

PA Department of State: Licensure of Professional Counselors
PA Department of State: Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors

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Pennsylvania State Requirements for Licensed Professional Counselors:

The following information was obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State Title 49 (professional and vocational standards), Chapter 49 (licensure of professional counselors). This is a summary of the current state requirements and may change. Students are expected to visit the State Board website to become familiar with the most up-to-date requirements.

Educational requirements

The Rosemont College master's degree in Counseling satisfies the educational requirements established by the state of Pennsylvania for licensure eligibility. These requirements include a master's degree, 60 graduate level credits, and 700 hours of supervised field experience.

The educational requirements stipulated by the state of Pennsylvania are listed below. The Rosemont College course which meets each educational requirement is listed in parentheses.

1. Human growth and development (CNS 6082 Development Across the Lifespan)
2. Social and cultural foundations (CNS 6060 Multicultural Counseling)
3. Helping relationships (CNS 6010 Counseling Skills and Techniques)
4. Group work (CNS 6002 Group Dynamics and Strategies)
5. Career and lifestyle development (CNS 6070 Career and Lifestyle Counseling)
6. Appraisal (CNS 6025 Assessment & Appraisal in Counseling)
7. Research and program evaluation (CNS 6030 Advanced Research and Evaluation)
8. Professional orientation (CNS 5999 Counseling Theory and Practice, CNS 6021 Clinical Mental Health Counseling; CNS 6065 School Counseling PK-12)
9. Clinical instruction (Practicum and Internship Coursework)

Following Graduation: Graduates must pass a national exam and document supervised clinical experience. General qualifications and requirements also include that the applicant is of good moral character and that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony. Please see section 49.12 General qualifications for licensure for more information.

Supervised clinical experience

The state of Pennsylvania requires **3000 hours of supervised clinical experience** to be completed in no less than 2 years and no more than 6 years, except that no less than 500 hours and no more than 1,800 hours may be credited in any 12 month period. At least half of these hours must be obtained by providing services in one or more of the following areas: assessment,

counseling, consultation, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, psychotherapy, or other therapeutic interventions. The clinical hours may be paid or volunteer experience.

Qualifications for supervisors

The supervisor must be qualified by training and experience to practice in the supervisee's area of supervised practice. The supervisor must either hold an active license as a professional counselor and has five years' experience within the last 10 years as a professional counselor OR hold an active license and has at least a master's degree in a related field and has 5 years' experience within the last 10 years in that field. At least half of the hours must be supervised by an LPC. The supervisor may not be a relative of the supervisee by blood or marriage, may not be involved in a dual relationship, and may not engage in treatment of the supervisee. The supervisor is typically an employee or consultant of the agency. The candidate seeking licensure is allowed to hire an independent supervisor, as long as that supervisor meets qualifications.

The clinical setting

The clinical setting must be organized to prepare the applicant for the practice of counseling consistent with the applicant's education and training. The clinical setting may be an outpatient agency, an inpatient facility, or a private practice.

Examination requirements

Eligible candidates for professional licensure in Pennsylvania may choose one of seven national examinations including the National Counselor Examination given by NBCC, the Practice Examination of Psychological Knowledge given by the North American Association of Master's in Psychology (NAMP), the Examination for Master Addictions Counselor, Advanced Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counselor Examination, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination, Art Therapy Credentials Board-Certified Examination, and the Board Certification Examination given by Certification Board of Music Therapists. Applicants are responsible for directing the testing organization to send examination results to the Board. The passing grade of any examination is determined by the board.

The Application Process:

After meeting all above mentioned requirements, applicants must submit the below information to the State Board:

1. An application for licensure on forms furnished by the Board
2. Application licensure fee required by the Board
3. Two certificates of recommendation on the forms furnished by the Board
4. Affirmation signed by the applicant verifying the information on the application
5. Send exam results to the Board
6. Submit verification of your supervised experience

License renewal

For license renewal, 30 hours of continuing education (including 3 hours of ethics) are required every 2 years.

The National Counselor Examination

Students who graduate with a Master's degree in Counseling typically choose The National Counselor Examination (NCE) given by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). Please visit www.nbcc.org to register for this test and for additional information about the NCE.

The NCE is administered twice a year (in April and October). It is comprised of 200 multiple-choice questions. Candidates have 3 hours and 45 minutes to complete the exam. The exam content represents each of the original eight CACREP content areas and content from the five work behaviors determined by NBCC's national job analysis.

Exam content covers the following eight areas:

Human Growth and Development
Career Development
Group Work
Social and Cultural Diversity
Helping Relationships
Assessment
Research and Program Evaluation
Professional Orientation and Ethics

Work behavior domains:

Fundamental Counseling Issues
Counseling Process
Diagnostic and Assessment Services
Professional Practice
Professional Development, Supervision, and Consultation

Resources for NCE Preparation:

- The "Preparation Guide for the NCE" is available for purchase and additional information can be found at www.nbcc.org.
- Rosemont graduates have recommended "The Encyclopedia of Counseling: Master Review and Tutorial for the National Counselor Exam and State Exams" by Howard

Rosenthal. It is strongly advised to start at the beginning of this book and not omit any sections.

- Online tutoring: <http://www.thomfield.com/test-prep.html>