

## Educational Requirements for Licensure by State

MACC: Master of Arts in Christian Counseling  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte

*\*Note: In addition to the educational requirements below, all states require clinical practice hours and a qualifying exam(s) to become a professional counselor. The clinical practice hours and exam(s) are completed following graduation. This document is intended to inform students of the educational requirements needed to become a professional counselor in their state and does not document all post-graduation requirements. While every effort is made to maintain the accuracy of this document, students are encouraged to check the state licensure board website for the most accurate, up-to-date information.*

State	Licensing Board Website State Laws and Rules	License Title(s)	Exam(s) Required	GCTS-Charlotte Meets/ Does Not Meet Educational Requirements (Deficiencies noted.)	Other
Alabama	<a href="#">Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling</a> <a href="#">Alabama Codes &amp; Rules</a>	ALC LPC	NCE	Meets.	
Alaska	<a href="#">Alaska Board of Professional Counselors</a> <a href="#">Alaska Statutes &amp; Regulations</a>	LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	No entry level license. Apply for LPC following attainment of all post-graduate clinical hours.
Arizona	<a href="#">Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners</a> <a href="#">Arizona Administrative Code</a>	LAC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
Arkansas	<a href="#">Arkansas Board of Examiners</a>	LAC	NCE or	Complete a course in Family	B- or better required in all

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	<a href="#">in Counseling</a> <a href="#">Arkansas Rules &amp; Regulations</a>	LPC	NCMHCE  Arkansas Jurisprudence Exam	Systems Theory; complete 1-credit hour course in Use of Technology in Counseling.	coursework.
California	<a href="#">Board of Behavioral Sciences--LPC</a>  <a href="#">California Statutes &amp; Regulations</a>	APCC LPCC	NCMHCE and California Law and Ethics Examination	Complete 3-credit hour electives in (1) Advanced Trauma Counseling; (2) Psychopharmacology; (3) Human Sexuality, (4) electives in diagnosing and treating a special population such as Couples/ Family/ Adolescents/ Gerontology/ Play Therapy, etc.  Complete 12-clock hour California Law & Ethics course.  There are several additional continuing education requirements for this state, although these may be completed following graduation. For further information please follow this <a href="#">link</a> .	
Colorado	<a href="#">Colorado State Board of Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners</a>  <a href="#">Colorado Practice Act &amp; Laws</a>	LPCC LPC	NCE and CO Jurisprudence Exam	Meets.	
Connecticut	<a href="#">Connecticut State Department of Public Health</a>  <a href="#">Connecticut Regulations</a>	LPCA LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete an additional 9 elective credit hours in counseling, for a total of 60 <i>counseling</i> credits.	

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Delaware	<a href="#">Delaware Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals</a>  <a href="#">Delaware Rules &amp; Regulations</a>	LACMH LPCMH	NCE	Meets.	
District of Columbia	<a href="#">DC Health – Board of Professional Counseling</a>  <a href="#">DC Regulations</a>	LGPC LPC	NCE	Complete elective courses in Marriage/ Couples Counseling and Family Counseling or Family Systems.	
Florida	<a href="#">Florida Board of Mental Health Counseling</a>  <a href="#">Florida Statutes &amp; Rules</a>	RMHCI LMHC	NCMHCE	Complete elective course in Human Sexuality.	Exam is not required for provisional license (RMHCI).
Georgia	<a href="#">Georgia Board of Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Georgia Laws &amp; Rules</a>	APC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
Hawaii	<a href="#">DCCA Hawaii – Mental Health Counselor Licensing Program</a>  <a href="#">Hawaii Statutes</a>	AMHC (beginning July 1, 2026)  LMHC	NCE	Complete an additional <u>20</u> direct client contact hours (300 total direct client contact hours) in practicum & internship	Provisional license AMHC takes effect July 1, 2026.  Coursework in “Appraisal of Human Behavior” is met by <i>CO 710</i> .
Idaho	<a href="#">Idaho Board of Professional Counselors and MFTs</a>  <a href="#">Idaho Statutes &amp; Rules</a>	LPC LCPC	NCE (for LPC)  NCMHCE (for LCPC)	Complete 1000 total hours in Practicum/ Internship (400 direct client contact hours).	

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Illinois	<a href="#">IDFPR: Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Illinois Rules</a>	LPC LCPC	NCE (for LPC)  NCMHCE (for LCPC)	Complete elective course in Family Systems.	Requires at least 30 credit hours to be obtained at one institution.
Indiana	<a href="#">Behavioral Health and Human Servicing Licensing</a>  <a href="#">Indiana Statutes &amp; Rules</a>	LMHCA LMHC	NCE (for LMHCA)  NCMHCE (for LMHC)	Meets.  This state has unique names for required coursework. Meet with your advisor if needed.	Note Indiana Course Names and GCTS fulfillment:  Foundations of MHC: <i>CO 502, CO 790</i> Contextual Dimensions: <i>CO 790, CO 851</i> Knowledge & Skills: <i>CO 710</i> Clinical Instruction: <i>CO 867, 868, 869</i>
Iowa	<a href="#">Iowa Board of Behavioral Science Licensure</a>  <a href="#">Iowa Laws &amp; Rules</a>	T-LMHC LMHC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
Kansas	<a href="#">Kansas Board of Behavioral Sciences – Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Kansas Statutes &amp; Regulations</a>	LPC LCPC	NCE (for LPC) NCMHCE (for LCPC)	Requires 15 hours in diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders. 12 hours of this are met by CO 710, CO 867, 868, 869. Complete an elective course that includes diagnosis and treatment as part of the course description.	At least 30 credit hours plus practicum/ internship must be completed at one institution.
Kentucky	<a href="#">Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors</a>	LPCA LPCC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	

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	<a href="#">Kentucky Statutes &amp; Regulations</a>				
Louisiana	<a href="#">Louisiana State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Louisiana Rules</a>	P-LPC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	Must pass all courses with a grade no lower than a C. Field experience courses must be passed with no lower than a B.
Maine	<a href="#">Maine Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure</a>  <a href="#">Maine Laws &amp; Rules</a>	LPC LCPC	NCE (for LPC) NCMHCE (for LCPC)	Meets for LPC.  For LCPC, Internship must be one full year and include 900 hours (360 direct client contact hours) in addition to Practicum.	
Maryland	<a href="#">Maryland Board of Professional Counselors &amp; Therapists</a>  <a href="#">Maryland Rules &amp; Code</a>  <a href="#">Maryland Course Requirements</a>	LGPC LCPC	LGPC: NCE and Maryland Law Assessment  LCPC: NCE and State Law Test	Complete elective course in Family Systems.  Complete an additional course in “Psychotherapy/ Treatment of Mental Health Disorders” (This may be met by taking an elective course in CBT, psychodynamic theory, etc.)	
Massachusetts	<a href="#">Allied Mental Health Professionals Licensing</a>  <a href="#">Massachusetts Regulations</a>	LMHC	NCMHCE	Complete an additional 9 elective credit hours in counseling, for a total of 60 <i>counseling</i> credits.  Practicum/ Internship supervisor must have 3 years experience as an independent licensed mental health practitioner.	No provisional/ associate license. Apply for LMHC after completing all post-graduate hours.  NCMHCE scores valid for 5 years from the date of taking the exam.

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				Complete a state approved online training in domestic and sexual violence.	
Michigan	<a href="#">Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs: Counseling</a>  <a href="#">Michigan Code/ Rules</a>	LLPC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.  Complete a state approved training in identifying victims of human trafficking as well as implicit bias training.	
Minnesota	<a href="#">Minnesota Board for Behavioral Health and Therapy</a>  <a href="#">Minnesota Statutes &amp; Rules</a>	LPC LPCC	NCE (for LPC)  NCMCHE (for LPCC)	Complete elective in Family Systems Counseling.  Meets for LPC. There are additional educational requirements for the LPCC. Please review the state board website and/or meet with your advisor.	
Mississippi	<a href="#">Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Mississippi Statutes &amp; Rules</a>  <a href="#">Graduate Packet for P-LPC Applicants</a>	P-LPC LPC	Mississippi Jurisprudence (for P-LPC)  NCE or NCMHCE (for LPC)	Complete elective course in Marriage and/or Family Counseling.	
Missouri	<a href="#">Missouri Committee for Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Missouri Statutes</a>	PLPC LPC	NCE & Missouri Jurisprudence	Meets.	

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Montana	<a href="#">Montana Board of Behavioral Health – Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Montana Administrative Rules</a>	PCLC LCPC	NCE	Meets.	Credits obtained more than 6 years prior to graduation do not count toward the degree No more than 12 credit hours may be transfer credits.
Nebraska	<a href="#">Nebraska Dept of Health and Human Services - Mental Health and Social Work Practice</a>  <a href="#">Nebraska Rules</a>	PLMHP LMHP LIMHP	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete an additional <u>20</u> direct client contact hours (300 total direct client contact hours) in practicum & internship	
Nevada	<a href="#">Nevada Board of Examiners for MFT and Clinical Professional Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Nevada Rules &amp; Regulations</a>	CPC-I CPC	NCMHCE	Meets.	
New Hampshire	<a href="#">New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice</a>  <a href="#">New Hampshire Laws &amp; Rules</a>	LCMHC Candidate  LCMHC	NCMHCE	Meets.	
New Jersey	<a href="#">New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs – Professional Counselors Examiners Committee</a>  <a href="#">New Jersey Professional Counselor Statutes</a>	LAC LPC	NCE	Meets.	

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	<a href="#">New Jersey Administrative Code</a>				
New Mexico	<a href="#">New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department - Counseling and Therapy</a> <a href="#">New Mexico Statues &amp; Rules</a>	LMHC LPCC	NCE (for LMHC) NCE and NCMHCE (for LPCC)	Meets.	
New York	<a href="#">New York State Education Department – Mental Health Counselors</a> <a href="#">New York Laws &amp; Rules</a>	Limited Permit LMHC	NCMHCE	Meets.  Requires state-approved training in child abuse.	
North Carolina	<a href="#">North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors</a> <a href="#">North Carolina Laws &amp; Rules</a>	LCMHCA LCMHC	NCE or NCMHCE  NC Jurisprudence Exam	Meets.	
North Dakota	<a href="#">North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners</a> <a href="#">North Dakota Administrative Code</a>	LAPC LPC LPCC	NCE (for LPC/LAPC)  NCMHCE (for LPCC)	Meets.	
Ohio	<a href="#">Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and MFT Board</a> <a href="#">Ohio Laws and Rules</a>	LPC LPCC	NCE (for LPC)  NCMHCE (for LPCC)	Meets.	
Oklahoma	<a href="#">Oklahoma Board of Behavioral</a>	LPC Candidate	NCE	Complete an additional 9 elective	

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	<a href="#">Health Licensure</a> <a href="#">Oklahoma Rules &amp; Regulations</a>	LPC		credit hours for a total of 60 <i>counseling</i> credits.	
Oregon	<a href="#">Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists</a> <a href="#">Oregon Rules</a> <a href="#">Oregon Statutes</a>	LPC Associate LPC	NCE or NCMHCE  Oregon Laws & Rules Exam	Meets.	
Pennsylvania	<a href="#">Pennsylvania Department of State: Social Workers, MFTs and Professional Counselors</a> <a href="#">Pennsylvania Laws and Regulations</a>	LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor)	Any of the following: NCE, CRCE, ATCB, CBMT, PEPK, AAODA, EMAC	Meets.  Requires a state approved 3-clock hour training in child abuse.	
Rhode Island	<a href="#">State of Rhode Island Department of Health: Marriage, Family, and Mental Health Therapy</a> <a href="#">Rhode Island Rules</a>	LCMHCA LCMHC	NCMHCE (for LCMHC only)	Meets.	
South Carolina	<a href="#">South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors</a> <a href="#">South Carolina Laws</a> <a href="#">South Carolina Regulations</a>	LPCA LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
South Dakota	<a href="#">South Dakota Department of Social Services – Licensed</a>	LPC LPC - MH	NCE (for LPC)	Meets.	

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	<a href="#">Professional Counselor</a> <a href="#">South Dakota Administrative Rules</a>		NCMHCE (for LPC-MH)		
Tennessee	<a href="#">Tennessee Board for Licensed Professional Counselors, LMFTs, and Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists</a> <a href="#">Tennessee Rules</a>	LPC LPC-MHSP	NCE (for LPC), NCMHCE (for LPC-MHSP) Tennessee Jurisprudence Exam	Meets for LPC.  For LPC-MHSP, complete an additional 3 hours in diagnosis and treatment planning (see electives); 300 hours of internship must be in a mental health agency or community setting.	
Texas	<a href="#">Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors</a> <a href="#">Texas Statutes and Rules</a>	LPCA LPC	NCE or NCMHCE and Texas Jurisprudence Exam	Complete an additional 9 elective credit hours for a total of 60 credit hours in <i>counseling</i> .  At least one elective must be in couples, marriage, or family counseling.	
Utah	<a href="#">Utah Division of Professional Licensing: Clinical Mental Health Counseling</a> <a href="#">Utah Laws and Rules</a>	ACMHC LCMHC	NCE, NCMHCE, and the Utah Professional Counselor Law, Rules, and Ethics Exam	Meets.	
Vermont	<a href="#">Vermont Secretary of State: Allied Mental Health</a> <a href="#">Vermont Statutes &amp; Rules</a>	LCMHC	NCMHCE and NCE	Meets.	No entry level license. Apply for LCMHC after completion of post-graduate hours.

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Virginia	<a href="#">Virginia Department of Health Professions: Board of Counseling</a>  <a href="#">Virginia Laws &amp; Regulations</a>	Resident LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete elective course in Family Systems Theory.	No exam required for initial licensure as “Resident.”
Washington	<a href="#">Washington Department of Health: Mental Health Counselors</a>  <a href="#">Washington Laws &amp; Codes</a>	LMHCA LMHC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.  Must additionally complete 4 clock hours of HIV/AIDS education and training.	No exam required for LMHCA.
West Virginia	<a href="#">West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling</a>  <a href="#">West Virginia Rules</a>	PLPC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete elective course in marriage, couples, and/or family counseling.	
Wisconsin	<a href="#">Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services: Professional Counselor</a>  <a href="#">Wisconsin Statutes &amp; Code</a>	LPC Trainee LPC	NCE  Wisconsin Jurisprudence Exam	Meets.	No exam required for initial LPC Trainee license.
Wyoming	<a href="#">Wyoming Mental Health Professions Licensing Board</a>  <a href="#">Wyoming Rules</a>	PPC LPC	NCE or NCMHE	Meets.	Exam must be passed within 5 years of applying for LPC license.