

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

Q. Is Candidate Status available for LPC applicants, or will applicants need to be registered as a “Registered Psychotherapist” in order to complete PDSE hours for licensure?

A. As of November 1, 2011, candidate status for LPC applicants will be available. Applicants must submit a completed exam application package, non-refundable application processing fee, and official transcript from a CACREP approved program. If education is not CACREP approved, candidate status will NOT be approved until CCE (www.CCE-global.org) evaluates and deems the education program equivalent, and a completed exam application packet is received in the Office of Licensing.

Q. Does the education equivalency worksheet always need to be completed?

A. Not if an applicant graduated from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) approved program or the educational program has been approved as meeting educational requirements by the Board. If the degree is from a non-CACREP approved program, the applicant must complete the worksheet and attach any supporting documentation. For more information, please see the Center for Credentialing and Education website at www.CCE-global.org.

Q. How long are the results of the National Counselor Examination (NCE) accepted for licensing purposes?

A. Five years from the date it was last taken.

Q. What does the Board consider psychotherapy experience hours (or, what can be included as experience hours)?

A. In the Mental Health Statute, "Psychotherapy" means the treatment, diagnosis, testing, assessment, or counseling in a professional relationship to assist individuals or groups to alleviate mental disorders, understand unconscious or conscious motivation, resolve emotional, relationship, or attitudinal conflicts, or modify behaviors that interfere with effective emotional, social, or intellectual functioning. Psychotherapy follows a planned procedure of intervention that takes place on a regular basis over a period of time, or in the cases of testing, assessment, and brief psychotherapy. Psychotherapy can be a single intervention.

Q. Who is considered an appropriate supervisor for post-degree supervised experience, and do applicants need to submit a plan for post-degree supervised experience?

A. The LPC Board will accept, as an appropriate supervisor, a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, or Licensed Psychologist who is currently licensed in the jurisdiction in which the applicant is completing the experience requirement. The applicant is responsible for determining that the experience requirement is done under the direction of an appropriate supervisor. No plan is required.

Q. How many hours of post-degree experience and supervision are required?

A. The total amount to be completed over a minimum of 24 months is 2,000 hours of experience and 100 hours of supervision (done concurrently). Of the 100 required supervision hours, 70 hours must be individual, face-to-face supervision. The Board does not require that applicants accumulate a certain number of hours per month. IMPORTANT: Post-degree supervised experience may not begin until the degree is completed and conferred, and the applicant has obtained a counseling position with appropriate supervision. If requirements for the degree were completed before the degree was conferred (e.g., completed requirements in December, but degree was not conferred until June of the following year), the applicant must provide a letter from the department head attesting to that fact. See the LPC Board Rules for more specific information.

Q. Can applicants take more than two years to complete post-degree supervised experience?

A. Yes. Applicants have five years to complete all requirements for licensure from the application receipt date in the Division.

Q. Do the post-degree supervision hours have to be complete before an application may be submitted?

A. No. Current rules do not require that supervision hours be complete prior to submitting an application. We ask that all applicants hold all post-degree experience/supervision forms and submit once hours have been completed.

Q. May post-degree experience requirements be obtained in less than 24 months (two years)?

A. No. The 2,000 hours of post-degree experience must be obtained in such a manner that they are uniformly distributed over a minimum of 24 months.

Q. Does Colorado have reciprocity with any state?

A. No. Colorado has "licensure by endorsement." Please see the application packet and directions for endorsement at: www.dora.state.co.us/mental-health/lpc/LPCendorsement.pdf.

Q. When is it appropriate to apply for licensure by examination or endorsement?

A. Typically, initial applicants apply for licensure by examination. The only time applicants would apply for licensure by endorsement is when they already have an equivalent license/registration in another state.

Q. What is the Jurisprudence Examination requirement?

A. All applicants for Licensed Professional Counselor shall pass a Board approved Jurisprudence Examination as one of the requirements for licensure.

Q. What is the Jurisprudence Examination?

A. The Jurisprudence Examination is designed to test your knowledge, skills, and resources to solve routine and complex practice scenarios. Each question has one correct answer. It is "open book" to encourage the development of personal resources to address practice questions.

Q. How often may a professional counselor license applicant take the Jurisprudence Examination?

A. The Jurisprudence Examination may be taken as often as the applicant needs to take it to pass. There are no restrictions on the number of times it may be taken.

Q. When are results of the Jurisprudence Examination reported to the applicant?

A. The Office of Licensing within the Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Registrations, sends notice to applicants who fail the Jurisprudence Examination with information on downloading and retaking the examination. Notice may be by email or letter.

Q. When do applicants/therapists need to be listed in the Database of Registered Psychotherapists?

A. LPC applicants who are completing their two-year post degree experience and supervision must either register as a candidate OR become listed as a registered psychotherapist in the Database of Registered Psychotherapists.