delaware.”
- Complete the *Criminal History Record Check Authorization* form to request State of Delaware and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background checks
- Arrange for the Board office to receive a verification of licensure from each jurisdiction (state, U.S. territory, District of Columbia) where you now hold, or have *ever* held, a license to practice as a mental health professional
- National Counselor Examination scores (NCE), National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE), or other examination acceptable to the Board as follows:

When applying by examination instead of reciprocity, you must submit documentation of your mental health counseling education and post-Masters mental health counseling experience in addition to the requirements listed above.

- Arrange for your college/university to send an official transcript *directly* to the Board office
- Documentation of your coursework is needed when your graduate program of studies is *not* from a regionally accredited institution of higher education *or* your degree is in a discipline other than clinical mental health counseling
- have 30 post-Masters credit hours in the field of counseling, arrange for the Board office to receive an official transcript showing these graduate credits, sent *directly* from the school(s) to the Board office
  - may substitute these credit hours for up to 1,600 of the 3,200 hours of post-Masters mental health counseling experience that are required
- verify the minimum 1,600 hours of direct supervision, arrange for the Board office to receive one or more *Direct Supervision Reference* forms completed and signed by your **approved clinical supervisor**

Please visit [Professional Counselor of Mental Health Licensure - Division of Professional Regulation - State of Delaware](#) for more information.

## **Florida**

Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling  
 Board of Mental Health Professionals  
 4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin C-08  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3258

Phone: (850) 488-0595

### **Florida Requirements**

To be licensed as a Mental Health Counselor in Florida you must have:

- Minimum of an earned master's degree from a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) that consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours of clinical and didactic instruction, including a course in human sexuality and a course in substance abuse
- Two (2) years of post-master's supervised experience under the supervision of licensed mental health counselor or the equivalent (**64B4-31.007 F.A.C.**) who is qualified as determined by the Board
  - supervision experience must have consisted of at least 1,500 hours providing psychotherapy face-to-face with clients for the profession for which licensure is sought, and shall be accrued in no less than 100 weeks
  - At least 100 hours of supervision per 1,500 hours of psychotherapy face-to-face with clients provided by the intern
  - At least one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks; at least one (1) hour of supervision per fifteen (15) hours of psychotherapy, with a minimum of one (1) hour of supervision every two (2) weeks.
- applicant must pass the national clinical mental health counseling examination (NCMHCE) developed by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
- Complete an eight-hour laws and rules course from an approved provider
- Complete a three-hour course on human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome within six months of licensure
- Complete a two-hour domestic violence course from a board approved provider within six months of licensure

Please visit [Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling » Licensed Mental Health Counselor- Licensing, Renewals & Information](#) for more information.

## **Georgia**

Georgia Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists  
214 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Phone: (844) 753-7825

### **Georgia Requirements**

The order of operations to get your license to practice Counseling in Georgia is as follows:

- Earn your Master's degree in Counseling from an accredited program.
- Complete an internship during your Master's program.
- Apply to become an Associate Licensed Counselor.
- Complete the supervised experience portion.
- Apply for and take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)
- Apply for your Licensed Professional Counselor title

### **Education Requirements:**

- Earn your Bachelor's degree in Counseling or a related behavioral science such as Social Work, Human Services, Marriage and Family Therapy or Psychology.
- Get accepted to a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program or one that is accredited by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.
- You must meet six of the required course areas as described on the Georgia Board of Professional Counselors website

### **Supervised Experience:**

- If you have a Master's degree you must complete a four-year internship as an Associate Licensed Counselor under the direction of a Licensed Professional Counselor.
- If you have completed an Internship this is reduced to three years.
- If you have a specialist in Counseling degree with an internship this is reduced to two years.
- If you have a Doctorate in Counseling, you will only need to complete a one-year internship as an Associate Licensed Counselor.

### **Apply to Take Exam:**

- You must apply with the Georgia Board of Professional Counselors (GBPC) to take your exam.
- You must take the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Mental Health Counselors Exam (NMHCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) and pass with a score acceptable to the GBPC

Please visit [Georgia LPC Counselor Certification | GA Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.

## **Hawaii**

Professional and Vocational Licensing Division  
 Board of Psychology  
 P.O. Box 3469  
 Honolulu, HI 96801

Phone: (808) 586-2704

Contact: [psychology@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:psychology@dcca.hawaii.gov)

### **Hawaii Requirements**

An applicant shall be issued a license by the department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the following qualifications:

- A master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited educational institution in counseling or in an allied field related to the practice of mental health counseling that includes or is supplemented by graduate level course work in counseling comprising a minimum of forty-eight semester hours or seventy-two quarter hours in the following course areas, with a minimum of three semester hours or five quarter hours in each course area as indicated below:
  - Human Growth and Development
  - Social and Cultural Foundations
  - Counseling Theories and Applications
  - Group Theory and Practice
  - Career and Lifestyle Development
  - Appraisal of Human Behavior
  - Tests and Measurements
  - Research and Program Evaluation
  - Professional Orientation and Ethics
- At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours per academic term in a mental health counseling setting with three hundred hours of supervised client contact
- Completion of not less than three thousand hours of post-graduate experience in the practice of mental health counseling with one hundred hours of face-to-face clinical supervision that shall be completed in no less than two years and in no more than four years, under the clinical supervision of a person who is a licensed mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical social worker, advanced practice registered nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and family therapist, or physician with a specialty in psychiatry
- Passed the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification

Please visit [Professional & Vocational Licensing | Mental Health Counselor Statute/Rule Chapter](#) for more information.



## **Idaho**

Bureau of Occupational Licenses  
Idaho Licensing Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage & Family Therapists  
700 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

Phone: (208) 334-3233

Contact: [ibol@ibol.idaho.gov](mailto:ibol@ibol.idaho.gov)

### **Idaho Requirements**

#### **150.QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSURE (RULE 150)**

Licensure as a “professional counselor” shall be restricted to persons who have successfully completed the required examination and each of the following requirements

##### **Graduate Program Requirement**

- graduate program of sixty (60) semester hours which is primarily counseling in nature, six (6) semester hours of which are earned in an advanced counseling practicum, and including a graduate degree in a counseling field from an accredited university or college offering a graduate program in counseling

##### **Supervised Experience Requirement**

- One thousand (1,000) hours is defined as one thousand (1,000) clock hours of experience working in a counseling setting, four hundred (400) hours of which shall be direct client contact. Supervised experience in practica and/or internships taken at the graduate level may be utilized. The supervised experience shall include a minimum of one (1) hour of face-to-face or one-to-one (1/1) or one-to-two (1/2) supervision with the supervisor for every twenty (20) hours of job/internship experience

Please visit [Board Page](#) for more information.

## **Illinois**

Professional Counselor Licensing and Disciplinary Board  
100 West Randolph, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (888) 472-4858

### **Illinois Requirements**

#### **Education:**

- Masters or Doctoral Degree with a minimum of 48 semester hours
- 13 classes required

#### **Experience:**

For a licensed clinical professional counselor:

- 1,680 hours of work per year for 2 years, for a total of 3,360 hours
- 960 hours of face-to-face counseling for 2 years, for a total of 1,920 hours

#### **Supervision:**

For a licensed clinical professional counselor:

- A qualified supervision means any person who is a licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical psychologist, or psychiatrist as defined in Section 1-121 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code. If supervision took place outside Illinois, the supervision shall be a master's level or doctoral level counselor engaged in clinical professional counseling, clinical social work, clinical psychology or psychiatry. The supervision shall hold an active license if the jurisdiction in which the supervision practices requires licensure.
- The supervision shall have met with the applicant at least one hour each week. The supervision means the review of counseling and case management.
- Acceptable modes for supervision of direct client contact are as follows:
  - Individual supervision: the supervisory session is conducted by an approved supervision with one or two counselors present.
  - Group supervision: the supervisory session is conducted by an approved supervisor with no more than 5 counselors present.

#### **Examination:**

The exams for Illinois licensure are:

- NCE Exam **and** NCMHCE Exam to become a LCPC

Please visit [IMHCA - Licensure](#) for more information.

## **Indiana**

Mental Health Counselors Board  
402 W Washington St #W072  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 234-2064

### **Indiana Requirements**

#### **IC 25-23.6-8.5-1 Mental health counselor application requirements**

An individual who applies for a license as a mental health counselor must meet the following requirements:

- received a master's or doctor's degree in an area related to mental health counseling from:
  - an eligible postsecondary educational institution that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter; or
  - a foreign school that has a program of study that meets the requirements under section 2 of this chapter;
- completed the educational requirements under section 3 of this chapter; and
- completed the experience requirements under section 4 of this chapter
- Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to practice competently
- Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice as a mental health counselor without endangering the public.
- Pass an examination provided by the board.
- Pay the fee established by the board

Please visit <https://www.in.gov/> for more information.

## **Iowa**

Iowa Department of Public Health  
Iowa Board of Behavioral Sciences  
Lucas State Office Building  
321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

Phone: (515) 281-7689

### **Iowa Requirements**

- the applicant shall complete a board-approved application
  - the applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application.
- Each applicant shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable to the Board of Behavioral Sciences
- For licensure as a mental health counselor, an official transcript verifying completion of a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREF)
- Have examination score sent directly from the testing service to the board

Please visit [Iowa Legislature - Rule Listings](#) for more information.

## **Kansas**

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
700 SW Harrison St #420  
Topeka, KS 66603

Phone: (785) 296-3240

### **Kansas Requirements**

There are a number of pre-requisites that must be fulfilled so you can gain your title as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and after further experience, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in Kansas:

- Meet the educational requirement of having your Master of Counseling degree from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or Council on Counseling Rehabilitation (CORE in the case of rehabilitation counselors) accredited university.
- Complete a practicum as you are working on your Master's in Counseling.
- Pass a criminal background check.
- Apply to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Apply to the state board to receive your Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) title.
- Submit a supervised training plan if you want to go on to become a LCPC.
- Accumulate the required hours for your supervised experience element.
- Apply to take your National Mental Health Counselor Examination (NMHCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Apply to the state board to receive your Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) title in the state of Kansas.

### **Education Requirements:**

- The first step is to earn your Bachelor's degree in Counseling as the best option, or a highly related Social or Behavioral Science field such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- The next step is to apply to and get accepted into a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling or Council on Counseling Rehabilitation (CORE in the case of rehabilitation counselors) program.
- The Master's program must have certain core elements as described on the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board website here:  
<http://www.ksbsrb.org/professionalcounselors.htm>
- Your graduate program must include some sort of practicum

### **Apply and Take NCE Exam:**

This exam is required for Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

- Apply with the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to sit for your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable under Kansas law.

### **Apply and Take NMHCE:**

This exam is required for Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC)

- Apply with the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to take your National Mental Health Counselor Examination (NMHCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Pass the NMHCE with a score acceptable under Illinois law.

Please visit [Kansas LPC or LCPC Counselor Certification | KS Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.

## **Kentucky**

Kentucky Department of Professional Licensing  
911 Leawood Drive  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-3296

### **Kentucky Requirements**

There is a several step process to become a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) in Kentucky:

- Meet the educational requirement of having your Master of Counseling degree from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling accredited university.
- Pass a criminal background check.
- Apply to the Kentucky Office of Occupations and Professions to receive your Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) title.
- Accumulate the required hours for your supervised experience requirement.
- Apply to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Apply to the state board to receive your Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) title in the state of Kentucky.

### **Education Requirements:**

- The first step is to earn your Bachelor's degree in Counseling as the best option, or a highly related Social or Behavioral Science field such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- Apply to a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program, or a Council on Counseling Rehabilitation (CORE in the case of rehabilitation counselors) program.

### **Supervised Experience LPCC:**

To become a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor you will need to meet the requirements for supervised experience. With your LPCA title, you can now begin the process of accumulating your supervised experience.

- Pass a criminal background check.
- You will need to accrue 4000 hours of supervised experience.
- You must complete all experience after earning your Master of Counseling degree.
- 1600 hours is the minimum requirement for direct counseling work out of the 4000 you will need.
- Kentucky expresses preference for those who put in 10 or more hours of work in a correctional facility during the work experience component.
- 100 hours must be individual face to face supervision by your supervisor who can be licensed as an LPCC, a Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist or a nurse who has a Master's degree and appropriate psychiatric credentialing.

### **Apply and Take NCE:**

- Apply to the Kentucky Office of Occupations and Professions to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable under Kentucky regulations.

Please visit [Kentucky LPCC/LCPA Counselor Certification | KY Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.



## Louisiana

Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners  
8631 Summa Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Phone: (225) 765-2515

Contact: [lpcboard@lpcboard.org](mailto:lpcboard@lpcboard.org)

### Louisiana Requirements

These are the steps you will need to complete to attain the Licensed Professional Counselor title in Louisiana:

- Meet the educational requirement of having your Master of Counseling degree from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or Council on Counseling Rehabilitation (CORE in the case of rehabilitation counselors) accredited university.
- Complete a practicum as part of your graduate studies.
- Pass a criminal background check.
- Write the board with a plan for your supervised experience step and have it accepted.
- Accrue all of the required hours of supervised experience to meet the state requirement.
- Apply to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

### **Education Requirements:**

- The first step is to earn your Bachelor's degree in Counseling. This is considered the best option; if not counseling then you will want to earn a Bachelor's in a highly related Social Science discipline such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- The next step is to apply to and get accepted into a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program.
- Your graduate program must include some sort of practicum.
- You must then complete an internship
- The practicum must have a minimum of 40 hours of working directly with mental health clients with at least one hour per week of individual supervision and an additional one and a half hours of group supervision.
- The internship will require a full 120 hours of direct client contact and you will need the same level supervision as required during the practicum.

### **Supervised Experience:**

- Pass a criminal background check.
- Submit a supervised experience plan to the board and have it approved.
- You will need to complete a full 3000 hours of supervised experience.
- You must complete all experience after graduation.
- 1900 hours must be in the form of direct client counseling.
- 50 hours of the supervised experience must be under direct supervision.
- 50 hours of supervision may be in a group format.
- You can complete a maximum of 1000 hours of performing counseling related activities that are related to counseling duties, but are not direct client contact.

- You can reduce your supervised experience requirement by up to 1000 hours by doing post graduate course work that exchanges at a rate of 30 hours of course work counting as 500 hours of supervised practice.
- You must always complete a minimum of 2000 hours of supervised experience regardless of educational attainment.
- You must complete all supervised experience in a period of time not less than two years and not more than seven

**Apply and Take NCE Exam:**

- Apply to the Louisiana Professional Counselors Board of Examiners to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable under Louisiana law.

Please visit [Louisiana LPC Counselor Certification | LA Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.

## Maine

Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure  
35 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0035

Phone: (207) 624-8626

### Maine Requirements

#### **Education Requirements:**

applicant shall provide documented proof of a master's degree or a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution that consists of a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours or quarter-hour equivalent

- A counseling degree from a program that was accredited by CACREP as a mental health counseling program at the time the degree was awarded (subject to the 60 semester hour minimum)

#### **Examinations:**

- To qualify for full licensure, the applicant shall achieve a passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination administered by the NBCC.

#### **Supervised Experience:**

- Except as set forth in Section 4(2) of this chapter, the applicant shall complete 3000 hours of supervised clinical counseling experience over a period of not less than 2 years following attainment of the qualifying degree. The 3000 hours shall include a minimum of 1500 direct clinical contact hours with individuals and groups, and a minimum of 100 hours of clinical supervision with the approved supervisor designated by the licensee.

#### **Full Licensure:**

Applicant may apply to the board for full licensure as a licensed clinical professional counselor upon completion of the supervised experience required by section 4 of this chapter. The applicant shall submit:

- Proof of a passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination, or a request to take the examination;
- Proof of a passing score on the National Counselor Examination, if not previously provided to the board, except as set forth in Chapter 6, Section 3(1) and (2) of the board's rules;
- Proof of the education required by Section 2 of this chapter, if not previously provided to the board;
- Proof of successful completion of supervised experience on a form supplied by the board;
- Certification of completion of 55 hours of continuing professional education during the term of the conditional license in accordance with Chapter 7-A of the board's rules, unless conditional licensure was waived by the board pursuant to Section 5(4) of this chapter or is not required;
- A proposed disclosure statement that meets the requirements of Chapter 8-B, Section 2(1) of the board's rules;
- The fee prescribed in Chapter 10, Section 5(13) of the rules of the Office of Licensing and Registration, entitled "Establishment of License Fees;"

Please visit [Maine PFR - Professions - Counseling Professionals Licensure - Laws & Rules](#) for more information.

## **Maryland**

Board of Professional Counselors  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

Phone: (410) 358-4732

### **Maryland Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

One of the following in a professional counseling or related field from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board:

- A master's degree with a minimum of 60 graduate semester credit hours or 90 graduate quarter credit hours
- A doctoral degree with a minimum of 90 graduate semester credit hours or 135 graduate quarter credit hours

A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter credit hours of instruction in each of the following areas:

- Human Growth and Personality Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling
- Counseling Theory
- Counseling Techniques
- Group Dynamics, Processing, and Counseling
- Lifestyle and Career Development
- Appraisal
- Research and Evaluation
- Professional, Legal and Ethical Responsibilities
- Alcohol and Drug Counseling
- Supervised Field Experience
- Diagnosis and Psychopathology
- Psychotherapy and Treatment of Mental and Emotional Disorders

#### **Supervised Clinical Experience:**

- For a Master's level applicant, 3 years with minimum 3000 hours of supervised clinical experience in professional counseling under an approved supervisor
  - Of the 3 years 2 should be post-graduate clinical supervision
- For doctoral level applicants, 2 years with a minimum of 2000 hours of supervised clinical experience in professional counseling. Of the 2 years 100 hours shall be acquired after the doctoral degree has been awarded

#### **Examination Requirement:**

Achieve a passing score on the National Counselors Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors and the State Law Test.

Please visit [Professional Counselor Licensure Requirements](#) for more information.

## Massachusetts

Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professionals  
1000 Washington Street #710  
Boston, MA 02118

Phone: (617) 727-3080

### Massachusetts Requirements

An applicant for licensure as a mental health counselor must provide to the Board the following:

- a complete application for licensure as prescribed by the Board;
- a final transcript which demonstrates that the applicable degree and education requirements under 262 CMR 2.04 and 2.05 have been met;
- evidence which demonstrates that the applicant has completed the clinical field experience requirements under 262 CMR 2.06 through 2.08; and
- evidence of a passing score on the Board Examination. Passing scores remain valid for a period of five years from the date the examination was taken

### **Education and Degree Requirements:**

Applicant must demonstrate the completion of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours of Graduate Level Courses in Mental Health Counseling or a Related Field; this includes a minimum 48 semester credit Master's degree.

As components of the 48 semester credit Master's degree and the degrees and certificated listed in 262 CMR candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Required Course Areas:
  - Counseling Theory
  - Human Growth and Development
  - Psychopathology
  - Social and Cultural Foundations
  - Clinical Skills
  - Group Work Special treatment Issue
  - Appraisal
  - Research and Evaluation
  - Professional Orientation

### **Post-Master's Degree Clinical Field Experience Requirements:**

Applicants must complete, in no less than two and no more than eight years, a minimum of 2 years of full-time or equivalent part-time, post-Master's degree supervised clinical field experience and direct client contact experience

Must demonstrate the following experience requirements:

- 3,360 total hours
  - 960 contact hours of direct contact experience
    - A minimum of 610 direct client contact experience contact hours are in individual, couples or family counseling
    - A maximum of 350 direct client contact experience hours may be in group counseling
- Applicants must demonstrate the completion of the following supervision hour requirements during post-Master's experience:

- At least 130 total hours of supervision of which 75 hours must be individual supervision
- A minimum of one supervisory contact hour of supervision for every 16 hours of direct client contact experience

Please visit [262 CMR 2.00: Requirements For Licensure As a Mental Health Counselor | Mass.gov](#) for more information.

## Michigan

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
 Ottawa Building  
 611 W. Ottawa  
 P.O. Box 30004  
 Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-1820

### Michigan Requirements

#### **Education Requirements:**

- The surest route towards licensure is to earn your Bachelor's degree in Counseling. This is considered the most desirable option to be accepted into a graduate program. If you do not earn a Bachelor's of counseling then you will want to earn a Bachelor's in a highly related Social Science discipline such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- The next step is to apply to and get accepted into a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program

#### **Supervised Experience:**

- Pass a criminal background check.
- Apply to the board for limited licensure to begin gaining your experience.
  - You can find the form [here](#):
- For those with a Master's degree you will need to complete 3000 hours over a two year period.
- If you have 30 semester hours of post-graduate experience, this can be reduced to 1500 hours over a one year period.
- You will need to be supervised by someone who is authorized by the board to supervise.
- You will need one hour of direct supervision for every 30 hours of work experience.
- This equates to 100 hours for those who need 3000 hours of experience and 50 hours of supervision for those who are in need of 1500 hours of experience.

#### **Apply for and Take NCE Exam:**

- Apply to the Michigan Board of Counseling to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable under Michigan law

Please visit [Michigan LPC Counselor Certification | MI Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.



## Minnesota

Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy  
2829 University Ave SE #210  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Phone: (612) 548-2177

### Minnesota Requirements

#### **Education Requirements:**

- The safest and best undergraduate degree to earn is the Bachelor's degree in Counseling. Most graduate of counseling programs consider the Bachelor of Counseling to be the most desirable degree for applicants. If you are not planning on getting your Bachelor of Counseling, then you will want to earn a Bachelor's in a highly related Behavioral Science field such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- The next step is to apply to and get accepted into a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program.
- During your graduate program you must complete 700 hours of supervised field experience.

#### **Apply and Take the NCMHCE Exam:**

- Apply to the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) if you.
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable under Minnesota law.
- To become a LPCC you will need to complete the steps for LPC and then apply to the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy to take your National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) if you

#### **Supervised Experience:**

- Pass a criminal background check.
- Submit to the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy your plan for supervised experience.
- For those working towards the LPC title, you will need to complete 2000 hours over a two year period.
- You are required to have two hours of supervision for every 40 hours of experience you earn, which is equivalent to 100 hours during your two year 2000 hour process.
- 75% of supervision must be in person and not through communications devices.
- 50% of your supervised hours must be one-on-one in person supervision.
- You will need to be supervised by someone who is authorized by the board to supervise.
- If you are earning your LPCC title you will need to have an additional 2000 hours of experience, of which 1800 hours must be direct client contact.

**For the LPCC title you will also need to apply after meeting all the requirements for both LPC and LPCC.**

Please visit [Minnesota LPC/LPCC Counselor Certification | MN Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.

## Mississippi

Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors  
239 North Lamar Street Suite 402  
Jackson, MS 39201

Phone: (601) 359-1010

### Mississippi Requirements

No person shall practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Mississippi except as provided by state statute and these regulations.

- An Applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- The Applicant is a Mississippi resident, pays income tax in the State of Mississippi, or has an immigration document to verify legal alien work status in the United States. The immigration document must be current and issued by the United States Immigration Bureau.
- An Applicant must be of good moral character. The Board may request endorsements attesting to the Applicant's character, professional integrity, and professional competence.
- Applicants must pass Board approved examination to be eligible for licensure.
- Applicants must meet all education and experience requirements.

### **Education Requirements:**

- Sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours of graduate study. For degrees conferred after January 1, 2017, the Board will only accept sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours masters degree programs, and those programs shall be CACREP degree programs or degree programs with the word counseling in its title meet the structure of CACREP as it specifically pertains to the twelve (12) courses specified in Rule 4.2.C, as part of sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours that are required for completion of the degree or having earned a doctoral or educational specialist degree primarily in a counseling, guidance, or related field, which meets similar standards as specified above.
- Each applicant must have completed three (3) hour semester course or its equivalent in each of the following areas:
  - Human Growth and Development
  - Social and Cultural Foundations
  - Counseling and Psychotherapy Skills
  - Group Counseling
  - Lifestyle and Career Development
  - Testing and Appraisal
  - Research and Evaluation
  - Profession Orientation to Counseling Ethics
  - Theories of Counseling Psychotherapy and Personality
  - Marriage and/or Family Counseling/Therapy
  - Abnormal Psychology and Psychopathology
  - Internship

### **Experience Requirements:**

A total of three thousand five hundred (3,500) supervised hours of counseling (approximately 2 years) in a clinical setting post Bachelor's degree (See Rule 1.4(H)) comprised of the following:

- maximum of forty (40) supervised hours may be obtained per workweek.

- Up to one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) hours may be obtained while enrolled in a Graduate Degree's program internship or practicum and, although not required, where possible the Board would prefer BQS Supervision during internship or practicum.
- A minimum of one thousand one hundred sixty-seven (1,167) supervised hours must be in Direct Services with clients and/or psychotherapy service to clients. Direct Services are only face to face counseling including individual counseling, couples/family counseling, group counseling, and testing and assessment.
- One hundred (100) hours of individual face to face supervision are required. Up to 50 hours may be obtained while enrolled in a Graduate Degree program, including internship/practicum. Supervision meetings should occur at a frequency based upon these ratios: one (1) supervision hour to forty (40) hours of services provided OR one (1) hour of supervision to twenty-five (25) hours of Direct Services. For persons working part-time, supervision should occur no less frequently than every other week. No more than 50 hours of individual supervision received during a Graduate Degree Program will be accepted.
- Group supervision will be acceptable for not more than fifty (50) hours of the required one hundred (100) hours of individual supervision. This is based on two (2) hours of group supervision being equivalent to one (1) hour of individual supervision. Total hours of group supervision should be reported in full and will then be divided by two (2) by the Board at review time.
- Individual supervision provided by multiple supervisors regarding the same direct client service hours at the same site during the same time frame will not be accepted

Please visit [Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors - > Statute and Rules](#) for more information.

## **Missouri**

Committee for Professional Counselors  
3605 Missouri Boulevard  
Jefferson City. MO 65102-1335

Phone: (573) 751-0018

Contact: [procounselor@pr.mo.gov](mailto:procounselor@pr.mo.gov)

### **Missouri Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- A master's degree must be in counseling or the following mental health disciplines; counseling & guidance, counseling psychology, clinical psychology, or school psychology
- Consists of 48 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours
- The degree must teach; counseling principles, theories, techniques, and counseling interventions
- Core areas of study:
  - Counseling theory
  - Human growth & development
  - Helping relationship
  - Social & cultural foundations
  - Career development
  - Appraisal of individuals
  - Group dynamics
  - Research methods
  - Professional orientation
  - Diagnosis
  - 6 hours of practicum

#### **Supervision Requirements:**

- 3,000 hours and 24 months of supervised experience with 5 years to complete the hours. 1,200 hours' direct contact individual or group therapy required
- A CIT or PLPC must be engaged in counseling or counseling related duties at least 15 hours a week during the period of supervised experience
- 1 hour per week face to face supervision with at least two weeks' individual supervision. Up to 2 week of the remaining supervision can be group supervision with a maximum of 3 CIT's/PLPC's in the group. No more than 3 PLPC's or CIT's to one supervisor.

#### **Exam Requirements:**

- National Counselor Exam (NCE) taken through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
- Jurisprudence exam; internet based open book test administers through i-counseling.net.

Please visit [Committee for Professional Counselors](#) for more information.

## **Montana**

Board of Behavioral Health  
301 South Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200513  
Helena, Montana 59620-0513

Phone: (406) 841-2392

Contact: [dlibsdbbh@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdbbh@mt.gov)

### **Montana Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- A 60 semester (90 quarter) hour counseling-in-nature graduate degree which contains a six-semester hour advanced counseling practicum
- A minimum of a 45 semester or 67.5 quarter-hour counseling-in-nature degree that contains a six-semester hour or nine-quarter hour advanced counseling practicum. Applicants shall go back to school to acquire credits to equal the total requirement of 60 semester credits prior to full licensure. Applicants have up to 5 years to complete the additional academic credits.

#### **Experience Requirements:**

- 3,000 supervised practice hours, a minimum of 1,500 hours must be post-degree. Supervisors must hold a current valid license in any state as a professional counselor, social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist
- supervisors must have 3-years post licensure experience in a clinical setting OR training in clinical supervision. Training must be board approved and a minimum 20 hour in-person training or 1 semester credit (15 hours) post degree graduate level education

#### **Examination Requirements:**

- Montana contracts with the [National Board of Certified Counselors \(NBCC\)](#) for the National Counselor Exam (NCE) and the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE)

Please visit [Board of Behavioral Health](#) for more information.

## Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services  
301 centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Phone: (402) 471-3121

### Nebraska Requirements

- Have received at least a master's degree that consists of course work and training which was primarily therapeutic mental health in content and included a practicum or internship (as part of the degree) from a COAMFTE, CACREP, CSWE, or APA accredited program or from a program viewed as equivalent
- Practicums or internships completed after September 1, 1995, must include a minimum of 300 hundred clock hours of direct client contact under the supervision of a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, or LMHP
- completed at least 3,000 hours of post master's supervised experience in mental health practice; at least 1,500 hours must be direct client contact in a setting where mental health services were being offered and the remaining 1,500 hours may include: review of client records, case conferences, direct observation, and video observation
  - This experience must be supervised by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, LMHP or LIMHP and must include evaluative face-to-face contact for a minimum of 1-hour per week. These 3,000 must be accumulated after completion of the master's degree and during the 5-years immediately preceding the application for licensure
- Has passed the required examination for Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP)

Please visit [Pages - crlMHPSWAppReqsMHP](#) for more information.

## Nevada

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists & Clinical Professional Counselors

7324 West Cheyenne Suite #9

Las Vegas, Nevada 82129

Phone: (702) 486-7388

### Nevada Requirements

- is at least 21 years of age
- is of good moral character
- is a citizen of the United States, or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
- has;
  - completed his residency training in psychiatry from a regionally accredited college, university or institution approved by the Board or
  - a graduate Mental Health degree from a program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) as a program in mental health counseling or community counseling or
- has
  - At least 2 years of postgraduate experience practicing professional counseling and;
  - At least 3,000 hours of supervised experience in professional counseling, which includes, without limitation,
    - At least 1,500 hours must consist of direct contact with clients and;
    - at least 100 hours of counseling under the direct supervision of an approved supervisor of which at least 1 one hour per week was completed for each work setting at which the applicant provided counseling; and
  - passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) which is administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- each qualified applicant for a license to practice clinical professional counseling must furnish evidence to the Board that they have passed the **National Certified Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE)** examination given by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) in order to demonstrate his or her knowledge of clinical professional counseling.

Please visit [Clinical Professional Counselors](#) for more information.

## **New Hampshire**

Office of Professional Licensure and Certification Directors  
121 South Fruit Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603) 271-2152

### **New Hampshire**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- applicants shall have 60 semester hour master's or doctoral degree in clinical mental health counseling from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- course requirements:
  - human growth and development
  - abnormal psychology/psychotherapy
  - clinical counseling theories
  - clinical counseling techniques
  - social and cultural foundations
  - group work
  - professional orientation & ethics of mental health counseling
  - career & lifestyle development
  - research and program evaluation
  - addictive behaviors

#### **Practical Experience:**

- A year of supervised clinical work experience shall not be less than 1500 clock hours, which have been completed within not less than 12 months and not more than 24 consecutive months.
- The supervision shall have provided for a minimum of one hour per week of individual face-to-face supervision between the supervisor and the applicant for a total of 100 hours.
- Acceptable clinical supervised experience shall require direct, formal contact with a supervisor who is responsible for the clinical development and guidance of the supervisee and is familiar with the supervisee's work and organizational setting

#### **Examination:**

- All applicants for licensure shall pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam distributed by the National Board of Certified Counselors

Please visit [CHAPTER Mhp 300 LICENSE AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, APPLICATIONS AND FEES](#) for more information.



## **New Jersey**

New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs  
124 Halsey Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Phone: (973) 504-6200

Contact: [AskConsumerAffairs@dca.lps.state.nj.us](mailto:AskConsumerAffairs@dca.lps.state.nj.us)

### **New Jersey Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- first step is to earn your Bachelor's degree in Counseling as the best option, or a highly related Social or Behavioral Science field such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- The next step is to apply to and get accepted into a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program.

#### **Apply and Take NCE Exam:**

- Apply with the New Jersey Professional Counselor Examiners Committee to sit for your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- You can find the form here: <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/proc/ncexam.pdf>
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable to the Board.

#### **Supervised Experience:**

- If you hold a Master's degree you will need to complete 4500 hours of supervised experience.
- If you have 30 semester hours of post-graduate coursework this can be reduced to 3000 hours.
- Up to one year of experience can be reduced if you have sufficient post-graduate experience, or supervised experience from a practicum or internship that was beyond the required amount for you to earn your Masters of Counseling.
- You can complete this within six years.

Please visit [New Jersey LAC & LCPC Counselor Certification | NJ Counseling College](#) for more information.

## New Mexico

New Mexico Regulations & Licensing Department  
 Tonya Anaya Building  
 2550 Cerrillos Road  
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

Phone: (505) 476-4500

### New Mexico Requirements

**16.27.4.9 APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE: AS A PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR (LPCC)**  
 MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS AND PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WITH THE APPLICATION:

- Age requirement. Be at least 21 years of age.
- Applicant must sign a statement provided in the application indicating the applicant has read the code of ethics and agrees to be bound and governed by the code of ethics.
- Education requirement. Hold a master's or doctoral degree in counseling or a counseling-related field from an accredited institution. Applicants who hold a degree in a related-field must complete attachment E, provide syllabus and actual catalog course descriptions.
- Applicants must have a masters or doctoral degree in counseling or a counseling-related field and a total of no less than forty-eight (48) graduate semester hours or seventy-two (72) quarter graduate hours in the mental health clinical core curriculum as defined in 16.27.2 NMAC. The hours must be acquired as a part of a master's or doctoral degree, or acquired as additional graduate education to complete the required 48 clinical core curriculum hours.
- Experience requirements.
  - A minimum of two years' postgraduate professional clinical counseling experience
  - Evidence of having participated in a total of three thousand (3,000) hours of postgraduate clinical client contact and 100 hours of appropriate face to face postgraduate supervision. One thousand (1,000) clinical client contact hours may be from the applicant's internship or practicum
- Applicants must demonstrate professional competency by passing the national counselor examination (NCE) and the national clinical mental health counseling examination (NCMHCE)
- The applicant is required to submit an official transcript in a sealed envelope from each institution contributing to the applicant's master or doctoral degree, a total of no less than forty-eight (48) graduate semester hours or seventy-two (72) quarter graduate hours which includes the required 48 clinical core curriculum.
- A statement from each supervisor in a sealed envelope on a form provided by the board (attachment B) verifying the applicant's supervised experience and setting forth the nature and extent of such supervision must be submitted with the application. The statement shall verify that the applicant's performance was in accordance with adequate counseling and therapy standards of practice

- Documentation of 3,000 hours of postgraduate clinical client contact and 100 hours of appropriate face to face postgraduate supervision

Please visit <http://www.rld.state.nm.us> for more information.

## New York

New York State Department of Labor  
 Building 12  
 W.A. Harriman Campus  
 Albany, NY 1240

Phone: (518) 457-9000

### New York Requirements

#### **To be licensed as a Mental Health Counselor in New York State you must:**

- be of good moral character;
- be at least 21 years of age;
- meet education requirements;
- meet experience requirements;
- meet examination requirements; and
- complete coursework or training in the identification and reporting of child abuse offered by a New York State approved provider;

#### **Education Requirements:**

To meet the professional education requirement for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor, you must present evidence of receiving a **master's or doctoral degree in counseling** from a program that is:

- registered by the Department as [licensure qualifying](#);
- accredited as a mental health counseling program of 60 semester hours by the [Commission on the Accreditation of Counseling Related Education Programs \(CACREP\)](#) or another acceptable accrediting agency; or
- determined by the Department to be the substantial equivalent of such a registered or accredited program

#### **Experience Requirements:**

To meet the experience requirement for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor, you must submit documentation of completion of a supervised experience of at least 3,000 clock hours providing Mental Health Counseling in a setting acceptable to the Department. The supervised experience must be obtained **after** completion of the master's degree program required for licensure

#### **Examination Requirement:**

To meet the examination requirement for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor in New York State, you must pass the "National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE)," administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The National Counselor Examination (NCE) from NBCC is **not** acceptable for licensure

Please visit [Licensed Mental Health Counselor - New York State Department of Labor](#) for more information.

## **North Carolina**

North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (NCBLPC)  
7D Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403

Phone: (844) 622-3572

Contact: [LPCinfo@ncblpc.org](mailto:LPCinfo@ncblpc.org)

### **North Carolina Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- To start your journey towards licensure you will want to begin by earning your Bachelor's degree in Counseling or a highly related Social or Behavioral Science field such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- Apply to a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program, or a Council on Counseling Rehabilitation (CORE in the case of rehabilitation counselors) program.
- North Carolina requires that your Master's program include a practicum or internship where you have at least 300 hours of experience under the supervision of a qualified supervisor.
- You must have 17 hours of graduate counseling supervision from a qualified supervisor.
- You will need to be supervised during at least one out of every 40 hours of experience during your practicum or internship.
- Your supervisor should be a Licensed Professional Counselor with a current license in the state of North Carolina

#### **Apply and Take NCMHCE:**

- Apply to the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) or National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

#### **Supervised Experience:**

- Pass a criminal background check.
- You will need to accrue 3000 hours of supervised experience.
- You must work a minimum of 8 hours of supervised experience per week and no more than 40 hours.
- You must complete all experience after earning your Master of Counseling degree.
- 2000 hours is the minimum requirement for direct counseling work with clients.
- 100 hours must be individual face to face supervision, and one hour per 40 hours you earn, by your supervisor who can be licensed as an LPC, a Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Nurse Practitioner or a Clinical Nurse who has a Master's degree and appropriate psychiatric credentialing.
- You must have a minimum of 75 hours of one-on-one supervision; the remaining 25 may be in group form.

#### **Jurisprudence Exam:**

- You will need to pass the North Carolina Jurisprudence exam and pass it before applying for your LPC title.

Please visit [North Carolina LPC & LPCA Counselor Certification | NC Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.

## **North Dakota**

North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners  
2112 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Mandan, ND 58554

Phone: (701) 667-5969

Contact: [ndbce@outlook.com](mailto:ndbce@outlook.com)

### **North Dakota Requirements**

Applicants for the LPCC must hold a valid LPC license

In addition, these requirements must be satisfied:

- A total of 60 graduate semester credits - 12 of which may be obtained in documented training, clinical experiences, or courses consistent with NBCC clinical education guidelines.
- Must have completed 700 hours of training in supervised practica and/or internships relevant to the practice of counseling.
- Graduate clinical coursework must include: abnormal psychology and psychopathology, appraisal and diagnostic evaluation (DSM-IV), and clinical counseling skills.
- Two years (3000 hours) of post-masters supervised clinical experience in a clinical setting. All applications received after 7-1-16 must show 100 hours of supervision by an LPCC.
- Three letters of reference from the clinical supervisor and other clinical professionals.
- A passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination.
- A videotaped clinical counseling session of at least 30-minutes duration (individual or group clinical counseling setting).

Please visit [North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners](#) for more information.

## **Ohio**

Counselor, Social Work and Marriage & Family Therapist Board  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43125-6171

Phone: (614) 466-0912

Contact: [cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov](mailto:cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov)

### **Ohio Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- Master's degree from a clinical mental health counseling program, clinical rehabilitation counseling program, or addiction counseling program accredited by the council for accreditation of counseling and related educational programs "CACREP

#### **Other Requirements:**

- Complete the application for LPCC licensure \$100+ \$3.50 application fee
- Have NBCC send your NCMHCE exam results to the Board
- Document two years of supervised experience that meets the following requirements:
- Two full calendar years of supervision
- A minimum of 1,500 hours of experience within each year
- The experience must have included within its scope of practice the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders.
- Your supervisor will complete the Form to document supervised hours twice during your two years of supervision.
- Watch the board's Laws & Rules Video

Please visit [Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board > Counselors > LPCC](#) for more information.



## **Oregon**

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists  
3218 Pringle Road, SE Suite 120  
Salem, OR 97302-6312

Phone: (503) 378-5499

Contact: [lpct.board@state.or.us](mailto:lpct.board@state.or.us)

### **Oregon Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

- At least two years in duration, including at least:
  - 48 semester credit hours or 72 quarter hours for graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014; or
  - 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter credit hours for graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014.
- At least two semester credit hours or three quarter credit hours in each of the following:
  - Counseling Theory
  - Human Growth and Development
  - Social and Cultural Foundations
  - Helping Relationship
  - Group Dynamics Processing and Counseling
  - Lifestyle and Career Development
  - Diagnosis of Mental Disorders
  - Research and Evaluation
  - Professional Orientation (Ethics)
- At least 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours of supporting coursework for specialty areas.

#### **Clinical Practicum or Internship Experience:**

- The graduate degree must have included a supervised clinical practicum or internship experience that included\*:
  - For graduate degrees granted on or after October 1, 2014: At least 700 total clock hours, including 280 direct client contact hours.
  - For graduate degrees granted before October 1, 2014: At least 600 total clock hours, including 240 direct client contact hours.
- The program's clinical practicum/internship must have:
  - Had supervisory staff with a minimum of a master's degree in the program emphasis and with pertinent professional experience;
  - Made provision for faculty monitoring of operations;
  - Kept records of student-client contact hours including summary of student progress by the supervisor;
  - Had a written agreement with the program and student specifying learning objectives; and
  - Had a mechanism for program evaluation.

#### **Exam Requirements:**

Applicants must pass— or have passed within 10 years prior to applying for licensure— a Board-approved competency exam. To qualify for a competency exam, an applicant must submit a licensure application and meet the graduate program and coursework requirements.

An LPC applicant must pass one of the following exams to qualify for licensure:

- National Counselor Examination (NCE);
- National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE); or
- Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRC).

Please visit [Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS](#) for more information.

## **Pennsylvania**

State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors  
 P.O. Box 2649  
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Phone: (717) 783-1389

Contact: [ST-SOCIALWORK@PA.GOV](mailto:ST-SOCIALWORK@PA.GOV)

### **Pennsylvania Requirements**

#### **§ 49.13. Licensed professional counselor**

- Satisfied the general requirements for licensure
- Passed the examination required
- Successfully met one of the following education requirements:
  - Has successfully completed a planned program of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework in counseling or a field closely related to the practice of professional counseling as defined in § 49.1 (relating to definitions) including one of the following:
    - A master's degree granted on or before June 30, 2009, in professional counseling from an accredited education institution.
    - A master's degree granted on or before June 30, 2009, in a field closely related to the practice of professional counseling as defined in § 49.1 from an accredited educational institution.
  - Has successfully completed a planned program of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate coursework in counseling or a field closely related to the practice of professional counseling as defined in § 49.1 including one of the following:
    - A 48 semester hour or 72 quarter hour master's degree in professional counseling from an accredited education institution.
    - A 48 semester hour or 72 quarter hour master's degree in a field closely related to the practice of professional counseling as defined in § 49.1 from an accredited educational institution.
    - Holds a doctoral degree in counseling from an accredited educational institution.
    - Holds a doctoral degree in a field closely related to the practice of professional counseling as defined in § 49.1 from an accredited education institution.
- Has met the following experience requirements:
  - Individuals who met the educational requirements of paragraph (3)(i) or (ii), shall have completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience meeting the criteria in subsection (b), obtained after the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate coursework. Supervision for the supervised clinical experience shall be provided by a supervisor
- Individuals who meet the educational requirements of paragraph (3)(iii) or (iv) shall have completed at least 2,400 hours of supervised clinical experience meeting the criteria in

subsection (b), 1,200 hours of which was obtained subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree. Supervision for the supervised clinical experience shall be provided by a supervisor

- *Supervised clinical experience.* Experience acceptable to the Board means experience as a supervisee in a setting that is organized to prepare the applicant for the practice of counseling consistent with the applicant's education and training.
  - At least one-half of the experience shall consist of providing services in one or more of the following areas:
    - Assessment.
    - Counseling.
    - Therapy.
    - Psychotherapy.
    - Other therapeutic interventions.
    - Consultation.
    - Family therapy.
    - Group therapy.

Please visit [049 Pa. Code § 49.13. Licensed professional counselor.](#) For more information.

## **Rhode Island**

State of Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Phone: (401) 222-5960

### **Rhode Island Requirements**

#### **11.3.1 Qualifications for Licensure of Clinical Mental Health Counselors**

Has completed the following degree requirements:

- Has received a master's or higher level degree from a program accredited by CACREP; or an equivalent accrediting agency approved by both the board and by the cognizable national or regional certifying authority OR
- Has received a master's degree or certificate in advanced graduate studies or a doctoral degree in mental health counseling from a recognized educational institution, or a graduate degree in an allied field from a recognized educational institution and a graduate level course work that is equivalent to a master's degree in mental health counseling. Coursework must include the required components of the Core Curriculum as indicated in § 11.5.1 of this Part AND
- Has completed sixty (60) semester credit hours within their graduate counseling/therapy program or post graduate program. The sixty (60) semester credit hours must be received prior to beginning post graduate experience and supervised case work hours

Has completed the following educational practicum and internship requirements:

- Completed requisite CACREP expectations for internship and practicum; OR
- Twelve (12) semester credit hours of supervised practicum and a minimum of one (1) calendar year of supervised internship consisting of twenty (20) hours per week deemed equivalent by the Board

Successfully completes the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) or other examination approved by the Board to determine the applicant's qualification for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor

Please visit [Marriage, Family and Mental Health Therapy Licensing: Department of Health](#) for more information.

## **South Carolina**

Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists,  
Addiction Counselors and Psycho-Educational Specialists  
110 Centerview Drive  
Columbia, SC

Phone: (803) 896-4658

### **South Carolina Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

all applicants must have a 48 hour master's degree or higher in counseling or in a related discipline, and the applicant must demonstrate on graduate transcript successful completion of one (1) three-hour graduate level course in each of the following ten areas and completion of a 150 hour counseling practicum:

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- The Helping Relationships
- Groups
- Lifestyle and Career Development
- Appraisal
- Research and Evaluation
- Professional Orientation
- Psychopathology
- Diagnostics of Psychopathology

#### **Practicum:**

minimum of 150 hour Supervised Counseling Practicum is required to provide supervised field placement(s) in an appropriate counseling setting and for academic credit as part of the degree program.

- You must submit a plan for supervised experience by filling out the form here:
- You must complete 1500 of supervised experience in a clinical setting
- You will need to meet the requirement of 1350 hours per year of face to face direct counseling.
- You must have 150 hours of supervision from a board approved supervisor.
- You can find a list of board approved supervisors here:
- Of these 150 hours you will need a minimum of 100 hours of individual supervision

#### **Exam Requirement:**

- Apply with the South Carolina Department of Labor Licenses and Regulation to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) or National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- Pass the NCE or NCMHCE with a score acceptable under South Carolina law.

Please visit [South Carolina LPC Counselor Certification | Find a SC Counseling College](#) for more information.

## **South Dakota**

South Dakota Department of Social Services  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: (605) 773-3165

### **South Dakota Requirements**

The first step towards licensure as a professional counselor-mental health is to submit an application for a Plan of Supervision. To be approved for a Plan of Supervision, an applicant must:

- Hold a valid Professional Counselor license;
- Provide transcripts showing graduation from a CACREP program or a 48-hour master's degree in counseling from an accredited Institution; and
- Propose a Board Approved Supervisor to oversee the required supervision and direct client contact hours for full licensure

Passing the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) is required. The examination is computer based. An applicant for licensure should contact the **National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)** to register for the exam and/or request an official score report be sent to the South Dakota Board office to evidence passing the examination.

Please visit [Licensing Professional Counselor - Mental Health](#) for more information.

## Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Health  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Contact: [tn.health@tn.gov](mailto:tn.health@tn.gov)

### Tennessee Requirements

An applicant for licensure as a professional counselor shall pay the board a nonrefundable fee as set by the board and shall satisfy the board that the applicant:

- Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Is of good moral character;
- Has obtained a minimum of sixty (60) graduate hours in counseling or a closely related field and which includes a master's degree in counseling; and
- Has completed a supervised field experience as either a practicum or internship that includes a minimum of five hundred (500) clock hours of training, at least three hundred (300) of which must be completed in a mental health or community agency setting. This field experience must be supervised by an individual with at least a master's degree in counseling, social work, psychology or psychiatry;
- Has had at least two (2) years of professional experience of a type judged to be acceptable by the board subsequent to being granted a master's degree and has not violated § 63-22-110;
- Has passed the examination offered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or such other examination approved by the board; and
- Has met any additional criteria of the board established by rule.

Please visit [TENNESSEE CODE UNANNOTATED CUI| PAW Document Page](#) for more information.



## Texas

Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
Mail Code 1982  
P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Phone: (512) 834-6658

Contact: [lpc@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:lpc@hhsc.state.tx.us)

### Texas Requirements

- A master's or doctoral degree in counseling or a counseling-related field from an accredited college or university.
- planned graduate program in counseling or a counseling-related field of at least 48 graduate semester hours (60 hours for applicants who began their education on or after August 1, 2017)
- Applicants must obtain academic course work in each of the following areas: normal human growth and development; abnormal human behavior; appraisal or assessment techniques; counseling theories; counseling methods or techniques (individual and group); research; lifestyle and career development; social, cultural and family issues; and professional orientation
- As part of the graduate program, a supervised practicum experience that is primarily counseling in nature. The practicum should be at least 300 clock-hours with at least 100 clock-hours of direct client contact. Academic credit for the practicum must appear on the applicant's transcript.
- After completion of the graduate degree and before application, an applicant must take and pass the National Counselor Exam and the Texas Jurisprudence Exam. After receiving a temporary LPC license from the board, the applicant may begin the supervised post-graduate counseling experience (internship). 3000 clock-hours with at least 1,500 being direct client contact of internship under the supervision of a board-approved supervisor is required. The 3000 clock-hours may not be completed in a time period of less than 18 months.

Please visit [Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors - Apply for a New License - Requirements](#) for more information.

## **Utah**

Utah Department of Commerce  
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing  
160 E 300 S  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Phone: (866) 275-3675

### **Utah Requirements**

If applying for Initial Licensure and you do not currently hold a Utah ACMHC, you must also provide documentation of meeting the education requirement (submit one of the options below):

- Master's or Doctorate degree in Mental Health Counseling program ONLY that is accredited by CACREP. Submit OFFICIAL transcripts that identify the degree earned and date conferred.
- OR -
- Master's or Doctorate degree in Mental Health Counseling program or equivalent field that is accredited by CHEA. Submit OFFICIAL transcripts that identify the degree earned and date conferred. Submit Course descriptions or syllabus for EACH course Complete and submit the EDUCATIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS pages.
- Verification of Post-Graduate Supervised Experience. NOTE: You must have each supervisor complete a separate form, and the hours from all forms must total 4,000
- Official score report of passing the NCMHCE

Please visit [DOPL - Clinical Mental Health Counselor](#) for more information.

## **Vermont**

Vermont Secretary of State Office of Professional Regulation  
89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

Phone: (802) 828-2390

Contact: [diane.lafaille@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:diane.lafaille@sec.state.vt.us)

### **Vermont Requirements**

#### **Applying by Examination:**

- Submit the completed application and the \$125 non-refundable application fee
- Complete the “Education and Coursework Requirements Worksheet” and attach syllabi or course descriptions to your application, including verification of 700 hours of practicum /internship
- Request official transcripts (directly from the institution) to be sent to the Office.
- Pass the examinations. Vermont requires applicants to pass both of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) Examinations:
  - the National Counselors Exam (NCE), and
  - the National Clinical Mental Health Examination (NCMHCE)
- Have your supervisor(s) complete the “Supervision Report” form. Supervisors must also submit proof of their licensure by completing the "Verification of Supervisor Licensure” form and sending it to their state of licensure
- Applicants need 3000 hours of post Master’s supervised clinical experience (a minimum of 2 years), including:
  - At least 2000 hours of direct service work; the remainder may be indirect service;
  - 100 hours of supervision from someone licensed at least 3 years (1 hour of supervision for every 30 hours of practice);
  - A minimum of 50 hours of individual supervision and no more than 50 hours of group supervision (with no more than 6 supervisees in the group); and
  - Face-to-face supervision

Please visit <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/> for more information.

## Virginia

Virginia Department of Health Professions  
9960 Maryland Drive, Suite 300  
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 367-4400

Contact: [Diane.Powers@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:Diane.Powers@dhp.virginia.gov)

### Virginia Requirements

#### **Education Requirements:**

- To become a LPC in Virginia, your degree must be either CACREP or CORE accredited **or** be a graduate degree from a program that prepares individuals to practice counseling, as defined in §54.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia, which is offered by a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency and which meets the following criteria:
  - Academic study with the expressed intent to prepare counselors;
  - Identifiable counselor training faculty (licensed LPC faculty) with an identifiable body of students; and,
  - Have clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty area
- the regulations require you to complete 60 graduate semester hours or 90 graduate quarter hours that **must** include the following 13 core content areas:
  - Professional Counseling & Identity
  - Theories of counseling & psychotherapy
  - Counseling & psychotherapy techniques
  - Human growth & development
  - Group counseling and psychotherapy, theories & techniques
  - Career counseling and development theories and techniques
  - Appraisal, evaluation & diagnostic procedures
  - Abnormal behavior and psychotherapy
  - Multicultural counseling, theories and techniques
  - Research
  - Diagnosis and treatment of addictive disorders
  - Marriage and family systems theory
  - Supervised internship
    - At least 600 hours to include 240 hours of face-to-face direct client contact

#### **Residency Requirements:**

- A 3,400 hour supervised residency in counseling practice with various populations, clinical problems and theoretical approaches in the following areas:
  - Assessment and diagnosis using psychotherapy techniques
  - Appraisal, evaluation, and diagnostic procedures
  - Treatment planning and implementation
  - Case management and record keeping
  - Professional counselor identity and function

- professional ethics and standard of practice
- 2,000 hours of face-to-face client contact must be documented within this 3,400 hour residency. Graduate internship hours in **excess** of 600 hours, may count for up to an additional 300 hours towards the total residency requirements if the internship was earned after the completion of 30 graduate semester hours.
- A minimum of 200 hours of supervisory sessions, occurring at a minimum of 1 hour and a maximum of 4 hours of supervision per 40 hours of work experience, during the period of the residency. Up to 20 hours of the supervision received during the supervised internship may be counted toward the 200 hours of in-person supervision if the supervision was provided by a LPC.
- You must complete your residency in no less than 21 months and no more than four years.

**Exam Requirement:**

- To become licensed by the Board you must pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counselors Examination (NCMHCE), unless you are applying for licensure by endorsement

Please visit <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/> for more information.

## **Washington**

Washington State Department of Health  
111 Israel Road SE  
Tumwater, WA 98501

Phone: (360) 236-4501

### **Washington Requirements**

#### **Education Requirement:**

- Applicants must have a master's or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree in a field relating to mental health counseling. The department must receive an official transcript with degree and date posted from applicant's program
- This core of study must include seven content areas from the entire list in subsections (1) through (17) of this section, five of which must be from content areas in subsections (1) through (8) of this subsection:
  - Assessment/diagnosis
  - Ethics/law
  - Counseling individuals
  - Counseling groups
  - Counseling couples and families
  - Developmental psychology (may be child adolescent, adult or life span).
  - Psychopathology/abnormal psychology
  - Research and evaluation
  - Career development counseling
  - Multicultural concerns
  - Substance/chemical abuse
  - Physiological psychology
  - Organizational psychology
  - Mental health consultation
  - Developmentally disabled people
  - Abusive relationships
  - Chronically mentally ill
- Applicants must complete the subject content form. Official graduate school transcripts must verify course content. If the course title is not clear, applicants will be asked to provide a course syllabus

#### **Supervised Postgraduate Experience:**

- Applicants must have a minimum of 36 months of full-time counseling or 3,000 hours of postgraduate mental health counseling under the supervision of an approved licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner in an approved setting.
- At least 100 hours must be in immediate supervision with an approved licensed mental health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner.

- At least 1,200 hours must be direct counseling with individuals, couples, groups or families.
- Applicants' supervisors must complete the verification form. Supervisors must also make statements as to their qualifications.

**Exam Requirement:**

- Applicants must pass either of the following National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) exams: National Counselor Exam (NCE). National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE). Applicants must register to take the exam directly through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Please visit [Mental Health Counselor License Requirements :: Washington State Department of Health](#) for more information.

## **West Virginia**

West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling  
815 Quarrier Street, Suite 212  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Phone: (800) 520-3852

### **West Virginia Requirements**

#### **Education Requirements:**

West Virginia law states that you will need to fulfill the following educational requirements if you wish to become licensed in counseling.

- You probably will want to begin by attaining your Bachelor's degree in Counseling. You will find that the majority of
- Master of Counseling programs consider the Bachelor of Counseling to be the most favored degree for applicants. If you do not want to get a Bachelor of Counseling degree, then you will most certainly need to obtain a Bachelor's in a highly related Behavioral Science discipline such as Psychology, Social Work or Human Services.
- The next step is to apply to and get accepted into a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited Master of Counseling program.
- You must complete a six semester hour practicum

#### **Supervised Experience:**

If you want to go on to earn your LPC title you will now need to accrue the following supervised experience requirements:

- Submit to the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling your plan for supervised experience which is included in your PLC application (link above).
- You will need to complete 3000 hours over a two year period.
- You will need a minimum of 1500 hours of direct client contact in which you deliver therapy services.
- For those with Ph.D.'s in counseling you can reduce the overall hours required to 1500.
- You will need one hour of supervision for every twenty hour block of practice you want to accumulate.
- You will need to complete your supervised experience element within 3 years.
- You will need to be supervised by an LPC, Psychiatrist or Psychologist who have an active license with the state.

#### **Apply and Take NCE:**

Now you will need to apply with the Committee to sit for the NCE:

- Apply to the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling to take your National Counselor Examination (NCE) as administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) if you.
- Pass the NCE with a score acceptable to the West Virginia Board

Please visit [West Virginia LPC & PLC Counselor Certification | WV Counseling Licensure](#) for more information.



## **Wisconsin**

Department of Safety and Professional Services  
1400 East Washington Ave.  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 266-2112

### **Wisconsin Requirements**

#### **Requirements**

- Complete a Graduate Degree in professional counseling or an equivalent degree approved by Professional Counselor Section (more information below).
- Completion of post-graduate supervised practice obtained under a Professional Counselor Training license.
  - Master's level - 3,000 hours of post-degree supervised professional counseling practice including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact.
  - Doctoral level - 1,000 hours of post-degree supervised professional counseling practice.
- Complete and submit Professional Counselor Application including required documentation and fees.
- An applicant for permanent licensure may apply for a temporary license at the same time.
  - The temporary license may be issued to an individual who pays the required fee and meets all the qualifications for the permanent license except for passing the required national examination.
  - The temporary license expires upon notification of successful completion of the national examination or expiration of the 9-month period, whichever is earlier.
  - The temporary license may be renewed one time for an additional 9-month period.
- Successful completion of required examinations.

Please visit [DSPS Professional Counselor](#) for more information.

## **Wyoming**

Wyoming Mental Health Professions Licensing Board  
2001 Capitol Avenue, Room 105  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-3508

Contact: [wyomhplb@wyo.gov](mailto:wyomhplb@wyo.gov)

### **Wyoming Requirements**

#### **Section 2. General Requirements for Licensure**

- are of majority age;
- have no felony convictions, and no misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude, although exceptions to this requirement may be granted by the Board if consistent with the public interest;
- are legal inhabitants of the United States; and
- satisfy the requirements established in these rules

#### **Section 3. Education Requirement for Licensure.**

- The applicant shall have received a master's or doctorate degree in counseling from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) accredited program in counseling.
- Applicants who have completed graduate counselor programs not accredited by CACREP or CORE may be deemed to have met the educational requirement provided they meet the following criteria:
  - The graduate degree program, and any applicable additional graduate level course work, was completed at an educational institution accredited by one of the regional or national institutional accrediting bodies recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
- The applicant must have completed a minimum of seventy-two (72) quarter hours or forty-eight (48) semester hours of graduate level course work. Applicants who graduated after July 1, 2013, must have completed a minimum of ninety (90) quarter hours or sixty (60) semester hours of graduate level course work.

Practicums, Internships or Field Experience under clinical supervision.

- Students must complete supervised practicum experiences that total a minimum of 100 clock hours over a minimum 10-week academic term.
- The program requires completion of a supervised internship in the student's designated program area of 600 clock hours, begun after successful completion of the practicum. The internship is intended to reflect the comprehensive work experience of a professional counselor appropriate to the designated program area. Each student's internship includes all of the following:
  - At least 240 clock hours of direct service, including experience leading groups;
  - Weekly interaction that averages one hour per week of individual and/or triadic supervision throughout the internship, usually performed by the onsite supervisor; and

- An average of 1 1/2 hours per week of group supervision provided on a regular schedule throughout the internship and performed by a program faculty member.

**Section 4. Supervised Training/Work Experience Requirement for Licensure.**

- A minimum of three thousand (3,000) hours of supervised clinical training/work experience in professional counseling under the direct supervision of a designated qualified clinical supervisor is required for all applicants. This experience shall meet the requirements set forth in these rules.
- All three thousand (3,000) hours of supervised clinical training/work experience required shall be completed after the award of the graduate degree;
- Of the three thousand (3,000) hours required, at least one thousand two hundred (1,200) hours shall be direct client contact hours

**Section 5. Professional Recommendation Requirement for Licensure.**

- Applicants shall demonstrate their integrity, professionalism and character in professional counseling through three (3) professional recommendations which attest to applicants' abilities and professional performance.

**Section 6. Examination Requirement for Licensure.**

- The Board shall accept a passing score as established by the examination provider on the following examinations:
  - The National Board for Certified Counselor's (NBCC) National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Examination (NCMHE).
  - The Certification Examination administered by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).

Please visit [Rules and Statute - Wyoming Mental Health Professions Licensing Board](#) for more information.