

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

*For students who began the EDCO program **BEFORE** 8/1/2012*

The Counselor Education Department (EDCO) has been reviewed and accepted by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) which has verified that our program is currently (as of August 2020) in compliance with California State law.

In this informational packet, you will find:

- Terminology
- Why being licensed is beneficial?
- Steps to become an LPCC
- **Education Requirements**
- **Applying to become an APCC** (post master's graduation)
- Exams
- Internship Requirements
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Professional Memberships/Networking

TERMINOLOGY

- **LPCC** – Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor - a CA state licensure program administrated by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS)
- **APCC** - Associate Professional Clinical Counselor - obtained after completion of EDCO master's degree program through application to the BBS to commence clinical internship hours
- **Practicum** or **Field Study** – Supervised counseling (fieldwork – EDCO 292) completed before degree that includes clinical counseling of individuals, groups, or 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, LCSWs
- 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 48-unit Master's degree through EDCO
2. Apply to become an APCC
3. Complete post-degree Internship hours
4. Pass 2 Exams

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Requirements - 48-unit Master's degree including:

	Content Areas	EDCO Courses
1) Core Content Areas 9 Core Content areas 7 Areas MUST be completed in degree program - All 9 areas must be completed before education can be approved	A. Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques	EDCO 215
	B. Human growth and development across the lifespan	EDCO 268
	C. Career development theories and techniques	EDCO 266
	D. Group counseling theories and technique	EDCO 219 or EDCO 279
	E. Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals	EDCO 283
	F. Multicultural counseling theories and techniques	EDCO 244 or EDCO 280
	G. Principles of the diagnostic process	EDCO 282
	H. Research and evaluation	EDCO 221
	I. Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling	EDCO 232
2) Supervised Fieldwork: Minimum 6 units		EDCO 292, EDCO 292
3) Advanced Coursework: Minimum 12 units		
4) Additional Content Missing "Additional Coursework" can be taken online: - http://calpcc.org/ceu-course-providers - http://www.jfku.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Continuing-Extended-Education/OnlineCourses.html	• Alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency (15 hours)	EDCO 293
	• Human sexuality (10 hours)	EDCO 268
	• Psychopharmacology (2 semester units)	N/A
	• Spousal or partner abuse (15 hours)	EDCO 293
	• Child abuse (7 hours)	EDCO 293
	• California law & professional ethics (18 hours)	EDCO 232
	• Aging and long-term care (10 hours)	EDCO 268
	• Crisis and trauma (15 hours)	EDCO 285

APPLYING TO BECOME AN APCC

- Having EDCO degree you may be eligible to apply for your APCC number. See the "Application for Associate Clinical Counselor Registration" at https://bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf
- Submit to Dr. Hu or Dr. Mena the following forms:**
 - Completed EDCO **Advising Form**
 - Form A** (in APCC application packet)
 - Email Dr. Xiaolu Hu (xiaolu.hu@sjsu.edu) or Dr. Dolores Mena (dolores.mena@sjsu.edu) with questions and concerns before you submit.
 - The department verifies your SJSU classes and any formally transferred units, if any.
- Submit to BBS:** https://bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf
 - APCC Application**
 - Official transcript(s)**
 - Fingerprinting** – For instructions for Live Scan Finger Printing, go to: https://bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf
 - Form A** will be signed by Dr. Mena. Based on the state requirements, do not open the envelope. Your Form A MUST remain sealed.

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 are completed
 - * You must first pass the California Law and 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.

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Your internship placement, experience, and supervision are not related to the EDCO program. You should follow the BBS guidelines to fulfill their internship requirements, which may include

- You must have an APCC number to begin your internship.
- Total Required Internship Experience = 3,000 hours including:
 - ✓ **Direct counseling work experience** (minimum 1,750 hours)
 - ✓ **Non-counseling work experience** (maximum 1,250 hours)
 - ✓ **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 within that week. An APCC 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. **Your supervisor must be licensed** (LPCC, LMFT, LCSW, Licensed Psychologist or Psychiatrist).*
- 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 APCC, check out this information: http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/pcci_faq.pdf

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What if I am missing courses required for LPCC preparation?

A: As long as you have met the minimum core content areas required within the degree, you can remediate the missing course(s) through a BBS-approved provider: <http://calpcc.org/graduate-course-providers>

Q: Can I get all of my courses signed off by EDCO 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) can sign off on it. Note that we can only verify coursework taken within the EDCO graduate program and units formally transferred to SJSU.

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

A: Yes. If you started before August 1, 2012, you must have completed the minimum requirements within your degree, which include: (a) 7 of the 9 core content areas; (b) 6 units of EDCO 292; (c) 15 units of advanced coursework; and (d) master's degree must contain at least 48 units. Note that as of 2017, law and ethics (EDCO 232), diagnosis (EDCO 282), and assessment (EDCO 283) must be completed within the EDCO master's degree program and cannot be remediated.

Q: What if I did not complete the LPCC minimum requirements before I graduated?

A: Unfortunately, your degree is NOT eligible for LPCC licensure.

For more information, check the BBS and CALPCC websites:

- http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lpcc_program/
- <http://calpcc.org/lpcc>

Additional Questions?

Email Dr. Xiaolu Hu at xiaolu.hu@sjsu.edu or Dr. Mena at dolores.mena@sjsu.edu