

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 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**
- **Applying to become a PCCI** (post-graduation)
- Exams
- Internship Requirements
- 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, 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 M.A. degree through EDCO
2. Apply to become a PCCI
3. Complete post-degree Internship hours
4. Pass 2 Exams

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	Content	EDCO Courses
48-unit Master's degree		
Core Content Areas		
○ 9 Core Content areas	1. Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques	EDCO 215
○ 7 Areas MUST be completed in degree program	2. Human growth and development across the lifespan	EDCO 268
○ All 9 must be completed before education can be approved	3. Career development theories and techniques	EDCO 266
	4. Group counseling theories and techniques	EDCO 219 or EDCO 279
	5. Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals	EDCO 283
	6. Multicultural counseling theories and techniques	EDCO 244 or EDCO 280
	7. Principles of the diagnostic process	EDCO 282
	8. Research and evaluation	EDCO 221
	9. Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling	EDCO 232
Supervised Fieldwork Minimum 6 units		EDCO 292, EDCO 292
Advanced Coursework Minimum 12 unites		
Additional Content Missing 'Additional Coursework' can be taken online:	• Alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency (15 hours)	EDCO 293
- http://calpcc.org/ceu-course-providers	• Human sexuality (10 hours)	EDCO 268
- http://www.jfku.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Continuing-Extended-Education/OnlineCourses.html	• Psychopharmacology (2 semester units)	
	• 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 A PCCI

1. Once you have completed the Master's degree (and your degree is posted on your transcript), you are eligible to apply for your PCCI number. See the Professional Clinical Counselor Intern (PCCI) Application Packet: http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf
2. **Submit to Dr. Xiaolu Hu (xiaolu.hu@sjsu.edu):**
 - **Completed Advising Form** from EDCO website
 - **Form A** (fill out in accordance with advising form)
 - **Transcript(s)** -- include SJSU and any other transcripts if you took classes at other institutions
3. **Submit to BBS:**
 - **PCCI Application** (pp. 11-13)
 - **Official transcript(s)**
 - **Fingerprinting** (pp. 22-26)
 - **Form A** once its signed by university

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.

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

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. 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: Unfortunately, your degree is not eligible for licensure.

Q: How do I make up the content for the “additional coursework”?

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. Xiaolu Hu at xiaolu.hu@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