

*How to apply to become a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor. **

A Guide for Maryland Counseling Students

Adapted from 10.58.05 Professional Counselors — Requirements for Certification and Licensure.

	THE BASICS: To qualify for as a professional counselor, an applicant shall have completed (full details from the BOPC website located here)	
	One of the following in a professional counseling or related field from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A master's degree with a minimum of 60 graduate semester credit hours or 90 graduate quarter credit hours ; and not less than 3 years / 3,000 client hours supervised clinical experience in professional counseling, of which <u>at least 2 years and 2,000 hours shall be completed after the award of the master's degree</u> (specifics on supervised clinical experience requirements here)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A doctoral degree with a minimum of 90 graduate semester credit hours or 135 graduate quarter credit hours ; and not less than 2 years with a minimum of 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in professional counseling, of <u>which at least 1 year and 1,000 hours shall be completed after the award of the doctoral degree;</u> (specifics on supervised clinical experience here)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicants must pass the National Counselors Examination (NCE) of the NBCC and the Maryland Law Test. The NCE is now Computer based and is administered the first two weeks of each month. Applicants must apply and receive approval from the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors before testing unless your College or University has arranged to administer the test on your campus. Specifics from the NCE are found here . The Maryland law Test (an examination of Health Occupations Article, Title 17, Annotated Code of Maryland, and subtitle 10.58) is administered at the Board's office on the third Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Effective January 1, 2014 all new applicants for licensure, certification, and trainee status must have a criminal history records check. Criminal History Records Check Information form will be mailed to you from the BOPC.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you a military veteran? Pursuant to the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, military veterans and spouses of active duty, reservists and military veterans discharged within one (1) year of submitting an application for licensing or certification qualify for expedited processing of applications. The Board will expedite review and the processing of applications	
<input type="checkbox"/>	LGPC applicants will fill out a form to apply which is found on the BOPC webpage. There is an Application fee of \$75.00.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once approved, a licensed graduate professional counselor (LGPC) may practice graduate professional counseling for 2 years under the supervision of an approved supervisor while fulfilling the 2-years post graduate supervised clinical experience requirement. <u>This may cost money out of pocket or you may be able to receive supervision from your place of employment.</u> There are pros and cons to both of these. For more information about supervision, you may contact Tara McManaway and Associates .	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Course requirements check list for LGPC applicants in Maryland 60 Graduate Semester or 90 Quarter hours total. Pre-application Credential Check list available here. LGPC to LCPC requirements are also found here.</p>	Course name and number
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Human growth and personality development</u></i> (Examples of courses in this area: Human Growth and Development, Personality Development)</p>	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The various stages of human development over the life span;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theories of personality and human development; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The influence of human development and experiences on the development of psychopathology;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Social and cultural foundations of counseling</u></i> (Examples of courses in this area: Multicultural Counseling, Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling)</p>	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aging, ethnicity, gender, and psychosexual orientation;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The impact of social and cultural norms on human development; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural, subcultural, and socioeconomic influences on the counseling relationship;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Counseling theory</u></i> (Examples of courses in this area: <i>Counseling Theory and Techniques, Theories of Counseling and/or Psychotherapy, Introduction to Psychotherapy Theories)</i></p>	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An overview of major counseling and psychotherapy theories; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The techniques and practices associated with the above theories.	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Counseling techniques</u></i> (Examples of courses in this area: <i>Helping Relationship, Introduction to Counseling, Counseling Methods, Techniques of Interviewing.</i>)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The parameters and limitations of the treatment relationship;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of the client-counselor treatment contract;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening and interviewing skills;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The stages of clinical treatment; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral and termination;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Group dynamics, processing, and counseling</u></i> (Examples of courses in this area: <i>Group Counseling (or Therapy), Group Therapy and Practice.</i>)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theories, practices, and treatment in group counseling;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Principles of leading groups; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Experience in leading groups;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Lifestyle and career development</u></i> (Examples of courses in this area: <i>Career Guidance and Counseling, Career Development, Occupational Information</i>)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life-long processes that influence work values;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occupational choice;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creation of career patterns;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career decision-making style;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integration of occupational roles;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career identity; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patterns of work adjustment.	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Appraisal</u> (Examples of courses in this area: Individual Appraisal, Psychological Testing, Personality Testing, Psychological Measurement, Tests and Measurements)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formalized testing and measurements;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal assessment such as observations, interviews, and rating scales;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental status examination,	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theory of test construction, validity, and reliability; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Testing procedures and interpretation;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Research and evaluation</u> (Examples of courses in this area: Methods of Research, Statistics and Data Analysis, Research designs, Research in counseling)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Principles of performing quantitative and qualitative research;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research design and methods;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statistical tools and methods; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading and interpreting research;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities</u> (Examples of courses in this area: Professional and Ethical Issues, Ethics and Legal Issues in Counseling)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional orientation and responsibility;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal issues;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ethics of practice;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice specialization; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Codes of ethics of national professional counseling organizations;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Marriage and family therapy</u> (Examples of courses in this area: Marriage and Family Counseling (or Therapy), Family Systems and Intervention)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An overview of systems theories;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Principles of working with couples and families;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stages of family life cycle development; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intervention strategies;	

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	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Alcohol and drug counseling</u> (Examples of courses in this area: Foundations of Chemical Dependency Counseling, Overview of Alcohol and Drug Counseling)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assessment of addictive disorders;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pharmacology of psychoactive drugs;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Overview of theories of addictive disorders;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Overview of basic models of treatment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Diagnosis and psychopathology</u> , (Examples of courses in this area: Psychology and Diagnosis, Psychopathology, Abnormal Psychology, Diagnosis)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diagnosis based on current DSM AND ICD criteria.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major categories of mental disorders;	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An understanding of the impact of abnormal behavior not only to individuals, but to society as a whole.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An examination of various theories relative to the etiology of abnormal behavior.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 graduate semester credit hours or 5 graduate quarter hours of instruction in <u>Psychotherapy and treatment of mental and emotional disorders</u> , (Examples of courses in this area: Treatment Techniques, Behavior Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, Psycho-dynamic Therapy, Advanced Techniques of Counseling)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An Overview and application of one or more treatment models to various disorders.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supervised field experience (Examples of courses in this area: Supervised Field Experience, Practicum, Internship/Externship, Clinical Field Experience, Clinical Case Conference or Supervision)	
	Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A supervised clinical internship, externship, field experience, or practicum placement; and	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct client contact in counseling experience with a minimum of 125 hours face-to-face client counseling	

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Supervised Clinical Experience Requirements Master's level	
<input type="checkbox"/>	For a master's level applicant, not less than 3 years with a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience (no more than 1,000 hours of clinical experience may be completed before the awarding of the master's degree) in professional counseling as required is obtained under the supervision of an approved supervisor , (1000 before graduation, 2000 with LGPC credentials). A licensed graduate professional counselor shall complete at least half of the requisite supervised clinical experience in professional counseling hours under the supervision of a LCPC approved by the Board.
Instruction in this area shall include all of the following content:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1,500 hours shall be face-to-face client contact hours;
<input type="checkbox"/>	100 hours face-to-face clinical supervision hours, of which: at least 50 hours shall be face-to-face individual clinical supervision; and no more than 50 hours may be face-to-face group clinical supervision.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not less than 2 years and 2,000 hours shall be acquired after the master's degree has been awarded; and
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Approved supervisor," means a licensed clinical professional counselor or another health care provider under the Health Occupations Article, Examples: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who is also an Approved supervisor, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Clinical Social Worker, Psychiatrist Nurse. Each supervisor must complete and submit these forms .
Supervised Clinical Experience Requirements Doctoral Level	
<input type="checkbox"/>	For a doctoral level applicant, not less than 2 years with a minimum of 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience in professional counseling obtained under the supervision of an approved supervisor ,
Instruction in this area shall include all of the following:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1,000 hours face-to-face client contact hours;
<input type="checkbox"/>	50 hours shall be face-to-face clinical supervision hours, of which at least 25 hours shall be individual face-to-face clinical supervision; and no more than 25 hours may be face-to-face group clinical supervision;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not less than 1 year and 1,000 hours shall be acquired after the doctoral degree has been awarded; and a maximum of 1,000 hours of clinical experience may be acquired before the awarding of the doctoral degree;
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Approved supervisor," means a licensed clinical professional counselor or another health care provider under the Health Occupations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. Examples: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who is also an Approved supervisor, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Clinical Social Worker, Psychiatrist Nurse. Each supervisor must complete and submit these forms .

Notes

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