



## **North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors AASCB State Board Report**

### **1. When did your state achieve licensure?**

North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (NCBLPC) was established under provisions of the Licensed Professional Counselors Act (LPC Act), which was ratified on July 24, 1993 as Article 24, Chapter 90, General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, to become effective July 1, 1994. The LPC Act regulates the activities of persons who render counseling services to the public.

### **2. Is your statute a title act, practice act, or both?**

The Board operates under the provisions of NC General Statutes Article 24 Chapter 90, which is both a practice and title act.

### **3. How many professional counselor licensees do you have?**

The total number of licensees as of December 31, 2014 is 7,130. The breakdown by license type is:

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA) – 1,622

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) – 5,004

Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPCS) – 504

### **4. How is your board structured: Stand alone**

### **5. What levels of licensure/registration/certification do you offer in your state? (Ex. Associate License, Registration, Full License)**

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA)

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPCS)

### **5. What advanced degrees does your board accept for licensure as of 2014?**

The minimum requirement is a master's degree in counseling or a related field from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. NCBLPC also accepts doctoral degrees in counseling or a related field from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

### **6. How many colleges/universities in your state offer degrees in counseling? 17**

### **7. How many programs in your state are accredited by CACREP?**

There are 13 colleges/universities in the state that offer a total of 34 CACREP accredited programs.

### **8. What tests are used by your board for licensure?**

1. Applicants for licensure must pass one of the following national exams:

(1) the National Counselor Examination (NCE);

- (2) the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE); or
- (3) the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRC)

2. In addition, applicants must complete a no fail jurisprudence exam within six months prior to applying.

**9. What changes have been made, if any, to your statute or rules in the last two years (please summarize with links if appropriate).**

NCBLPC recently had a significant revision of NC Administrative Code Title 21 Chapter 53. The revision included 28 rule changes, which became effective July 1, 2014. Some of the reasons for rule changes were to provide greater clarity, to keep with the evolution of the profession, to clarify administrative changes, and to allow for the use of technology. The updated rules can be found on NCBLPC's website. Some of the significant changes include, but are not limited to:

- Additions of New Rules
  - .0310 - Foreign Degree Applicants – Provides documentation requirements for licensure for those applying on the basis of a foreign degree.
  - .0311 - Requirements for Candidate for Licensure Pending (CFL-P) Status – Allows applicants to be designated as a "Candidate for Licensure Pending" status. This status gives applicants waiting for documents (official transcripts, official exam scores, or Professional Disclosure Statement) the opportunity to be presented at the next scheduled Board meeting without those documents being approved. Approved CFL-Ps then have 60 days from the Board meeting to supply the required documentation.
  - .0901 - Certificate of Registration for a Professional Entity – Provides registration guidance for Professional Corporations (PC), Professional Associations (PA), and Professional Limited Liability Companies (PLLC).
  - .0902 - Renewal of Certificate of Registration for a Professional Entity - Provides renewal requirements for PCs, PAs, and PLLCs.
- Revised Rules
  - .0205 - Counseling Experience - Removed experience shall be gained at a rate of not less than eight hours per week. However, it still cannot more be gained a rate of more than 40 hours per week.
  - .0206 - Graduate Counseling Experience – Changed the practicum and internship requirements for applicants enrolled in a Master's program on or after July 1, 2015.
  - .0208 - Supervised Professional Practice – increased the minimum hours of group clinical supervision per 40 hours of counseling practice from 1 hour to two hours.
  - .0209 - Qualified Clinical Supervisor – All supervisors have to complete a minimum of 10 contact hours of continuing education in professional knowledge and competency in the field of counseling supervision completed every two years.
  - .0304 - Applicants Licensed in Other States – If an applicant is licensed to practice counseling by a Board in another state, the applicant shall apply for licensure with the North Carolina Board and shall meet the following requirements:
    - (1) shall have a minimum of five years of full time counseling experience, or eight years of part time counseling experience, or a combination of full time and part time counseling experience equivalent to five years of full time counseling experience, within 10 years directly prior to application;
    - (2) shall have a minimum of 2500 hours of direct client contact;
    - (3) shall have an active independent license that does not require supervision, and be in good standing as a licensed professional counselor in another state for a minimum of two years directly prior to application; and
    - (4) shall comply with all other applicable rules for licensure as a licensed professional counselor.
  - 0403 - Alleged Violations – Changed to allow complainants the ability to file complaints anonymously and/or electronically.

- .0501 - Application Fee & .0503 Renewal and Other Fees – Increase application and renewal fees from \$100 to \$200 and late fees from \$25 to \$75.
- .0603 - Continuing Education – Changed documentation requirements for continuing education and added Board continuing education audit information.
- .0701 - Licensed Professional Counselor Associate – Revised coursework requirements to be more aligned with current educational needs of the counseling profession.

**Please board members' emails in order to include them in the AASCB list serve:**

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