

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

*For students who began the **Master's degree** program **BEFORE** 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.

TERMINOLOGY

- **LPCC** (Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor) - a CA state licensure program administered 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 LPCC

1. Complete EDCO 's 48-unit Master's degree program
2. Apply to the BBS to become an APCC
3. Complete post-master's 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 EDCO 268
	B. Human growth and development across the lifespan	EDCO 266
	C. Career development theories and techniques	EDCO 219 or
	D. Group counseling theories and technique	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

If you completed a minimum of 48 units and at least 7 of the 9 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 the following forms:

- **Completed EDCO MA + PCC Advising Form**
- **Professional Clinical Counselor In-State Degree Program Certification Form A – 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 Your Application to the 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
- **Professional Clinical Counselor In-State Degree Program Certification Form A** 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 PCCI number
- **National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE)** – Taken after all 3000 post-master's degree hours are completed
 - * You must 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
- 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. If you started before August 1, 2012, you must have completed the minimum requirements within your degree, which include: (a) a minimum of 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 have been completed within the EDCO master's degree program and cannot be remediated.**

Q: What if I did not complete the PCC 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. Mena at Dolores.Mena@sjsu.edu