

# GUIDE TO LPCC OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

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The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) does not have reciprocity with any other state licensing board. Any applicant, whether licensed or unlicensed, will need to meet all requirements mandated by California law prior to being issued an LPCC license. The application process for an out-of-state applicant, as well as the qualifications required, may differ depending on the following:

1. Whether you are currently licensed at the equivalent level in another state, and for how long;
2. The amount of supervised experience you have completed and whether it is substantially equivalent to California's requirements;
3. Your degree and other coursework you have completed; and
4. Whether you have passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor's (NCMHCE) Exam.

The information provided herein is a summary and is provided only as a general guide. For more information and specific instructions, see the "Application Instructions" section of the ***LPCC Application for Licensure and Examination (Out-of-State)*** or the ***Associate Professional Clinical Counselor Registration Application (Out-of-State)***.

For more information about all requirements pertaining to LPCC licensure, see the Board's [Statutes and Regulations](#), sections 4999.33, 4999.46, and 4999.60-.63.

For questions about **educational** requirements, contact: [bbs.apcc@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbs.apcc@dca.ca.gov)

For questions about supervised **experience** requirements, contact: [bbs.lpcc@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bbs.lpcc@dca.ca.gov)

## EDUCATION, SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE AND EXAMINATIONS

- ***Education:*** If you are unsure whether your degree or other coursework qualifies (or is deficient), submit your *Application for Associate PCC Registration* or *Application for Licensure and Examination*, and we will provide you with the results of the evaluation.
- ***Experience:*** Regardless of whether you are licensed, you must meet California's supervised experience requirement of 3,000 hours gained over a minimum of two (2) years. Any experience in California must be gained as a registered Associate PCC.
  - ***Credit for Time Actively Licensed:*** If you hold a LPCC license in another state and need additional experience to meet California's requirements, you may count up to 100 hours for every month licensed toward the supervised experience requirement, for a maximum of 1,200 hours. These hours do not need to be verified.
- ***Examination:*** You will be required to pass the LPCC California Law and Ethics Exam. You may take this exam upon registration as an Associate PCC or upon approval of your *Application for Licensure and Examination*. After passing the Law and Ethics Exam, you will be required to pass the NCMHCE. If you have already passed this exam, the Board must receive official verification from the [National Board for Certified Counselors](#) (NBCC). Please follow the instructions in the *Application for Licensure and Examination*.



## CORE CONTENT AREAS LPCC OUT OF STATE

3 semester units or 4.5 quarter units of graduate level coursework is required in each of the following areas. At least 7 of these content areas must be **within** your qualifying degree. All 13 areas are required prior to licensure.

AREA:	REQUIRED CONTENT:
<b>1. Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques</b>	The counseling process in a multicultural society, an orientation to wellness and prevention, counseling theories to assist in selection of appropriate counseling interventions, models of counseling consistent with current professional research and practice, development of a personal model of counseling, and multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, and disasters.
<b>2. Human growth and development across the lifespan</b>	Normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.
<b>3. Career development theories and techniques</b>	Career development decision-making models and interrelationships among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors, including the role of multicultural issues in career development.
<b>4. Group counseling theories and techniques</b>	Principles of group dynamics, group process components, developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work, group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of effectiveness.
<b>5. Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals</b>	Basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques, norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, statistical concepts, social and cultural factors related to assessment and evaluation of individuals and groups, and ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment instruments and techniques in counseling. <b>DEGREE PROGRAM CANNOT BE DEFICIENT IN THIS AREA</b>
<b>6. Multicultural counseling theories and techniques</b>	Counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, identity development, promoting cultural social justice, individual and community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse populations, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases and prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination.
<b>7. Principles of the diagnostic process</b>	Differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the impact of co-occurring substance use disorders or medical psychological disorders, established diagnostic criteria for mental or emotional disorders, and the treatment modalities and placement criteria within the continuum of care. <b>DEGREE PROGRAM CANNOT BE DEFICIENT IN THIS AREA</b>
<b>8. Research and evaluation</b>	Studies that provide an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of research to inform evidence-based practice, the importance of research in advancing the profession of counseling, and statistical methods used in conducting research, needs assessment, and program evaluation.
<b>9. Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling</b> <i>(see next page for California Law and Ethics requirement)</i>	Professional ethical standards and legal considerations, licensing law and process, regulatory laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice, counselor-client privilege, confidentiality, the client dangerous to self or others, treatment of minors with or without parental consent, relationship between practitioner's sense of self and human values, functions and relationships with other human service providers, strategies for collaboration, and advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impeded access, equity, and success for clients.
<b>10. Psychopharmacology</b>	The biological bases of behavior, basic classifications, indications, and contraindications of commonly prescribed psychopharmacological medications so that appropriate referrals can be made for medication evaluations and so that side effects of those medications can be identified.
<b>11. Addictions counseling</b>	Substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, major approaches to identification, evaluation, treatment, and prevention of substance abuse and addiction, legal and medical aspects of substance abuse, populations at risk, the role of support persons, support systems, and community resources.
<b>12. Crisis or trauma counseling</b>	Crisis theory; multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, or disasters; cognitive, affective, behavioral, and neurological effects associated with trauma; brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches; and assessment strategies for clients in crisis and principles of intervention for individuals with mental or emotional disorders during times of crisis, emergency, or disaster.
<b>13. Advanced counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques</b>	The application of counseling constructs, assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions, therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.

## ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK LIST LPCC OUT OF STATE

The required courses listed below may be taken from a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, a school approved by the California BPPE, or an acceptable continuing education provider.

Undergraduate coursework cannot be accepted. See [Statutes and Regulations](#) for required content.

Course	Length / Course Content Required
<b>a) Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting in California</b>	<b>7 hours</b> / The assessment and method of reporting of sexual assault, neglect, severe neglect, general neglect, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, corporal punishment or injury, and abuse in out-of-home care; physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, crisis counseling techniques, community resources, rights and responsibilities of reporting, consequences of failure to report, caring for a child's needs after a report is made, sensitivity to previously abused children and adults, and implications and methods of treatment for children and adults.
<b>b) Human Sexuality</b>	<b>10 hours</b> / The study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.
<b>c) Spousal/Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection and Intervention</b>	<b>15 hours</b> / Spousal and partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.
<b>d) Aging, Long Term Care and Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Assessment and Reporting</b>	<b>10 hours</b> / Aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive and psychological aspects of aging, as well as instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
<b>e) Mental Health Recovery Oriented Care and Methods of Service Delivery</b>	<b>45 hours</b> / Principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments, including structured meetings with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment and recovery.
<b>f) California Cultures and the Social/Psychological Implications of Socioeconomic Status</b>	<b>15 hours</b> / An understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
<b>g) California Law and Ethics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><i>If your degree contains a 3 semester unit or 4.5 quarter unit course on law and ethics:</i></u> You must take an <b>18-hour</b> California course / See BPC section 4999.62(b)(1)(D)(ii) or BPC section 4999.63(b)(1)(D)(ii) for required content.</li> <li>• <u><i>If your degree does NOT contain a 3 semester unit or 4.5 quarter unit course on law and ethics:</i></u> You must take a <b>3 semester unit or 4.5 quarter unit</b> California course / See page 3, #9 for required content.</li> </ul>