

San José State University
Department of Counselor Education
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)-Preparation Information

The Department of Counselor Education (EDCO) has been reviewed and accepted by the Board of Behavioral Services (BBS) verifying that our program is in compliance with California State law.

In this informational packet, you will find:

- Terminology
- How is being licensed beneficial?
- Steps to become an LPCC
- Educational Requirements
- PCCI Application Procedures
- Internship Requirements
- Exams
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Memberships/Networking

TERMINOLOGY

- **LPCC** – Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
- **PCCI** – Professional Clinical Counselor Intern
- **Practicum** – Supervised counseling (fieldwork) completed before degree (individual, group, families)
- **Internship** – Supervised counseling completed after degree
- **Direct Client Hours** – Hours spent face-to-face with clients
- **Indirect Hours** – Hours spent not with clients; case management, supervision, completing notes, planning for sessions, communicating with other professionals about clinical work

HOW IS BEING LICENSED BENEFICIAL?

- Broader scope of practice integrating socioemotional, academic, and career
- Can practice in a variety of settings including schools, mental health agencies, VA facilities, jails, private practice, hospitals, and many more; not *where* you practice it's *how* you practice
- Eligible for jobs comparable to LMFTs
- Reimbursement by Medi-Cal and insurance
- Lends credibility to you as a mental health professional
- Competitive for jobs in medical and nonprofit sectors (provides job stability amidst budget concerns)
- Transferable between states (may need to take additional steps, but being licensed in one state often expedites licensure in other states)

STEPS TO BECOME AN LPCC

1. Complete M.A. through EDCO
2. Apply to become a PCCI
3. Complete Internship
4. Pass 2 Exams

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Did you start the EDCO program BEFORE or AFTER August 1, 2012?

	AFTER 8/1/2012	BEFORE 8/1/2012
Required Semester Units	• 60*	• 48
Core Content Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Areas Total • 10 Areas MUST be completed in degree program • <i>**232, 282, 283 MUST be taken in program and cannot be remediated**</i> • All 13 must be completed before education can be approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Areas Total • 7 MUST be completed in degree program • All 13 must be completed before education can be approved
Supervised Fieldwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 6 semester units • Minimum 280 face-to-face hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 6 semester units • Minimum 150 face-to-face hours
Advanced Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 15 semester units • Examples include: 218, 248, 298 • PPSC requires 227 and 287 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 12 semester units
Additional Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered in EDCO courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered in EDCO courses • Can be taken online
SJSU Advising Form	• AFTER 8/1/2012	• BEFORE 8/1/2012
PCCI Application Degree Program Certification	• FORM B (pp. 17-18)	• FORM A (pp. 14-16)

*Students interested in completing the PPSC as well will complete 3 additional units of fieldwork (292) for a total of 63 units.

PCCI APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- After completing your degree through EDCO, you will apply to become a Professional Clinical Counselor Intern (PCCI) using the PCCI Application Packet:
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf
- Step 1: Degree Program Certification
 - Complete advising form (see SJSU website)
 - If you began before 8/1/2012, complete FORM A, pp. 14-16
 - If you began after 8/1/2012, complete FORM B, pp. 17-18
 - **Submit transcript, advising form, and completed form to Dr. Cara Maffini**
 - Transcript and form will be signed off by the Department of Counselor Education, Lurie College of Education, GAPE, and the Registrar's office
 - Registrar will call you when form is signed
- Step 2: Complete Application
 - Application (pp. 11-13)
 - Get Fingerprinted (pp. 22-26)
 - Include Degree Program Certification form with application
 - Include transcripts
- Step 3: Submit materials to the BBS. The BBS will review your materials and assign you a PCCI number. You need your intern number to begin collecting internship hours.
- You may begin counting post-degree hours before you have a PCCI number *only* if you submit your application within 90 days of completing your degree.

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- You must have a PCCI number to begin internship.
- Total Required Internship Experience: 3,000 Hours
- **Direct counseling work experience** (minimum 1,750 hours)
 - ✓ Individual Therapy/Counseling (no minimum or maximum)
 - ✓ Group therapy or counseling (maximum 500 hours)
 - ✓ Telephone Counseling (maximum 250 hours)
 - ✓ At least 150 hours of clinical experience must be gained in a hospital or community mental health setting
- **Non-counseling work experience** (maximum 1,250 hours)
 - ✓ Administering and evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing progress or process notes (maximum 250 hours)
 - ✓ Workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences (maximum 250 hours)
 - ✓ Client centered advocacy
 - ✓ Supervision (individual and group)
- **Supervision Requirements** (from BBS website): *In order to claim any work experience within a week towards the required 3,000 hours of experience, a registrant must receive at least one hour of individual supervision or two hours of group supervision. A PCCI who earns in excess of 10 hours of direct counseling work experience in a week must obtain an additional hour of individual or two hours of group supervision. Supervisor must be licensed (LPCC, LMFT, LCSW, Licensed Psychologist or Psychiatrist).*
- **A maximum of 40 hours of work experience may be gained in a week
- Keep track of your hours using the following BBS form:
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpc_wkylog.pdf
- For additional questions about being a PCCI, check out this information:
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/pcci_faq.pdf

EXAMS

- California Law and Ethics Exam – **Taken during the first year of having your PCCI number**
 - National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) – Taken after all 3000 hours re completed
- *You must first pass the CA Law & Ethics exam before you can take the NCMHCE
- *You can buy books and study materials to help you prepare for the exams. For example, AATBS has books and provides practice exams.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What if I am missing courses required for the LPCC-Preparation?

A: As long as you have met the minimum core content areas required within the degree, you can remediate the missing full course either through EDCO or through one of the BBS-approved providers:

<http://calpcc.org/graduate-course-providers>

Q: Can I get all of my courses signed off by EDCO/SJSU even though I am missing a core content course or am currently taking it outside of EDCO?

A: No. We need to verify that all coursework has been completed before we (EDCO/SJSU) can sign off on it. The only exception is the “additional coursework” for those who began before 8/1/2012. Please see question below for more information.

Q: I already graduated from EDCO. Can I still apply for the LPCC?

A: Yes. If you started before 8/1/2012, you must have completed 7 of the 9 core content areas before you graduated. If you started after 8/1/2012, you must have completed 10 of the 13 core content areas before you graduated. For both tracks, you must have completed 6 units of 292. As of 2017, law and ethics (EDCO 232), diagnosis (EDCO 282), and assessment (EDCO 283) must be completed within the degree and cannot be remediated (regardless of when you began your program). As long as you have met the minimum requirements, you may be eligible to pursue licensure.

Q: What if I didn’t complete 6 units of 292 before I graduated?

A: Sadly, your degree is not eligible for licensure.

Q: How do I make up the content for the “additional coursework” (for those pre-8/1/2012).

A: Easy! You can take the courses online. Two great resources are:

<http://calpcc.org/ceu-course-providers>

<http://www.jfku.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Continuing-Extended-Education/OnlineCourses.html>

**Make sure you are taking the correct course for the correct number of hours/units.

Q: Do I need to complete the “additional coursework” (for pre-8/1/2012) before I submit my coursework approval form to the department?

A: No. You do not need to have those completed before we verify your completion of the 9 core content areas. However, you do need those done before you submit your application to the BBS.

For more information, check the BBS and CALPCC websites:

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lpcc_program/

<http://calpcc.org/lpcc>

Additional Questions?

Email Dr. Maffini at cara.maffini@sjsu.edu

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:
MORE INFORMATION & NETWORKING!**

- California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC)
 - <http://calpcc.org/lpcc/>
 - Local networking community
 - Annual conference with professional development opportunities
 - Has information specific to California laws, guidelines, and LPCC-specific information
 - Student membership dues: \$40/year
- American Counseling Association (ACA)
 - <http://www.counseling.org/>
 - National community
 - Annual conference
 - Student membership dues: \$96/year

- Membership includes liability insurance
- California Association of School Counselors (CASC)
 - Local and state community
 - A growing number of California school counselors are becoming licensed
 - Annual conference
 - Student membership dues: \$45/year
 - Liability insurance only costs \$22 for student members
- American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
 - Local and national community
 - A growing number of California school counselors are becoming licensed
 - Student membership dues: \$69
- American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division E: Counseling & Human Development
 - [http://www.aera.net/DivisionE/CounselingHumanDevelopment\(E\)/tabid/11208/Default.aspx](http://www.aera.net/DivisionE/CounselingHumanDevelopment(E)/tabid/11208/Default.aspx)
 - National community
 - Annual conference
 - Student membership dues: \$55/year