

GUIDE TO LPCC OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

For Applications Submitted on or After
January 1, 2020

Applicant Type

Do you meet ALL of the following requirements?

- I have held a license as a Professional Clinical Counselor in another United States jurisdiction for at least two years.
- The license I hold is current, and has been active and unrestricted for at least two years immediately before the date I submit my application to the Board.
- The license I hold is at the highest level for independent clinical practice in that jurisdiction.
- The degree that qualified me for this license is a master's or doctoral degree obtained from a school holding a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), or a school approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE).

If YES, go to Path A (LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL)

If NO, → Skip to Path B (LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE)

Path A – LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL

Applicants who qualify for this path (as specified in Business and Professions Code (BPC) section [4999.60](#)) must meet all of the following requirements. See the [Application for Licensure – Out-of-State](#) for details.

1. **EXAMINATION:** You must pass the California Law and Ethics Examination. You will be eligible to take this exam after your *Application for Licensure* has been approved.
2. **QUALIFYING DEGREE:** The degree that qualified you for licensure in another United States jurisdiction must be a master's or doctoral degree obtained from a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the USDE, or a school approved by the BPPE.
3. **ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF COUPLES AND FAMILIES:** If the scope of practice for the license you hold in the other state permitted treatment of couples and families without restrictions or additional coursework, you will be permitted to treat couples and families in California if you complete a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education specific to marriage and family therapy in each license renewal cycle. If the scope of your out-of-state license qualifies, you will be provided with written confirmation from the Board of Behavioral Sciences stating that you may treat couples and families

Path A – LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL *(continued)*

After your license has been issued. You must provide a copy of this confirmation letter to your couple and family clients and certain supervisees.

4. **COURSEWORK:** You must complete the coursework described below. Courses must be taken from a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the USDE, a school approved by the BPPE, or an acceptable continuing education provider. Undergraduate coursework cannot be accepted.

REQUIRED CALIFORNIA-SPECIFIC COURSEWORK

1 semester unit = 15 hours; 1 quarter unit = 10 hours; 1 semester unit = 1.5 quarter units

Course	Length	Content Required
California Law and Ethics	12 hours	See BPC section 4999.60(a)(4)(A) for details.
California Cultures and the Social and Psychological Implications of Socioeconomic Position	15 hours or 1 semester unit	Instruction must include an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position. See BPC section 4999.60
Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting in California <i>(In addition to the course provider types listed above, this may be a course sponsored or offered by a professional association or a local, county or state department of health or mental health)</i>	7 hours	Instruction must include detailed knowledge of the California Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting Act (CANRA). It must also include assessment and methods of reporting of sexual assault, neglect, severe neglect, general neglect, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, corporal punishment or injury, and abuse in out-of-home care. The training shall also include physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, crisis counseling techniques, community resources, rights and responsibilities of reporting, consequences of failure to report, caring for a child's needs after a report is made, sensitivity to previously abused children and adults, and implications and methods of treatment for children and adults. See BPC sections 28 and 4999.60 and Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1807
Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention <i>(Does not need to be California-specific)</i>	6 hours of coursework or applied experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required of those submitting an application for licensure on or after January 1, 2021 (<i>otherwise will be required upon license renewal</i>) • See BPC section 4999.66 for details.

Path B – LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Applicants who do not qualify for Path A “Licensure by Credential” must meet the following requirements, specified in Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections [4999.61](#) & [4999.62](#). See the instructions in the [Application for Licensure – Out-of-State](#) for details.

1. **EXAMINATIONS:** You must pass both of the following exams:

- **California Law and Ethics Exam:** You will be eligible to take this exam after issuance of your Associate number or approval of your *Application for Licensure*.
- **National Clinical Mental Health Counselor (NCMHCE) Exam:** If you have already passed this exam, the Board may be able to accept your passing score as follows:
 - If you do not currently hold a license in another state or country, your passing score must be less than seven (7) years old;
 - If you currently hold a license or registration in another state or country and the license or registration is active and in good standing at the time of application and is not revoked, suspended, surrendered, denied or otherwise restricted or encumbered, a passing score of any age will be accepted;
 - The Board receives official verification of your passing score from the [National Board for Certified Counselors](#) (NBCC). Please follow the instructions in the *Application for Licensure*.

If you have not yet passed the NCMHCE, you will be eligible to take it after approval of your *Application for Licensure* and after passing the Law and Ethics Exam.

2. **SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE:** Your experience must be substantially equivalent to California’s requirements as described below.

- **If you are licensed as an LPCC in another state or country at the highest level for independent clinical practice:** Your requirements will depend on whether you were licensed at the highest level for independent clinical practice in a jurisdiction of the United States vs. another country. It will also depend on how many hours were required for that license by the other state or country, as described below:
 - **If you are licensed in another United States jurisdiction that requires at least 3,000 hours of experience:** You do not need to submit verification of experience.
 - **If you are licensed in another country:** You must submit verification of 3,000 hours of substantially equivalent experience that includes 104 supervised weeks.
 - **If you are licensed in another state or country that requires less than 3,000 hours of experience:** You may make up the deficit using time actively licensed in good standing in another state or country at the rate of 100 hours per month licensed at the highest level (up to a maximum of 1,200 hours). You do not need to submit verification of these hours.

If additional hours are needed and will be gained in California, you must first register as an [Associate](#) and comply with all requirements for hours gained in California.

Path B – LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE *(continued)*

- **All other applicants:**

You must submit verification of substantially equivalent supervised experience totaling 3,000 hours as described below:

- Experience must have been supervised by a licensed mental health professional.
- Experience must have been gained within the six (6) years prior to the Board's receipt of your California application.
- If you are not licensed in another state or country at the highest level for independent clinical practice, you must have 104 weeks of supervision.
- If any experience will be obtained in California, you must first register as an [Associate](#) and comply with all requirements for hours gained in California.

For questions about supervised **experience** requirements, contact: bbs.lpcc@dca.ca.gov

3. **QUALIFYING DEGREE:** Your degree must be a master's or doctoral degree obtained from a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the USDE, or a school approved by the BPPE. If your degree was obtained outside of the United States, you must obtain a degree evaluation in accordance with BPC section [4999.40\(c\)](#). See *Summary of LPCC Out-of-State Education Requirements* on the next page for other minimum degree requirements.
4. **DEGREE REMEDIATION:** You must remediate any deficiencies in your degree program where allowed as specified in BPC section [4999.62](#). This may include overall units, core content areas (CCAs), and/or advanced coursework. Certain coursework may be made up while you are registered as an [Associate](#). See the chart on the next page for a summary, the list of CCAs beginning on page 6, and the instructions in the *Application for Licensure* for full details.
5. **ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK:** You must complete coursework in accordance with BPC section [4999.62](#), some of which must be California-specific. See the chart beginning on page 7 for details. Courses may be taken from a school with a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the USDE, a school approved by the BPPE, or an acceptable continuing education provider. Undergraduate coursework cannot be accepted. If it will take you a significant amount of time to complete your coursework, you may want to consider registering as an Associate while you are taking the courses as it will allow you to work as a clinical counselor in California under supervision.

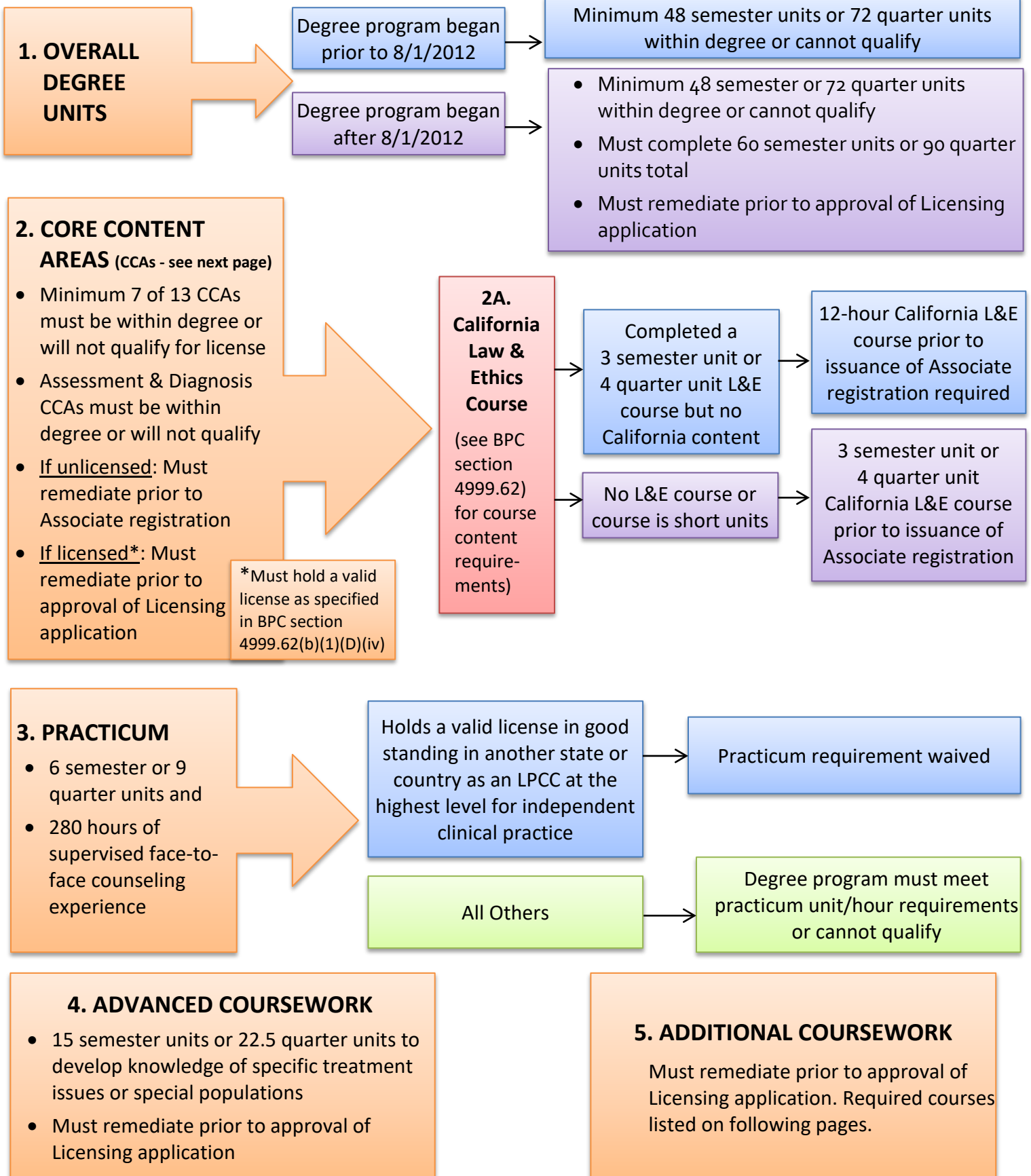
If you are unsure whether your degree or other coursework qualifies (or is deficient), submit your [Associate Professional Clinical Counselor Registration Application](#) or *Application for Licensure* and fee, and we will provide you with the results of the evaluation. For questions about **educational** requirements, contact: bbs.apcc@dca.ca.gov

NOTE: ASSESSMENT OR TREATMENT OF COUPLES AND FAMILIES

If you would like to be authorized to assess or treat couples and families once licensed, submit the [Request for Confirmation of Qualifications to Assess and Treat Couples and Families](#) with your *Application for Licensure*. You may also submit it at a later date.

Summary - LPCC Out-of-State Education Requirements & Remediation

Path B - LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE



2. CORE CONTENT AREAS - LPCC OUT-OF-STATE DEGREES

Path B – LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

3 semester units or 4 quarter units of graduate level coursework is required in each of the following areas. At least 7 of these content areas must be fully within your qualifying degree.

All 13 areas are required prior to licensure. See [BPC section 4999.62](#)

CORE CONTENT AREA:	REQUIRED CONTENT:
1. Counseling & psychotherapeutic theories & techniques	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.
2. Human growth and development across the lifespan	Normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.
3. Career development theories & techniques	Career development decision-making models and interrelationships among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors, including the role of multicultural issues in career development.
4. Group counseling theories & techniques	Principles of group dynamics, group process components, developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work, group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of effectiveness.
5. Assessment, appraisal, & testing of individuals	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. DEGREE CANNOT BE DEFICIENT IN THIS AREA; REMEDIATION NOT PERMITTED
6. Multicultural counseling theories & techniques	Counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, identity development, promoting cultural counseling theories social justice, individual and community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse and techniques populations, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases and prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination.
7. Principles of the diagnostic process	Differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the impact of co-occurring substance use disorders or medical psychological disorders, established diagnostic criteria for mental or emotional disorders, and the treatment modalities and placement criteria within the continuum of care. DEGREE CANNOT BE DEFICIENT IN THIS AREA; REMEDIATION NOT PERMITTED
8. Research and evaluation	Studies that provide an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of evaluation 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.
9. Professional orientation, ethics & law in counseling	Professional ethical standards and legal considerations, licensing law and process, regulatory laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice, counselor-client privilege, confidentiality, the client dangerous to self or others, treatment of minors with or without parental consent, relationship between practitioner's sense of self and human values, functions and relationships with other human service providers, strategies for collaboration, and advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impeded access, equity, and success for clients.

2. CORE CONTENT AREAS - LPCC OUT-OF-STATE DEGREES *(continued)*

Path B – LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

CORE CONTENT AREA:	REQUIRED CONTENT:
10. Psychopharmacology	The biological bases of behavior, basic classifications, indications, and contraindications of commonly prescribed psychopharmacological medications so that appropriate referrals can be made for medication evaluations and so that side effects of those medications can be identified.
11. Addictions counseling	Substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, major approaches to identification, evaluation, treatment, and prevention of substance abuse and addiction, legal and medical aspects of substance abuse, populations at risk, the role of support persons, support systems, and community resources.
12. Crisis or trauma counseling	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.
13. Advanced counseling & psychotherapeutic theories and techniques	The application of counseling constructs, assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions, therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.

5. ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

LPCC OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS

Path B – LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Note: 1 semester unit = 15 hours; 1 quarter unit = 10 hours

1 semester unit = 1.5 quarter units

Course	Length	Content Required
a) Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention	6 hours of coursework or applied experience	All applicants submitting an application on or after January 1, 2021 (<i>otherwise will be required upon license renewal</i>). See BPC section 4999.66
b) Human Sexuality	10 hours	Instruction must include the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction. See BPC sections 25 and 4999.62 and Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1807
c) Spousal/Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection and Intervention	15 hours	Instruction must cover spousal and partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics. See BPC section 4999.62

5. ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK
LPCC OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS *(continued)*
Path B – LICENSURE BY EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Course	Length	Content Required
d) Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting in California	7 hours	Instruction must include detailed knowledge of the California Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting Act (CANRA). It must also include assessment and methods of reporting of sexual assault, neglect, severe neglect, general neglect, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, corporal punishment or injury, and abuse in out-of-home care. The training shall also include physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, crisis counseling techniques, community resources, rights and responsibilities of reporting, consequences of failure to report, caring for a child's needs after a report is made, sensitivity to previously abused children and adults, and implications and methods of treatment for children and adults. See BPC sections 28 and 4999.62 and Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1807.2
e) Aging, Long Term Care and Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse	10 hours	Instruction must cover aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive and psychological aspects of aging, and instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect. See BPC section 4999.62
f) Mental Health Recovery Oriented Care and Methods of Service Delivery	45 hours or 3 semester units	Instruction must cover principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments, including structured meetings with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment and recovery. See BPC section 4999.62
g) California Cultures and the Social and Psychological Implications of Socioeconomic Position	15 hours or 1 semester unit	Instruction must include an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position. See BPC section 4999.62