

Educational Requirements for Licensure by State

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary--Hamilton

**Note: In addition to the educational requirements below, all states require clinical practice hours and a qualifying exam(s) to become a mental health 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 mental health 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-Hamilton Meets/ Does Not Meet Educational Requirements (Deficiencies noted.)	Other
Alabama	Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling Alabama Rules	ALC LPC	NCE	Meets.	
Alaska	Alaska Board of Professional Counselors Alaska Statutes & Regulations	LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	No entry level license. Apply for LPC following attainment of all post- graduate clinical hours.
Arizona	Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Arizona Statutes & Rules	LAC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE,	Meets.	
Arkansas	Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling	LAC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete a course in Family Systems Theory; complete 1-credit hour course in Use of Technology in	B- or better required in all counseling coursework.

	Arkansas Rules & Regulations		Arkansas Jurisprudence Exam	Counseling.	
California	Board of Behavioral Sciences--LPCC California Statutes & Regulations	APCC LPCC	NCMHCE and California Law and Ethics Examination	Complete 3-credit hour electives in (1) Crisis or Trauma Counseling; (2) Psychopharmacology; (3) elective in diagnosing and treating a special population or utilizing a therapeutic theory such as Couples/Family/Adolescents/ Gerontology/Play Therapy/Cognitive Therapies, etc. Complete 12-clock hour California Law & Ethics course. There are several additional requirements for this state, for further information please follow this link.	
Colorado	Colorado State Board of Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners Colorado Practice Act & Laws	LPCC LPC	NCE and CO Jurisprudence Exam	Meets.	
Connecticut	Connecticut State Department of Public Health Connecticut Regulations	LPCA LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete an additional 9 elective credit hours in counseling, for a total of 60 <i>counseling</i> credits.	
Delaware	Delaware Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals	LACMH LPCMH	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	

	Delaware Rules & Regulations				
District of Columbia	DC Health – Board of Professional Counseling DC Regulations	LGPC LPC	NCE	Complete elective course in Marriage and Family Counseling.	
Florida	Florida Board of Mental Health Counseling Florida Statutes & Rules	RMHCI LMHC	NCMHCE	Complete elective course in Human Sexuality.	Exam is not required when applying for RMHCI.
Georgia	Georgia Board of Professional Counselors Georgia Laws & Rules	APC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
Hawaii	DCCA Hawaii – Mental Health Counselor Licensing Program Hawaii Statutes	LMHC	NCE	Complete an additional <u>20</u> direct client contact hours (300 total direct client contact hours) in practicum & internship	No entry level license. Apply for LMHC after completing post-graduate clinical hours. Coursework in “Appraisal of Human Behavior” is met by <i>CO 710</i> .
Idaho	Idaho Board of Professional Counselors and MFTs Idaho Statutes & Rules	LPC LCPC	NCE (for LPC) NCMHCE (for LCPC)	Complete 1000 total hours in Practicum/ Internship (400 direct client contact hours).	
Illinois	IDFPR: Professional Counselors Illinois Rules	LPC LCPC	NCE (for LPC) NCMHCE (for LCPC)	Complete elective course in Family Systems.	Requires a minimum of 24 credit hours to be obtained on campus.

Indiana	Behavioral Health and Human Servicing Licensing Indiana Statutes & Rules	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</i> Helping Relationships (Theory & Practice): <i>CO 502</i> Contextual Dimensions: <i>CO 710</i> Knowledge & Skills: <i>CO 540</i> Clinical Instruction: <i>CO 867, 868, 869</i>
Iowa	Iowa Board of Behavioral Science Licensure Iowa Rules	T-LMHC LMHC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
Kansas	Kansas Board of Behavioral Sciences – Professional Counselors Kansas Statutes & Regulations	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.	
Kentucky	Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors Kentucky Statutes & Regulations	LPCA LPCC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	

Louisiana	Louisiana State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors Louisiana Rules	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	Maine Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure Maine Laws & Rules	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	Maryland Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists Maryland Rules & Code	LGPC LCPC	LGPC: NCE and Maryland Law Assessment LCPC: NCE and State Law Test	Complete elective course in Marriage & Family Therapy. 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	Allied Mental Health Professionals Licensing Massachusetts Statutes & Regulations	LMHC	NCMHCE	<u>Started program prior to 2017:</u> Complete an additional 9 elective credit hours in counseling, for a total of 60 <i>counseling</i> credits. <u>Started program after 7/1/17:</u> Meets.	No entry level license. Apply for LMHC after completing all post-graduate hours.
Michigan	Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs: Counseling Michigan Code/ Rules	LLPC LPC	NCE	Meets. Must complete state approved training in identifying victims of human trafficking as well as implicit	

				bias training.	
Minnesota	Minnesota Board for Behavioral Health and Therapy Minnesota Statutes & Rules	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.	
Mississippi	Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors Mississippi Statutes & Rules	P-LPC LPC	Mississippi Jurisprudence (for P-LPC) NCE or NCMHCE (for LPC)	Complete elective course in Marriage and/or Family Counseling.	
Missouri	Missouri Committee for Professional Counselors Missouri Statutes	PLPC LPC	NCE & Missouri Jurisprudence	Meets.	
Montana	Montana Board of Behavioral Health – Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors Montana Rules	PCLC LCPC	NCE	Meets.	Credits obtained more than 6 years prior to graduation do not count toward the degree. No more than 20 credit hours may be transfer credits.
Nebraska	Nebraska Dept of Health and Human Services - Mental	PLMHP LMHP	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete an additional <u>20</u> direct client contact hours (300 total direct	

	Health and Social Work Practice Nebraska Rules	LIMHP		client contact hours) in practicum & internship	
Nevada	Nevada Board of Examiners for MFT and Clinical Professional Counselors Nevada Rules & Regulations	CPC-I CPC	NCMHCE	Meets.	
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice New Hampshire Laws & Rules	LCMHC Candidate LCMHC	NCMHCE	Meets.	
New Jersey	New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs – Professional Counselors Examiners Committee New Jersey Laws and Code	LAC LPC	NCE	Meets.	
New Mexico	New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department New Mexico Rules	LMHC LPCC	NCE (for LMHC) NCE and NCMHCE (for LPCC)	Meets.	
New York	New York State Education Department – Mental Health Counselors New York Laws & Rules	Limited Permit LMHC	NCMHCE	Meets. Requires state-approved training in child abuse.	
North Carolina	North Carolina Board of	LCMHCA	NCE or	Meets.	

	Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors North Carolina Laws & Rules	LCMHC	NCMHCE NC Jurisprudence Exam		
North Dakota	North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners North Dakota Laws &. Code	LAPC LPC LPCC	NCE (for LPC/LAPC) NCMHCE (for LPCC)	Meets.	
Ohio	Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and MFT Board Ohio Laws and Rules	LPC LPCC	NCE (for LPC) NCMHCE (for LPCC)	Meets.	
Oklahoma	Oklahoma State Board of Behavioral Health Oklahoma Rules	LPC Candidate LPC	NCE	Complete an additional 9 elective credit hours for a total of 60 <i>counseling</i> credits.	
Oregon	Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists Oregon Rules Oregon Statutes	LPC Associate LPC	NCE or NCMHCE Oregon Laws & Rules Exam	Meets.	
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of State: Social Workers, MFTs and Professional Counselors Pennsylvania Laws and Regulations	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	State of Rhode Island	LCMHCA	NCMHCE (for	Meets.	

	Department of Health: Marriage, Family, and Mental Health Therapy Rhode Island Rules	LCMHC	LCMHC only)		
South Carolina	South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors South Carolina Laws South Carolina Regulations	LPCA LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Meets.	
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Social Services – Licensed Professional Counselor South Dakota Administrative Rules	LPC LPC - MH	NCE (for LPC) NCMHCE (for LPC-MH)	Meets.	
Tennessee	Tennessee Board for Licensed Professional Counselors, LMFTs, and Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists Tennessee Rules	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	Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors Texas Rules	LPCA LPC	NCE and Texas Jurisprudence Exam	Complete elective course in couples, marriage, or family counseling.	

Utah	Utah Division of Professional Licensing: Clinical Mental Health Counseling Utah Laws and Rules	ACMHC LCMHC	NCE, NCMHCE, and the Utah Professional Counselor Law, Rules, and Ethics Exam	Meets.	
Vermont	Vermont Secretary of State: Allied Mental Health Vermont Statutes & Rules	LCMHC	NCMHCE and NCE	Meets.	No entry level license. Apply for LCMHC after completion of post-graduate hours.
Virginia	Virginia Department of Health Professions: Board of Counseling Virginia Laws & Regulations	Resident LPC	NCMHCE	Complete elective course in Family Systems Theory.	No exam required for initial licensure as "Resident."
Washington	Washington Department of Health: Mental Health Counselors Washington Laws & Codes	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	West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling West Virginia Rules	PLPC LPC	NCE or NCMHCE	Complete elective course in marriage, couples, and/or family counseling.	
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services: Professional Counselor	LPC Trainee LPC	NCE Wisconsin Jurisprudence Exam	Meets.	No exam required for initial LPC Trainee license.

	Wisconsin Statutes & Code				
Wyoming	Wyoming Mental Health Professions Licensing Board Wyoming Rules	PPC LPC	NCE or NCMHE	Meets.	Exam must be passed within 5 years of applying for LPC license.