

- 3) Requires LPCCs who wish to assess and treat couples and families to complete the following additional training and education: (BPC §4999.20(a)(3))
 - a) Either 6 semester/9 quarter units specifically focused on the theory and application of marriage and family therapy, or a named specialization or emphasis area in marriage and family therapy in the qualifying degree;
 - b) At least 500 hours of supervised experience working directly with couples, families, or children; and
 - c) Completion of at least 6 continuing education hours specific to marriage and family therapy in each renewal cycle.
- 4) Requires LPCC supervisors who wish to supervise any associate marriage and family therapist, marriage and family therapist trainee, or who wish to supervise an associate professional clinical counselor or LPCC licensee who is seeking experience to treat couples and families, to meet the above-listed additional education and training requirements to treat couples and families. (BPC §§4980.03(g)(2), 4999.12(h)(2))
- 5) Requires LPCCs who wish to treat couples and families to obtain written confirmation from the Board that they meet the requirements, and to provide a copy of the written confirmation to their clients prior to beginning couples or family treatment. (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 16, §1820.7(a))
- 6) Requires LPCCs acting as a supervisor for an associate marriage and family therapist, marriage and family therapist trainee, or an LPCC or associate professional clinical counselor gaining supervised experience to treat couples and families, to provide the written confirmation letter to their supervisees prior to beginning supervision. (16 CCR §1820.7(b))

This Bill:

- 1) Removes the requirement that applicants for an LPCC license must obtain at least 150 hours of clinical supervised experience in a hospital or community mental health setting. (deletes BPC §4999.46(c)(4))
- 2) Removes the requirement that LPCCs who wish to assess or treat couples and families complete certain additional education, supervised experience, and continuing education related to marriage and family therapy. (deletes BPC §4999.20(a)(3))

Comments:

- 1) **Author's Intent.** This bill is sponsored by the California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC). The sponsor notes that the requirement to complete 150 hours in a community mental health setting or hospital is outside the standard practice for post-graduate experience requirements for the

LPCC license nationally. In addition, they note that to get these hours, an associate professional clinical counselor often needs to interrupt or leave their employment to find a short-term job at one of these sites, and that such a placement is difficult to find because of adversity to hiring short-term employees. Therefore, the requirement is a barrier to licensure.

The sponsor also notes that of the 50 states, only California prohibits LPCCs from assessing and treating couples and families without additional specific training.

2) Additional Research. CALPCC has compiled two research documents to support its proposal:

- **Attachment A** provides pertinent sections of the LPCC licensing law that identifies where LPCCs receive couples and families education and experience. These were identified by several educators taking into account how the requirements are met in the various curricula.
- **Attachment B** provides an overview of other state's laws that relate to LPCCs working with couples and families.

3) History. LPCCs were granted licensure in California with the passage of SB 788 (Chapter 619, Statutes of 2009). With this bill, California became the 50th state to license LPCCs. The requirement for additional education and experience for LPCCs to treat couples and families, and the requirement for 150 hours of experience in a hospital or community mental health setting were added to the bill as part of the negotiation process.

4) Current Challenges.

Board staff notes the following challenges encountered by requiring additional education and experience for LPCCs to treat couples and families, and 150 hours of experience in a hospital or community mental health setting:

a) Definition of Community Mental Health Setting Causes Confusion

Current law defines a community mental health setting as meeting all of the following:

(1) Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling or psychotherapy.

(2) Clients routinely receive psychopharmacological interventions in conjunction with psychotherapy, counseling, or other psycho-social interventions.

(3) Clients receive coordinated care that includes the collaboration of mental health providers.

(4) Is not a private practice.

This requirement was intended to provide experience in community mental health with psychopharmacologic interventions in a hospital or community mental health setting. However, APCCs frequently are confused or unclear if the setting they have found is acceptable toward these requirements. Sometimes the associate finds a site that seems to meet the above criteria, but is not necessarily a community mental health center or hospital.

b) Difficulty Finding Hours in a Community Mental Health Setting

Associates sometimes call the Board to report that they have finished all their hours, except they are unable to find a site that will hire them to complete this requirement. They report that because the requirement is so few hours, sites are reluctant to hire and train them, knowing that they likely won't stay long term.

c) Letter to Verify Couples and Families Requirements Met

Once an LPCC has fulfilled the additional education and experience to treat couples and families, they are issued a letter from the Board authorizing them to do so. However, to keep the authorization current, they need to continue to complete 6 hours of continuing education specific to marriage and family therapy every renewal cycle. However, the Board has no way to know if an LPCC who has opted to treat couples and families continues to complete this continuing education at every renewal, except via audit. And it would be perfectly acceptable for an LPCC to decide they no longer wished to treat couples and families, and not complete the continuing education (as long as they ceased treating couples and families.) However, the authorization letter from the Board is issued in perpetuity, creating a situation where individuals with the letter may not actually meet all requirements any longer.

d) Supervision Issues for LPCCs

LPCCs are not permitted to supervise AMFTs unless they meet the additional requirements to treat couples and families. This can act as a disincentive to hire an LPCC if they are not able to supervise all types of associates that an agency might hire.

e) Reluctance to Hire LPCCs

The Board has generally gotten reports of some agencies being reluctant to hire LPCCs because of confusion about whether they meet the requirements to treat couples and families, and the continuing verification requirements.

f) License Portability Issues

The fact that all other states permit LPCCs to treat couples and families can cause confusion and a barrier to licensure for some LPCC applicants who are licensed in other states.

If the LPCC applicant has been licensed in another state that permits treatment of couples and families for at least 2 years and otherwise successfully meets the requirements for the licensure by credential pathway, then current law allows them to treat couples and families as long as they continue to complete the 6 hour continuing education requirement each renewal cycle. However, if they do not qualify for the licensure by credential pathway, then they must meet all of the additional requirements to treat couples and families.

5) Additional Amendments Needed. If the bill is successful, several additional subsections in LMFT and LPCC statute related to the deleted requirements would become obsolete. Therefore, staff recommends requesting the following amendments be included in the bill to maintain clarity of the law:

- **Strike BPC §§4980.03(g)(2):** This subparagraph requires LPCC supervisors of pre-licensed LMFT applicants to meet the additional education, experience, and continuing education requirements to treat couples and families.
- **Strike 4999.12(h)(2):** This subparagraph requires LPCC supervisors of pre-licensed LMFT applicants, or LPCCs or APCCs seeking experience to treat couples and families to meet the additional education, experience, and continuing education requirements.
- **Strike 4999.12(o):** This subdivision defines a “community mental health setting” for purposes of the 150-hour clinical experience requirement in BPC §4999.46(c)(4).
- **Strike 4999.60(b):** This subdivision permits out-of-state applicants who qualify for licensure by credential to treat couples and families under certain circumstances.

Support and Opposition.

Support

- California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC) (Sponsor)

Oppose

- None at this time

History

2021

02/18/21 Referred to Com. on B. & P.
02/09/21 From printer. May be heard in committee March 11.
02/08/21 Read first time. To print.

Attachments

Attachment A: Overview of Couples, Families Content in California LPCC Statute
(Source: CALPCC)

Attachment B: Overview of LPC Authority in Other States to Work With Couples and
Families (Source: CALPCC)

Introduced by Assembly Member Carrillo

February 8, 2021

An act to amend Sections 4999.20 and 4999.46 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

legislative counsel's digest

AB 462, as introduced, Carrillo. Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act.

Existing law, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act, prohibits, except as provided, a person from practicing or advertising the performance of professional clinical counseling services without a license. The act defines “professional clinical counseling” to exclude the assessment or treatment of couples or families unless the professional clinical counselor has completed specified training and education requirements. The act requires supervised experience that is obtained for the purpose of qualifying for licensure to be related to the practice of professional clinical counseling and comply with specified requirements, including by requiring at least 150 hours of clinical experience in a hospital or community mental health setting, as defined. A violation of the act is punishable as a misdemeanor.

This bill would delete the provision excluding the assessment or treatment of couples or families without meeting specified training and education requirements from the definition of “professional clinical counseling.” The bill would also eliminate the licensure requirement of completing at least 150 hours of clinical experience in a hospital or community mental health setting. By widening the scope of activity subject to licensure as a professional clinical counselor, this bill would

expand the scope of a crime and would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4999.20 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 4999.20. (a) (1) “Professional clinical counseling” means the
4 application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic
5 techniques to identify and remediate cognitive, mental, and
6 emotional issues, including personal growth, adjustment to
7 disability, crisis intervention, and psychosocial and environmental
8 problems, and the use, application, and integration of the
9 coursework and training required by Sections 4999.32 and 4999.33.
10 “Professional clinical counseling” includes conducting assessments
11 for the purpose of establishing counseling goals and objectives to
12 empower individuals to deal adequately with life situations, reduce
13 stress, experience growth, change behavior, and make
14 well-informed, rational decisions.

15 (2) “Professional clinical counseling” is focused exclusively on
16 the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic
17 techniques for the purposes of improving mental health, and is not
18 intended to capture other, nonclinical forms of counseling for the
19 purposes of licensure. For purposes of this paragraph, “nonclinical”
20 means nonmental health.

21 ~~(3) “Professional clinical counseling” does not include the~~
22 ~~assessment or treatment of couples or families unless the~~
23 ~~professional clinical counselor has completed all of the following~~
24 ~~training and education:~~

25 ~~(A) One of the following:~~

26 ~~(i) Six semester units or nine quarter units specifically focused~~
27 ~~on the theory and application of marriage and family therapy.~~

1 ~~(ii) A named specialization or emphasis area on the qualifying~~
2 ~~degree in marriage and family therapy; marital and family therapy;~~
3 ~~marriage, family, and child counseling; or couple and family~~
4 ~~therapy.~~

5 ~~(B) No less than 500 hours of documented supervised experience~~
6 ~~working directly with couples, families, or children.~~

7 ~~(C) A minimum of six hours of continuing education specific~~
8 ~~to marriage and family therapy, completed in each license renewal~~
9 ~~cycle.~~

10 (4)

11 (3) “Professional clinical counseling” does not include the
12 provision of clinical social work services.

13 (b) “Counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques”
14 means the application of cognitive, affective, verbal or nonverbal,
15 systemic or holistic counseling strategies that include principles
16 of development, wellness, and maladjustment that reflect a
17 pluralistic society. These interventions and techniques are
18 specifically implemented in the context of a professional clinical
19 counseling relationship and use a variety of counseling theories
20 and approaches.

21 (c) “Assessment” means selecting, administering, scoring, and
22 interpreting tests, instruments, and other tools and methods
23 designed to measure an individual’s attitudes, abilities, aptitudes,
24 achievements, interests, personal characteristics, disabilities, and
25 mental, emotional, and behavioral concerns and development and
26 the use of methods and techniques for understanding human
27 behavior in relation to coping with, adapting to, or ameliorating
28 changing life situations, as part of the counseling process.
29 “Assessment” shall not include the use of projective techniques
30 in the assessment of personality, individually administered
31 intelligence tests, neuropsychological testing, or utilization of a
32 battery of three or more tests to determine the presence of
33 psychosis, dementia, amnesia, cognitive impairment, or criminal
34 behavior.

35 (d) Professional clinical counselors shall refer clients to other
36 licensed health care professionals when they identify issues beyond
37 their own scope of education, training, and experience.

38 SEC. 2. Section 4999.46 of the Business and Professions Code
39 is amended to read:

1 4999.46. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), all
2 applicants shall have an active associate registration with the board
3 in order to gain postdegree hours of supervised experience.

4 (b) (1) Preregistered postdegree hours of experience shall be
5 credited toward licensure if all of the following apply:

6 (A) The registration applicant applies for the associate
7 registration and the board receives the application within 90 days
8 of the granting of the qualifying master’s degree or doctoral degree.

9 (B) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January
10 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to
11 the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours,
12 requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall
13 provide the board with a copy of that completed State of California
14 “Request for Live Scan Service” form with their application for
15 licensure.

16 (C) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.

17 (2) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private
18 practice until they have been issued an associate registration by
19 the board.

20 (c) Supervised experience that is obtained for the purposes of
21 qualifying for licensure shall be related to the practice of
22 professional clinical counseling and comply with the following:

23 (1) A minimum of 3,000 postdegree hours performed over a
24 period of not less than two years (104 weeks).

25 (2) Not more than 40 hours in any seven consecutive days.

26 (3) Not less than 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with
27 individuals, groups, couples, or families using a variety of
28 psychotherapeutic techniques and recognized counseling
29 interventions.

30 ~~(4) Not less than 150 hours of clinical experience in a hospital
31 or community mental health setting, as defined in Section 4999.12.~~

32 ~~(5)~~

33 (4) A maximum of 1,250 hours of nonclinical practice,
34 consisting of direct supervisor contact, administering and
35 evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing
36 progress or process notes, client centered advocacy, and workshops,
37 seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly related to
38 professional clinical counseling that have been approved by the
39 applicant’s supervisor.

40 ~~(6)~~

1 (5) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision
2 of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally
3 related mental health services that are consistent with the scope
4 of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section
5 4989.14.

6 (d) An individual who submits an application for licensure
7 between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2020, may
8 alternatively qualify under the experience requirements of this
9 section that were in place on January 1, 2015.

10 (e) Experience hours shall not have been gained more than six
11 years prior to the date the application for licensure was received
12 by the board.

13 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
14 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
15 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
16 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
17 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
18 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
19 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
20 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
21 Constitution.

O

Blank Page

ATTACHMENT A

Overview of Couples, Families Content in California LPCC Statute

AB 462 (Carrillo) Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act

California LPCC Licensure (Couples, Families Requirements)

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors Licensing

Excerpts of current requirements for LPCC Licensure (Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 4999.30-4999.66) with specific elements highlighted that reflect requirements for education and training that relate to couples and families.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 16. Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors [4999.10 - 4999.129]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 3. Licensure [4999.30 - 4999.66] <i>(Article 3 added by Stats. 2009, Ch. 619, Sec. 3.)</i></p> | |
| <p>4999.32. (a) This section shall apply to applicants for licensure or completed that study on or before December 31, 2018. Those applicants may alternatively qualify under paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33.</p> <p>(b) To qualify for licensure or registration, applicants shall possess a master’s or doctoral degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content and that meets the requirements of this section, obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. For purposes of this subdivision, a degree is “counseling or psychotherapy in content” if it contains the supervised practicum or field study experience described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) and, except as provided in subdivision (d), the coursework in the core content areas listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).</p> <p>(c) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall be a single, integrated program that contains not less than 48 graduate semester units or 72 graduate quarter units of instruction, which shall, except as provided in subdivision (d), include all of the following:</p> <p>(1) The equivalent of at least three semester units or four quarter units of graduate study in each of the following core content areas:</p> | <p>LPCC Education Requirements</p> |
| <p>(A) Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques, including the counseling process in a multicultural society, an orientation to wellness and prevention, counseling theories to assist</p> | <p>Applies to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>(B) Human growth and development across the lifespan, including normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.</p> | <p>Includes life and development of children and adults, including within the context of relationships (couples) and families.</p> |
| <p>(C) Career development theories and techniques, including career</p> | <p>Relevant to life roles for family or couples work. Does not just focused on career outside of the home, but includes the jobs members have inside the home as well as navigating responsibilities inside and outside of the home.</p> |
| <p>(D) Group counseling theories and techniques, including principles stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work, group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of effectiveness.</p> | <p>Applies to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |
| <p>(E) Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, including 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.</p> | |
| <p>(F) Multicultural counseling theories and techniques, including 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.</p> | <p>Heavy emphasis about couples and family here; including focuses on differences between different cultural groups: religion, social economic status (SES), Race/ethnicity, etc.</p> |
| <p>(G) Principles of the diagnostic process, including differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 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.</p> <p>(H) Research and evaluation, including studies that provide an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>(1) Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling, including 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</p> <p>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 impede access, equity, and success for clients.</p> | <p>Includes ethics and law for treatment of couples, families, and kids. Includes dynamics related to the many family, relationship, and abuse laws.</p> |
| <p>(2) In addition to the course requirements described in paragraph (1), a minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues, special populations, application of counseling constructs, assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions, therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.</p> | |
| <p>(3) Not less than six semester units or nine quarter units of supervised practicum or field study experience that involves direct client contact in a clinical setting that provides a range of professional clinical counseling experience, including the following:</p> <p>(A) Applied psychotherapeutic techniques.</p> <p>(B) Assessment.</p> <p>(C) Diagnosis.</p> <p>(D) Treatment planning.</p> <p>(E) Treatment.</p> <p>(F) Issues of development, adjustment, and maladjustment.</p> <p>(G) Health and wellness promotion.</p> <p>(H) Other recognized counseling interventions.</p> <p>(I) A minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.</p> | <p>Each highlighted area is applicable to couples and families</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>(d) (1) (A) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than two of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing postmaster's or postdoctoral degree coursework at an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.</p> <p>(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an applicant shall not be deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraph (E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) unless the applicant meets one of the following criteria and remediates the deficiency:</p> <p>(i) The application for licensure was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020.</p> <p>(ii) The application for registration was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020, and the registration was subsequently issued by the board.</p> <p>(2) Coursework taken to meet deficiencies in the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) shall be the equivalent of three semester units or four quarter units of study.</p> <p>(3) The board shall make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation.</p> <p>(e) In addition to the degree described in this section, or as part of that degree, an applicant shall complete the following coursework or training prior to registration as an associate:</p> | |
| <p>(1) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in alcoholism and other chemical substance abuse dependency, as specified by regulation.</p> | <p>Families and couples are discussed here since family may be part of the problem and/or part of the treatment.</p> |
| <p>(2) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations</p> | <p>Specifically relates to roles and development of relationships and family</p> |
| <p>(3) A two semester unit or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology.</p> | |
| <p>(4) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies,</p> | <p>Specific to couples and partners, includes families.</p> |
| <p>(5) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28</p> | <p>Child and family; interrelated to couples.</p> |
| <p>(6) A minimum of 18 contact hours of instruction in California law and professional ethics for professional clinical counselors that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising, scope of</p> | <p>Much of this includes ethics and law for treatment of couples, families, and kids.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, and state and federal laws related to confidentiality of patient health information. When coursework in a master's or doctoral degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester unit or 72 quarter unit requirement in subdivision (c).</p> | <p>Includes dynamics related to the many family, relationship, and abuse laws.</p> |
| <p>(7) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and long-term care, which may include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. On and after January 1, 2012, this coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.</p> | <p>Includes dynamics of older couples and dynamics of aging family members.</p> |
| <p>(8) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in crisis or trauma counseling, including multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, or disasters, and brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches.</p> | |
| <p>4999.33. (a) This section shall apply to the following:</p> <p>(1) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and do not complete that study on or before December 31, 2018.</p> <p>(2) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and who graduate from a degree program that meets the requirements of this section.</p> <p>(3) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study on or after August 1, 2012.</p> <p>(b) To qualify for licensure or registration, applicants shall possess a master's or doctoral degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content and that meets the requirements of this section, obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. For purposes of this subdivision, a degree is "counseling or psychotherapy in content" if it contains the supervised practicum or field study experience described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) and, except as provided in subdivision (f), the coursework in the core content areas listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).</p> <p>(c) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall be a single, integrated program that contains not less than 60 graduate semester units or 90 graduate quarter units of instruction, which</p> | <p>LPCC Education Requirements</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>shall, except as provided in subdivision (f), include all of the following:</p> <p>units of graduate study in all of the following core content areas:</p> | |
| <p>(A) Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques, including 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.</p> | <p>Applies to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |
| <p>(B) Human growth and development across the lifespan, including normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.</p> | <p>Includes life and development of children and adults, including within the context of relationships (couples) and families.</p> |
| <p>(C) Career development theories and techniques, including career development decisionmaking models and interrelationships among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors, including the role of multicultural issues in career development.</p> | <p>Relevant to life roles for family or couples work. Does not just focused on career outside of the home but includes the jobs members have inside the home as well as navigating responsibilities inside and outside of the home.</p> |
| <p>(D) Group counseling theories and techniques, including principles of group dynamics, group process components, group developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work, group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and</p> | <p>Applies to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of effectiveness.</p> | |
| <p>(E) Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, including 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.</p> | |
| <p>(F) Multicultural counseling theories and techniques, including 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.</p> | <p>Heavy emphasis about couples and family here; including focuses on differences between different cultural groups: religion, SES, Race/ethnicity, etc.</p> |
| <p>(G) Principles of the diagnostic process, including differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 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.</p> <p>(H) Research and evaluation, including 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.</p> | |
| <p>(I) Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling, including</p> <p>profession's scope of practice, counselor-client privilege, confidentiality, the client dangerous to self or others, treatment of</p> <p>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 impede access, equity, and success for clients.</p> | <p>Includes ethics and law for treatment of couples, families, and kids. Includes dynamics related to the many family, relationship, and abuse laws.</p> |
| <p>(J) Psychopharmacology, including 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 the side effects of those medications can be identified.</p> | |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>(K) Addictions counseling, including substance abuse, co-occurring addiction, legal and medical aspects of substance abuse, populations at risk, the role of support persons, support systems, and community resources.</p> | <p>Families and couples are discussed here since family may be part of the problem and/or part of the treatment.</p> |
| <p>(L) Crisis or trauma counseling, including 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.</p> | |
| <p>(M) Advanced counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.</p> | <p>May apply to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |
| <p>(2) In addition to the course requirements described in paragraph (1), 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or special populations.</p> | |
| <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>professional clinical counseling experience, including the following:</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>(H) Professional writing including documentation of services, treatment plans, and progress notes.</p> <p>(I) How to find and use resources.</p> <p>(J) Other recognized counseling interventions.</p> <p>(K) A minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical [REDACTED]</p> | <p>Each highlighted area is applicable to couples and families</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>(d) [REDACTED], in addition to meeting the requirements of subdivision (c), [REDACTED] of the following:</p> <p>[REDACTED] of socioeconomic status and other contextual issues affecting social position.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] the racial, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds of persons living in California.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] including experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender, and disability and their incorporation into the psychotherapeutic process.</p> <p>[REDACTED] public and private services for the severely mentally ill, community resources for victims of abuse, disaster and trauma response, advocacy for the severely mentally ill, and collaborative treatment. The instruction required in this paragraph may be provided either in credit level coursework or through extension programs offered by the degree-granting institution.</p> <p>[REDACTED] behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.</p> | <p>Each highlighted area of instruction impacts and is applicable to couples, relationships and families.</p> |
| <p>(e) A degree program that qualifies for licensure under this section shall do all of the following:</p> | |
| <p>(1) Integrate the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments.</p> | <p>This is family focused</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>(2) Integrate an understanding of various cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.</p> | <p>Specifically relevant to families</p> |
| <p>(3) Provide the opportunity for students to meet with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.</p> | <p>Includes dealing with families</p> |
| <p>(f) (1) (A) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than three of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing post-master's or postdoctoral degree coursework at an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.</p> <p>(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an applicant shall not be deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs (E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) unless the applicant meets one of the following criteria and remediates the deficiency:</p> <p>(i) The application for licensure was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020.</p> <p>(ii) The application for registration was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020, and the registration was subsequently issued by the board.</p> <p>(2) Coursework taken to meet deficiencies in the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) shall be the equivalent of three semester units or four quarter units of study.</p> <p>(3) The board shall make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation.</p> | |
| <p>4999.40. (a) Each educational institution preparing applicants to qualify for licensure shall notify each of its students by means of its public documents or otherwise in writing that its degree program is designed to meet the requirements of Section 4999.32 or 4999.33 and shall certify to the board that it has so notified its students.</p> | <p>Requirements for educational degrees to meet requirements for licensure</p> |
| <p>(b) An applicant for registration or licensure shall submit to the board a certification by the applicant's educational institution that the institution's required curriculum for graduation and any associated coursework completed by the applicant does one of the following:</p> <p>(1) Meets all of the requirements set forth in Section 4999.32.</p> <p>(2) Meets all of the requirements set forth in Section 4999.33.</p> | <p>Requirements for applicants to complete meet requirements for licensure</p> |
| <p>(c) An applicant trained at an educational institution outside the United States shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that he or she possesses a qualifying degree that is equivalent to a degree earned from an institution of higher education that is</p> | |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>accredited or approved. These applicants shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services and shall provide any other documentation the board deems necessary.</p> | |
| <p>4999.42. (a) An applicant shall meet all of the following</p> <p>(1) Earned a master's or doctoral degree as specified in Section [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> | <p>Registration as an associate. Master/Doctoral degree requirements.</p> |
| <p>(2) Be at least 18 years of age.</p> <p>(3) Not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.</p> <p>(b) The board shall not issue a registration to any person who has been convicted of a crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory.</p> | |
| <p>4999.46. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), all applicants shall have an active [REDACTED].</p> <p>(b) (1) Preregistered postdegree hours of experience shall be credited toward licensure if all of the following apply:</p> <p>(A) The registration applicant applies for the associate registration and the board receives the application within 90 days of the granting of the qualifying master's degree or doctoral degree.</p> <p>(B) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours, requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall provide the board with a copy of that completed State of California "Request for Live Scan Service" form with their application for licensure.</p> <p>(C) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.</p> <p>(2) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice until they have been issued an associate registration by the board.</p> <p>(c) Supervised experience that is obtained for the purposes of qualifying for licensure shall be related to the practice of professional clinical counseling and comply with the following:</p> | <p>Registered Associate postdegree requirements</p> |
| <p>(1) A minimum of 3,000 postdegree hours performed over a period</p> | <p>May be with couples, families, or kids.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| (2) Not more than 40 hours in any seven consecutive days. | |
| (3) Not less than 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with individuals, groups, couples, or families using a variety of psychotherapeutic techniques and recognized counseling interventions. | 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with individuals, groups, couples, or families |
| (4) Not less than 150 hours of clinical experience in a hospital or community mental health setting, as defined in Section 4999.12. | APCC 150 hour requirement to be deleted. |
| <p>(5) A maximum of 1,250 hours of nonclinical practice, consisting of direct supervisor contact, administering and evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing progress or process notes, client centered advocacy, and workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly related to professional clinical counseling that have been approved by the applicant's supervisor.</p> <p>(6) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.</p> <p>(d) An individual who submits an application for licensure between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2020, may alternatively qualify under the experience requirements of this section that were in place on January 1, 2015.</p> <p>(e) Experience hours shall not have been gained more than six years prior to the date the application for licensure was received by the board.</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>4999.46.1. (a) An associate or applicant for licensure shall be under the supervision of a supervisor at all times.</p> <p>(b) As used in this chapter, the term “supervision” means responsibility for, and control of, the quality of mental health and related services provided by the supervisee. Consultation or peer discussion shall not be considered supervision and shall not qualify as supervised experience. Supervision includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:</p> <p>(1) Ensuring the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training, and experience of the supervisee.</p> <p>(2) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee’s assessment, diagnosis, and treatment decisions and providing regular feedback.</p> <p>(3) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee’s ability to provide services at the site or sites where he or she is practicing and to the particular clientele being served.</p> <p>(4) Monitoring and addressing clinical dynamics, including, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect the supervisory or practitioner-patient relationship.</p> <p>(5) Ensuring the supervisee’s compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of licensed professional clinical counseling.</p> <p>(6) Reviewing the supervisee’s progress notes, process notes, and other patient treatment records, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.</p> <p>(7) With the client’s written consent, providing direct observation or review of audio or video recordings of the supervisee’s counseling or therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.</p> | <p>Supervision of Associates:</p> <p>Each may include supervision of work with couples, families, or kids.</p> |
| <p>(c) An associate shall do both of the following:</p> <p>(1) Inform each client, prior to performing any professional services, that he or she is unlicensed and under supervision.</p> <p>(2) Renew the registration a maximum of five times. No registration shall be renewed or reinstated beyond six years from the last day of the month during which it was issued, regardless of whether it has been revoked.</p> <p>(d) When no further renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a subsequent associate registration number if the applicant meets the educational requirements for a subsequent associate registration number and has passed the California law and ethics examination. An applicant issued a subsequent associate registration number shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice.</p> | |

4999.52. (a) Every applicant for a license as a professional clinical counselor shall take one or more examinations, as determined by the board, to ascertain their knowledge, professional skills, and judgment in the utilization of appropriate techniques and methods of professional clinical counseling.

(b) The examinations shall be given at least twice a year at a time and place and under supervision as the board may determine.

(c) The board shall not deny any applicant admission to an examination who has submitted a complete application for examination admission if the applicant meets the educational and experience requirements of this chapter and has not committed any acts or engaged in any conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.

(d) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination, nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant's clinical examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.

(e) If an applicant for the examination specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53, who has passed the California law and ethics examination, is the subject of a complaint or is under board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven to be true, would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure, the board shall permit the applicant to take this examination, but may notify the applicant that licensure will not be granted pending completion of the investigation.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any applicant who has previously failed either the California law and ethics examination, or the examination specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53, permission to retake either examination pending completion of the investigation of any complaints against the applicant.

(g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any examination or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the applicant pursuant to Section 11503 or 11504 of the Government Code, respectively, or the application has been denied in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 485.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may destroy all examination materials two years following the date of an examination.

(i) If the examination specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53 is not passed within seven years of an applicant for licensure's initial attempt, the applicant shall obtain a passing score

Licensing examinations may contain questions on work with couples, families and kids.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>on the current version of the California law and ethics examination in order to be eligible to retake this examination.</p> <p>(j) A passing score on the clinical examination shall be accepted by the board for a period of seven years from the date the examination was taken.</p> | |
| <p>4999.53. (a) Effective January 1, 2016, a registrant or an applicant following examinations as prescribed by the board:</p> <p>(1) A California law and ethics examination.</p> | <p>California Law and Ethics examination has questions related to work with couples, families, and kids.</p> |
| <p>(2) A clinical examination administered by the board, or the National this examination meets the prevailing standards for validation and use of the licensing and certification tests in California.</p> | <p>The national clinical license exams from NBCC may have questions related to the practice of couples, families or kids</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>(b) Upon registration with the board, an associate professional clinical counselor shall, within the first year of registration, take an examination on California law and ethics.</p> <p>(c) A registrant or an applicant for licensure may take the clinical examination or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination, as established by the board through regulation, only upon meeting all of the following requirements:</p> <p>(1) Completion of all required supervised work experience.</p> <p>(2) Completion of all education requirements.</p> <p>(3) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.</p> <p>(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.</p> | |
| <p>4999.60. (a) The board may issue a license to a person who, at the chapter, holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice if all of the following requirements are met:</p> <p>(1) The applicant's license in the other jurisdiction has been current, active, and unrestricted for at least two years immediately before the date the application was received by the board. The applicant shall disclose to the board for review any past restrictions or disciplinary action on an out-of-state license, and the board shall consider those actions in determining whether to issue a license to the applicant.</p> <p>(2) The applicant's degree that qualified the applicant for the out-of-state license is a master's or doctoral degree that was obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.</p> <p>(3) The applicant complies with the fingerprint requirements established in Section 144.</p> | <p>Out of state licensees: Licensure by endorsement</p> |
| <p>(4) The applicant completes the coursework specified in continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board, as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.</p> | <p>Relevant to families couples and kids</p> |
| <p>(A) A minimum of 12 hours of coursework in California law and minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions</p> | <p>Includes ethics and law for treatment of couples, families, and kids. Includes dynamics related to the many family, relationship, and abuse laws.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and licensing process.</p> | |
| <p>(B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the</p> | <p>Applies to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |
| <p>(5) The applicant obtains a minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.</p> | <p>Relevant to families and kids, also parents/couples</p> |
| <p>(6) On and after January 1, 2021, the applicant shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4999.66.</p> | <p>Can be particularly relevant to families and kids, also couples and relationships</p> |
| <p>(7) The applicant passes the board-administered California law and examination specified in Section 4999.53 shall be waived for an applicant qualifying under this section.</p> | <p>California Law and Ethics examination has questions related to work with couples, families, and kids.</p> |
| <p>(b) A licensee who is issued a license pursuant to this section shall be permitted to treat couples or families if the licensee meets one of the following:</p> <p>(1) The scope of the license held in the other state permitted treatment of couples and families without restrictions or additional coursework and the licensee completes a minimum of six hours of continuing education specific to marriage and family therapy in each renewal cycle.</p> <p>(2) The licensee completes the requirements to treat couples or families specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.20.</p> <p>(c) This section was developed based on an examination of the licensure requirements for professional clinical counselors on a national level. This section shall not be construed to apply to any provisions under this division or Division 3 (commencing with Section 5000) other than this act.</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>4999.61. (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school or experience gained outside of California who apply for licensure or registration who do not qualify for a license under Section 4999.60.</p> <p>(b) The board shall accept education gained from an out-of-state school for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the education is substantially equivalent, as defined in Section 4999.62, and the applicant complies with subdivision (c) of Section 4999.40, if applicable.</p> <p>(c) The board shall accept experience gained outside of California for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the experience is substantially equivalent to the experience required by this chapter. If the applicant has fewer than 3,000 hours of qualifying supervised experience, the board shall accept as qualifying supervised experience the amount of time the applicant held an active license in good standing in another state or country as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice at a rate of 100 hours per month, up to a maximum of 1,200 hours.</p> <p>(d) An applicant who obtained a license or registration in another state or country may qualify for licensure with the board without taking the clinical examination specified in Section 4999.53 if both of the following conditions are met:</p> <p>(1) The applicant obtained a passing score on the clinical licensing examination set forth in regulation as accepted by the board.</p> <p>(2) The applicant's license or registration in that state or country is active and in good standing at the time of the application and is not revoked, suspended, surrendered, denied, or otherwise restricted or encumbered.</p> | <p>Applicants educated outside of California</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Experience.</p> |
| <p>4999.62. (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school who apply for licensure or registration and who do not qualify for a license under Section 4999.60.</p> <p>(b) For purposes of Section 4999.61, education is substantially equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:</p> <p>(1) The degree is obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12, and consists of, at a minimum, the following:</p> | <p>Applicants educated outside of California</p> |
| <p>(A) (i) For an applicant who obtained a degree within the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33 the degree shall contain no less than 60 graduate semester or 90 graduate quarter units of instruction.</p> <p>(ii) Up to 12 semester or 18 quarter units of instruction may be remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur while the applicant is registered as an associate.</p> | <p>Education requirements</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>(B) For an applicant who obtained a degree within the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.32 the degree shall contain no less than 48 graduate semester or 72 graduate quarter units of instruction.</p> | |
| <p>(C) (i) Six semester or nine quarter units of supervised practicum or field study experience, including, but not limited to, a minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.</p> | <p>Education and supervised experience counseling individuals, families or groups.</p> |
| <p>(ii) An out-of-state applicant who holds a valid license in good standing in another state or country as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice is exempt from the practicum requirement specified in clause (i).</p> | <p>Other states do not limit counseling of couples, families, kids.</p> |
| <p>(D) The required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33.</p> <p>(i) (I) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than six of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing graduate level coursework at an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. Coursework taken to meet any deficiencies shall be the equivalent of three semester units or four quarter units of study.</p> <p>(II) Notwithstanding subclause (I), no applicant shall be deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraph (E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33.</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>(ii) An applicant who completed a course in professional orientation,</p> <p>scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and the licensing process. The coursework may be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university, as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board, as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement. An applicant shall complete this coursework before registration as an associate.</p> <p>(iii) An applicant who has not completed a course in professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section</p> | <p>Includes ethics and law for treatment of couples, families, and kids. Includes dynamics related to the many family, relationship, and abuse laws.</p> |
| <p>(iv) An applicant who holds a valid license in good standing in another state or country as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice may complete any units and course content requirements required in this subparagraph not already completed in the applicant's education while registered as an associate, unless otherwise specified.</p> | |
| <p>(2) The applicant completes any units required by subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 not already completed in the applicant's education as follows:</p> <p>(A) At least 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced</p> <p>requirements described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1).</p> <p>(B) Coursework shall be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12.</p> | <p>The special populations or treatment issues often involve couples families and kids</p> |
| <p>(3) (A) The applicant completes the following coursework not already completed in the applicant's education:</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>(i) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training in human sexuality, as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated thereunder, including the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual</p> | <p>Specifically relates to roles and development of relationships and family</p> |
| <p>(ii) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.</p> | <p>Specific to couples and partners, includes families.</p> |
| <p>(iii) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.</p> | <p>Child and family; interrelated to couples.</p> |
| <p>(iv) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects of aging. This coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.</p> | <p>Includes dynamics of older couples and dynamics of aging family members.</p> |
| <p>(B) This coursework may be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is described in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.</p> <p>(4) The applicant completes the following coursework not already completed in the applicant's education from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is described in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.</p> | |
| <p>(A) [REDACTED]</p> <p>services to enhance understanding of their experiences of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.</p> | <p>Involves family and spouses in treatment and recovery</p> |
| <p>(B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.</p> | <p>Applies to family and relationship dynamics.</p> |
| <p>(5) An applicant may complete any units and course content requirements required under paragraph (2), (3), or (4) not already completed in the applicant's education while registered with the board as an associate.</p> | |
| <p>(6) On and after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment</p> | <p>Can be particularly relevant to families and kids, also couples and relationships</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4999.66.</p> | |
| <p>4999.66. (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a professional clinical counselor shall show, as part of the application, that he or she has completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk . This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:</p> <p>(1) Obtained as part of his or her qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution’s curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.</p> <p>(2) Obtained as part of his or her applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.</p> <p>(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4999.76. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.</p> <p>(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of his or her first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).</p> <p>(c) Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that he or she is in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.</p> | <p>Suicide risk assessment and intervention: Particularly relevant to families and kids, also couples and relationships</p> |



April 7, 2021

ATTACHMENT B

OVERVIEW OF LPC AUTHORITY TO WORK WITH COUPLES AND FAMILIES

Prepared by
Gentle Rivers Consulting on behalf of
California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC)

The following table presents a State-by-State Overview of LPC Authority to Treat Couples and Families.

The information in this table was compiled through a review of *Licensure Requirements for Professional Counselors, A State-by-State Report, 2016 Edition*, published by the American Counseling Association (ACA) (2016 Requirements) which is attached by reference, and by a review of the websites, laws, and regulations of the state professional counselor regulatory boards. In addition, a review of licensing laws showing *Changes in Licensure Requirements for Professional Counselors Since 2016* is also attached but is not referenced in the table. The page references in the table are to the location of the information in Appendix H, Scope of Practice to the 2016 Requirements. The “see reference below” in the table refers to additional information and to the website links listed in this document below the table where the information may be found.

The table shows:

- California is the only state that requires a licensed LPC (termed LPCC in California) to meet additional education or training/experience requirements in order to assess or counsel with couples or families.
- California is the only state that requires a licensed LPC to meet additional continuing education (CE) requirements in order to continue to work with couples and families.
- California is the only state that prohibits a licensed LPC from working with couples or families unless they receive additional education or training.

- 34 states refer to LPCs working with couples/marriage and families in the authorizing statute, regulations, or LPC scope of practice.
- 6 states refer to LPCs working with families in the authorizing statute, regulations, or LPC scope of practice.
- 1 state refers to LPCs working with couples/marriage in the authorizing statute, regulations, or LPC scope of practice.
- 3 states refer to LPCs working with clients throughout the life span.

Incomplete data was found for five States: Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, New Hampshire, Utah. Since this is envisioned as a dynamic document, the information on those states will be updated later as information becomes available.

| State-by-State Overview of LPC Authority to Treat Couples and Families | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| STATE | COUPLES & FAMILIES SPECIFICALLY NAMED IN LAW? | COUPLES AND FAMILIES PROHIBITED? | ADDITIONAL EDUCATION/ TRAINING REQUIRED TO WORK WITH COUPLES AND FAMILIES? |
| Alabama | Yes - family counseling, marital counseling (p. 130)* | No | No |
| Alaska | Yes - couples, families (see reference below)** | No | No |
| Arizona | Yes - couples, families (p. 131) | No | No |
| Arkansas | Yes - ... Nothing in this definition or in this chapter shall be construed as precluding licensed professional counselors or licensed associate counselors from rendering these services (see reference below) | No | No |
| California | No | Yes | Yes - 6 semester units (9 quarter units), 500 hours supervised experience, 6 hours of continuing education for license renewal |
| Colorado | Yes - couples (p. 134), couples, families (see reference below) | No | No |

| | | | |
|---------------|---|----|----|
| Connecticut | Yes - marriage and family counseling (p. 135) | No | No |
| Delaware | No data found | No | No |
| Florida | Yes - couples, families (p. 135-136) | No | No |
| Georgia | No data | No | No |
| Hawaii | Yes - couples, families (p. 137) | No | No |
| Idaho | Yes - marriage, family (p. 137) | No | No |
| Illinois | Yes - couples, families (p. 138) | No | No |
| Indiana | Yes – work with child and family service agencies (p. 139) | No | No |
| Iowa | Yes - families (p. 139), individuals, families (see reference below) | No | No |
| Kansas | Unknown | No | No |
| Kentucky | Yes - families, couples (see references below) | No | No |
| Louisiana | Yes - families (p. 141) nothing prohibits performing perform work of a marriage and family therapy nature (see reference below) | No | No |
| Maine | Yes - families (p. 141) | No | No |
| Maryland | Yes - family (p. 142-143) | No | No |
| Massachusetts | Yes - couples, families (p. 143) | No | No |
| Michigan | Yes - families (p. 143) | No | No |
| Minnesota | Yes - families (p. 144-145) | No | No |
| Mississippi | Yes - marriage, family (see reference below) | No | No |
| Missouri | Yes - couples, marital (p. 145-146) | No | No |
| Montana | Yes – Exempt from MFT licensure if practices marriage | No | No |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----|----|
| | and family therapy (see reference below) | | |
| Nebraska | Yes - couples, families (p. 147-148) | No | No |
| Nevada | Yes – engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy (see reference below) | No | No |
| New Hampshire | Unknown | No | No |
| New Jersey | Yes - throughout the lifespan (p. 150) counseling services to two or more persons who have a relationship (such as husband and wife or parents and children (see reference below) | No | No |
| New Mexico | Yes - throughout the client's life (p. 150) couples, families (see reference below) | No | No |
| New York | Yes - couples, families (p. 151) | No | No |
| North Carolina | Yes - families (p. 151) couples and family counseling (see reference below) | No | No |
| North Dakota | Yes - couples, families (p. 152) | No | No |
| Ohio | Yes – “two or more clients who have a relationship with each other and who are aware of each other's participation in treatment (for example couples, family members)” (see reference below) | No | No |
| Oklahoma | Yes - throughout the life span (p. 153) | No | No |
| Oregon | Yes - couples, families (p. 154) | No | No |
| Pennsylvania | Yes - throughout the life span, family (p. | No | No |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|----|----|
| | 154) | | |
| Rhode Island | Yes - families (p. 155) | No | No |
| South Carolina | Yes - family counseling, marital counseling (p. 156) | No | No |
| South Dakota | Yes - throughout the lifespan, couples, families (p. 156-157) | No | No |
| Tennessee | Yes - marital, family, throughout the life span (p. 157-158) | No | No |
| Texas | Yes - throughout the client's life (p. 159) | No | No |
| Utah | No data | No | No |
| Vermont | Yes - couples, families (p. 160) | No | No |
| Virginia | Yes - counselors who provide marriage and family therapy (see reference below) | No | No |
| Washington | Yes - couples, families (p. 161) | No | No |
| West Virginia | Yes - through the life span of the individual, couple, family (p. 162-163) | No | No |
| Wisconsin | Yes - couple, family (p. 163) | No | No |
| Wyoming | Yes - couples, families (p. 163) | No | No |

* Page number references are to “Appendix H, Scope of Practice” in *Licensure Requirements for Professional Counselors, A State-by-State Report, 2016 Edition*, by the American Counseling Association (ACA).

** Reference detail noted by “see reference(s) below” from states indicated in the Table above:

Alaska

Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) Title 12, Chapter 62 (12 AAC 62.990 (a) (1)) defines “direct counseling:” to include “couples, families”

Licensure requirements: Sec. 08.29.110 (6) at least 1,000 hours of direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/5/pub/CounselorStatutes.pdf>

Arkansas

Arkansas Board of Examiners In Counseling And Marriage & Family Therapy Rules, 2020 Rules Revision (Section 1.9), Defines:

"Marriage and Family Therapy" means the use of scientific and applied marriage and family theories, methods and procedures for the purpose of describing, evaluating and modifying marital, family and individual behavior within the context of marital and family systems, including the context of marital formation and dissolution... Nothing in this definition or in this chapter shall be construed as precluding licensed professional counselors or licensed associate counselors from rendering these services.

<https://abec.statesolutions.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-Rules-Final-6-22-20.pdf>

Colorado

Colorado Revised Statutes 2020, Title 12, Professions and Occupations, Article 245 (12-245-603) defines the practice of licensed professional counseling, and states: "A licensed professional counselor may render the application of these principles to individuals, couples, families, or groups."

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzKoVwvexVATMIFKX3NvbHh1ZTQ/view?usp=sharing>

Iowa

Iowa Code 2021, Chapter 154D.1(9) defines "mental health counseling" to include "individuals, families, and groups"

Chapter 154D.4. "This chapter and chapter 147 do not prevent qualified members of other professions ... from providing or advertising that they provide services of a marital and family therapy or mental health counseling nature consistent with the accepted standards of their respective professions"

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2021/154D.pdf>

Kentucky

Kentucky Administrative Regulations 201 KAR 36:005. Definitions for 201 KAR Chapter 36. (22) "Scope of practice for professional counseling" means:

(a) The independent practice of counseling encompassing the provision of professional counseling services to individuals, groups, families, couples, and organizations through the application of accepted and established mental health counseling principles, methods, procedures, or ethics;

Kentucky Administrative Regulations 201 KAR 36:040. The Code of Ethics Section 4 (15) requires a professional counselor in family counseling to clearly define who is considered the client, as specified.

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/201/036/040.pdf>

Louisiana

Louisiana Professional and Occupational Standards, Title 46, Chapter 31, Section 3103. Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy by Other Licensed Mental Health Professionals:

“Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed as prohibiting qualified members of other professional groups including but not limited to clinical social workers, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, physicians, licensed professional counselors, or members of the clergy, including Christian science practitioners, from doing or advertising that they perform work of a marriage and family therapy nature consistent with the accepted standards of their respective professions.”

https://www.lpcboard.org/assets/docs/Laws_Rules/Rules-1.12.21.pdf

Mississippi

Title 30, Mississippi Code, Part 2201, Chapter 1, Rule 1.4 (X):

Practice of Counseling/Psychotherapy: Rendering, offering to render, or supervising those who render to individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, institutions, government agencies, or the general public any service involving the application of counseling procedures and other related areas of behavioral sciences to help in learning how to solve problems or make decisions related to personal growth, marriage, family, or other interpersonal or intrapersonal concerns.

<https://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/licensure-requirements/states/mississippi>

Montana

Title 37, Montana Code, Chapter 37, Part 2, Section 37-37-201 (5) (c):

“A person is exempt from licensure as a marriage and family therapist if the person practices marriage and family therapy: ... (c) while registered as a social worker licensure candidate, professional counselor licensure candidate, or marriage and family therapist licensure candidate.”

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0370/chapter_0370/part_0020/section_0010/0370-0370-0020-0010.html

Nevada

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 641A (NRS 641A.410 (a) (2)): Prohibits engaging in practice of marriage and family therapy or clinical professional counseling without license unlawful and provides certain exceptions, including: Does not prevent another “person licensed or certified by the State to carry out the functions permitted by the respective license or certification if the person does not hold himself or herself out to the public by any title and description of service likely to cause confusion with the titles and descriptions of service set forth in this chapter.”

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-641A.html#NRS641ASec410>

New Jersey

Title 13 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, Chapter 34, Subchapter 30 (13:34-30.3 (p. 83) “Multiple Clients” recognizes a professional counselor providing “counseling services to two or more persons who have a relationship (such as husband and wife or parents and children)”

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations/Chapter-34-Subchapters-10-31-Professional-Counselors.pdf>

New Mexico

New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act provides:

61-9A-3 (I). "clinical counseling" means the rendering of counseling services involving the application of principles of psychotherapy, human development, learning theory, diagnosis, treatment and the etiology of mental illness and dysfunctional behavior to individuals, couples, families or groups for the purpose of assessing and treating psychopathology and promoting optimal mental health;

<http://www.rld.state.nm.us/uploads/files/Counseling%20Rules%20and%20Statutes.pdf>

North Carolina

North Carolina NPC Practice Act (NC GS Article 24, § 90-340 (a) (9)) requires mental health counselors to comply with the Code of Ethics of the American Counseling Association (ACA). The ACA Code of Ethics provides standards for couples and family counseling (Section B.4.b).

[https://ncblcmhc.org/Assets/LawsAndCodes/LPC_Practice_Act\(NCGSArticle24\).pdf](https://ncblcmhc.org/Assets/LawsAndCodes/LPC_Practice_Act(NCGSArticle24).pdf)

https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2014-code-of-ethics-finaladdressc97d33f16116603abcacff0000bee5e7.pdf?sfvrsn=5d6b532c_0

Ohio

Ohio Revised Code 4757-5-02 (B) (8), makes specific provisions for a counselor who “provides services to two or more clients who have a relationship with each other and who are aware of each other's participation in treatment (for example couples, family members)”

<https://cswmft.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/faba2418-aa3e-4af2-99be-358454da55a5/10-23-2020+CSWMFT+Board+Laws+and+Rules+ORC-OAC+4757.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nIVncKN>

Virginia

Chapter 35 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia (§ 54.1-3501 (6)) Establishes an exemption for “professional counselors ... who provide, within the scope of their practice, marriage and family therapy, counseling or substance abuse treatment to individuals or groups.”

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/counseling/leg/Chapter%2035%20Counseling.docx>

Attachments:

Licensure Requirements for Professional Counselors, A State-by-State Report, 2016 Edition, Editor: Erin T. Shifflett, MLA, M.Ed. American Counseling Association, 2016.