

San José State University
Counselor Education Department
Professional Clinical Counselor (PCC) Preparation Information

*For students who began the **Master's degree** program **AFTER** 8/1/2012*

The SJSU Counselor Education Department (EDCO) has been approved by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) to offer coursework that meets educational requirements for professional clinical counselor licensure in California.

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 degree)
- 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 an approved 60 semester unit master's degree program and submission of an application to the BBS to commence the required post-master's degree 3,000 clinical internship hours
- **Practicum** or **Field Study** – Supervised counseling (fieldwork – EDCO 292) completed within the master's degree program and *before* the master's degree is conferred; includes 280 face-to-face clinical counseling hours with individuals, families, or groups
- **Internship** – Supervised counseling (3,000 hours) completed *after* a candidate's master's degree is conferred
- **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 but *how* you practice
- Eligible for jobs comparable to LMFTs and LCSWs
- Potential 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 APCC

1. Complete 60-unit MA + PCC Master's degree program
2. Apply to the BBS become an APCC
3. Complete post-master's degree internship hours (3,000)
4. Pass 2 Exams

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Requirements - 60-unit Master's degree including:

	Content Areas	EDCO Courses
1) Core Content Areas	A. Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques	EDCO 215
• 13 Core Content areas	B. Human growth and development across the lifespan	EDCO 268
• 10 Areas MUST be completed in degree Program	C. Career development theories and techniques	EDCO 266
<i>** Among the 10 areas, EDCO 232, 282, and 283 MUST be completed within the EDCO MA program; they cannot be remediated.</i>	D. Group counseling theories and technique	EDCO 219 or 279
	E. Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals	EDCO 283
	F. Multicultural counseling theories and techniques	EDCO 244 or 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
	J. Psychopharmacology	EDCO 289 (Summer)
	K. Addictions counseling	EDCO 293
	L. Crisis and trauma counseling	EDCO 285
• All 13 areas must be completed before education can be approved	M. Advanced counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques	EDCO 288
2) Supervised Fieldwork: Minimum 6 units; minimum 280 direct client hours		EDCO 292, 292
3) Advanced Coursework: Minimum 15 units		
4) Additional Content	• Principles of mental health recovery-oriented care	EDCO 232, 292
- Covered in EDCO courses	• Opportunity to meet with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services	EDCO 292
	• Case management and systems of care for the severely mentally ill	EDCO 292
	• Child abuse assessment and reporting (7 hours)	EDCO 232, 293
	• Aging, long-term care, elderly and dependent adult abuse/neglect	EDCO 232, 268
	• Spousal/partner abuse assessment & intervention	EDCO 285
	• Integrate an understanding of various cultures & the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position	EDCO 244, 280
	• Multicultural development and cross-cultural interaction	EDCO 244, 280
	• The effects of socioeconomic status on the treatment and available resources	EDCO 248
	• Alcoholism & substance abuse & dependence	EDCO 293
	• Human sexuality	EDCO 268

	MA with LPCC	MA with LPCC + PPSC
Required Semester Units	• 60	• 63
Core Content Areas	• See above	• See above
Supervised Fieldwork	• 292 (at least 2 sections)	• 292 (at least 3 sections)
• Minimum 6 semester units		
• Minimum 280 direct client hours:	Face-to-face individual, family and/or group counseling	
Advanced Coursework - Minimum 15 units	• Required: EDCO 218, 248, 298 • Select 2 more from: 244, 267, 280, 286, 287, 289, 298	• Required: 218, 227, 286, 287, 298

APPLYING TO BECOME AN APCC

If you completed a minimum of 60 units and at least 10 of the 13 Core Content Areas for the PCC within your EDCO master's degree, you may be eligible to apply for your APCC number.

- **Note that as of 2017, law and ethics (EDCO 232), diagnosis (EDCO 282), and assessment (EDCO 283) must have been completed within the EDCO master's degree program and cannot be remediated.** For more information, see the "Application for Associate Clinical Counselor Registration" at https://bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf

1. **Submit to Dr. Dolores Mena (Dolores.Mena@sjsu.edu) the following forms:**

- **Completed EDCO MA + PCC Advising Form**
- **Professional Clinical Counselor In-State Degree Program Certification Form B – Only complete the top section of each page (can be downloaded from the BBS website under the Forms tab: <https://bbs.ca.gov/applicants/lpcc.html>)**
 - The department verifies your SJSU classes and any formally transferred units, if any.

2. **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 B** will be completed and signed by Dr. Mena and emailed directly to the BBS.

EXAMS

- **California Law and Ethics Exam** – Taken *during the first year* of having your APCC number
- **National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE)** – Taken after all 3,000 post-master's degree hours are completed
 - *You must pass the California Law and Ethics exam before you can take the NCMHCE.
 - *You may purchase books and study materials to help you prepare for the exams. For example, AATBS has books and provides practice exams.

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS (for 3,000 post-master's degree hours)

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
- For additional questions about being an 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 PCC 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 APCC?

A: Yes. To be eligible for the LPCC, you must have completed the minimum requirements within your degree: (a) 10 of the 13 core content areas; (b) 6 units of 292; (c) 15 units of advanced coursework; (d) MA degree must contain at least 60 units. **Note that as of 2017, law and ethics (EDCO 232), diagnosis (EDCO 282), and assessment (EDCO 283) must have been 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 would NOT be 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. Mena at Dolores.Mena@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
- Provides information specific to California laws, guidelines, and LPCC-specific information
- Student membership dues: \$40/year (as of 2020)

American Counseling Association (ACA): <http://www.counseling.org/>

- National community
- Annual conference
- Student membership dues: \$105/year (as of 2020)
- Membership includes liability insurance

California Association of School Counselors (CASC): <https://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org/>

- Local and state community
- A growing number of California school counselors are becoming licensed
- Annual conference
- Student membership dues: \$45/year (as of 2020)
- Liability insurance available for purchase for \$22 (as of 2020) for student members

American School Counselor Association (ASCA): <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/>

- Local and national community
- A growing number of California school counselors are becoming licensed
- Student membership dues: \$69/year (as of 2020)

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: \$65/year (as of 2020)