

Professional Organizations

Tanisha L. Dixon

Nyack College

American Counseling Association

Member Benefits

- INSURANCE
 - Professional liability insurance
 - Life disability and dental insurance
 - Liberty Mutual Insurance (auto and home) programs
 - Long-term care insurance
- Career guidance and opportunities: chances for help with resumes, mock interviews, job postings and job searches.
- Community and connection: connect to colleagues in your interest area as well as to other counselors in your neighborhood.
- Publication and knowledge center: access to journals online and newsletters.
- Advocacy and professional representation: The latest information on legislation, funding, and support at the national and state level that affect our counseling profession.
- Discounts: discounts for members only from a wide variety of merchants.

Member Fees

- Professional membership -\$165.
- Affiliate/Regular membership - \$165.
- New professional membership - \$94
- Student membership - \$94

Annual Events

- Annual National Conference
- Leadership training

Divisions

- Association for Adult Development and Aging: Serves as a focal point for information sharing, professional development and advocacy related to adult development and aging issues; addresses counseling concerns across the lifespan.
- Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling: Promotes the effective use of assessment in the counseling profession.
- Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling: Aims to focus on the training needs and offer support to counselors who work with children and adolescents.
- Association for Creativity in Counseling: Its goal is to promote greater awareness, advocacy, and understanding of diverse and creative approaches to counseling.
- American College Counseling Association: The focus is to foster student development in colleges, universities, and community colleges.
- Association for Counselor Education and Supervision: Emphasizes the need for quality education and supervision of counselors for all work settings.
- Association for Humanistic Counseling: Provides a forum for the exchange of information about humanistically-oriented counseling practices.
- Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling: Educates counselors to the unique needs of client identity development.
- Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development: Strives to improve cultural, ethnic, and racial empathy and understanding by programs to advance and sustain personal growth.

- American Mental Health Counselors Association: Represents mental health counselors, advocating for client-access to quality services within the healthcare industry
- American Rehabilitation Counseling Association: This division is concerned with enhancing the development of people with disabilities throughout their lifespan.
- American School Counselor Association: Promotes school counseling professionals and interest in activities that affect the personal educational, and development of students.
- Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling: Devoted to professionals who believe that spiritual, ethical, religious, and other human values are essential to the full development of the person and to the discipline of counseling.
- Association for Specialist in Group Work: Provides professional leadership in the field of group work.
- Counselors for Social Justice: A community of counselors, counselor educators, graduate students, and school community leaders who seek equity and an end to oppression and injustice affecting clients, students, counselors, families, communities, schools, workplaces, governments, and other social and institutional systems.
- International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors: Advocates for the development of effective counseling and rehabilitation programs for people with substance abuse problems, other addictions, and adult and/or juvenile public offenders.
- International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors: Helps develop healthy family systems through prevention, education, and therapy.
- Military and Government Counseling Association: Dedicated to counseling clients and their families in local, state, and federal government or in military- related agencies.

- National Career Development Association: Provides professional development, connection, publications, standards, and advocacy to career development professionals.
- National Employment Counseling: Offers professional leadership to people who counsel in employment and/or career development settings.

Contribution to my development

As a student joining ACA allows me to be a part of one of the largest professional organizations for counselors at a reduced rate. It provides an avenue for me to network and connect with many professional counselors, while providing access and education on the various divisions of ACA. It also provides valuable and current information that I would need to keep abreast of in my profession. The resources benefits, and discounts provided are also numerous, such as discounts to the annual conference, savings on CE's, liability insurance, and career resources. As a student I would be allowed the opportunity to be an advocate for my profession, while being aware of the current issues relevant to counseling. As a future clinician ACA would continue to be an invaluable resource needed as a licensed professional counselor.

The American School Counselor Association

Member Benefits

- Access to Professional School Counseling Journals: full-text articles as well as archives online.
- ASCA School Counseling magazine which addresses some of the issues that counselors face on a daily basis.
- Discounts on various other publications with relevant information about different topics in the field of school counseling.
- Professional Development opportunities such as webinars, local workshops, training in ethics and other relevant areas.
- Liability Insurance which covers both professional and student counselors.
- Access to free resources from the ASCA SCENE Library online.
- Online Community.
- Monthly ASCA newsletter.
- Access to the ASCA logo for use on business cards, websites and letterheads.

Fees

- Professional membership - \$129.
- Retired membership - \$69.
- Student membership - \$69.
- Affiliate membership - \$129

Annual Events

- Annual Conference.

Divisions

- 50 states charter divisions and the District of Columbia

Contributions to my development

As a student and a future clinician the American School Counselor Association would provide knowledge, support, resources and networking opportunities with professional school counselors.

American Mental Health Counseling Association

Membership Benefits

- Discounted rates on Professional Liability Insurance with CPH & Associates.
- Student members receive free Professional Liability Insurance through CPH.
- Savings on auto and home insurance through Liberty Mutual Insurance.
- The opportunity to earn continuing education credits through webinars.
- Discount on Enhanced Health & Wellness benefits.
- Member Rewards program which provides discounts on various companies such as AMC Theatres, Sprint, Walt Disney World, Macy's and many more.
- Networking opportunities with professional organizations, colleagues, government agencies and consumer groups.
- Free copy of their digital monthly e-newsletter and access to the quarterly journal of Mental Health Counseling.
- Discounted student rates for the AMHCA Annual Conference.

- Discounts on various websites and magazines relevant to mental health counselors.
- Information and training on the Tele Mental Health Institute.
- Receive current advocacy updates relevant to our profession; and information on how to support advocacy initiatives in Congress and state legislatures.
- Access to job listings.

Fees

- Clinical- \$183.00: Master's degree or higher in counseling or a related field covering the basic principles of mental health counseling from a regionally accredited institution. Primary work is in direct delivery of counseling services. Holds state licensure or certification if available, or Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor if licensure/certification is not available. This is a voting membership.
- Regular-\$183: Master's degree or higher in counseling or a related field covering the basic principles of mental health counseling from a regionally accredited institution. Voting membership type.
- Student-\$84.00: Enrolled at least half-time in a graduate program in counseling or related discipline. Eligibility for up to 3 years only. This is a non-voting membership type.
- Professional Associate-\$84.00- Completed Master's or Doctoral degree and currently in first or second year of practice. Eligibility for 2 years only. Non-voting membership type.
- Retired-\$79: This is a voting membership type.
- Associate-\$79.00: Primary work responsibilities are in human resources/personnel or supporter of the professional work of AMHCA. Non- voting membership type.

Annual Events

- There is an AMHCA Annual Conference held every year in July

Divisions

- AMHCA has several chartered chapters throughout the United States. They are designated through your state.

Contribution to my development

The American Counseling Association would contribute to my development as a student and future clinician because it is the leading organization for licensed mental health counselors. The information and resources it provides, are specific and relevant, to the needs of a licensed professional counselor in the various settings that I would be able to practice in as a student and a future clinician.

Christian Association for Psychological Studies**Membership Benefits**

- Provides the opportunity to fellowship and network with other Christians in the behavioral sciences.
- Access to the Journal of Psychology and Christianity.
- Professional listing in the CAPS online directory.

- Networking opportunities especially through local chapters.
- Discounted registration fees for the Annual International Conference as well as regional and local conferences.
- Access to CAPS monthly email newsletter,
- Continuing education credit opportunities provided.
- Special discounts on auto rental, insurance, books and other services.

Fees

- Regular Membership-\$110: Open to those who have earned an accredited degree and or professional certification in a behavioral science field. May vote and hold elected office in CAPS.
- Associate Membership-\$60- Primarily engaged in a career in accord with the purposes of CAPS. Unable to vote or hold elected office in CAPS.
- Spousal Membership-\$60: Available to the spouse of a full dues-paying Regular Member who also qualifies for Regular Membership. May vote and hold elected office in CAPS.
- Student Membership-\$50: Open to full-time undergraduate and graduate students pursuing training in accord with the purposes of CAPS. Not allowed to vote or hold office in CAPS.

Annual Events

- CAPS International Conference held yearly

Divisions

- There is an Eastern division which lists the provinces and states included.

- There are also chapters located in various states and universities.

Contribution to my development

Joining the Christian Association for Psychological Studies would be beneficial to me as a student and future clinician because it provides Christians like myself a professional network and resources that includes “the relationship between Christianity and the behavioral sciences at both the clinical/counseling and the theoretical/research levels” (<https://caps.net/about-us>).

National Board of Certified Counselors

Requirements

- Must hold a master’s degree with a major study in counseling from a regionally accredited program, including at least 48 semester or 72 hours of graduate level academic credit in counseling. There is also a list of course work requirements listed on their website that must be represented within your master’s degree.
- There must be a minimum of 100 hours of post graduate counseling supervision over a minimum 24 month period. This requirement is waived in certain circumstances: for graduates of CACREP-accredited programs; for fully state-licensed professional counselors; for those enrolled in a regionally accredited doctoral program in counseling.
- Endorsement from a professional colleague who holds a master’s degree or higher in a mental health field. The individual providing endorsement cannot be related to the applicant and cannot be the same individual verifying supervision.

- There must be documentation of having completed at least 3,000 hours of post-graduate counseling work experience over a minimum 24 month period. The requirement is waived in certain circumstance: for graduates from CACREP-accredited programs; for fully state-licensed professional counselors; for those enrolled in a regionally accredited doctoral program in counseling.
- Board certified counselors are required to adhere to the NBCC's ethical policies, including the Code of Ethics and the Policy Regarding the Provision of Distance Professional Services.
- A passing score on the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examinations.
- Once certified you will need to meet ongoing requirements in order to maintain your NCC, including continuing education, fees and adherence to ethics policies.

Benefits

- Representation to members of the public and employers that you have voluntarily met high national standards for education, training and experience.
- The use of the NCC certification mark.
- Enhances your professional reputation and credibility, and provides you with a sense of personal accomplishment.
- Access to low-cost liability insurance.
- Provides opportunities for you to contribute to advocacy efforts for the counseling profession.

- Increases your opportunities for career advancement and increased earnings.
- Demonstrates your commitment to continued professional development and skills expansion.
- Offers both you and your clients the protection of an enforceable Code of Ethics.
- Board certified counselors may demonstrate special practice certifications in addictions counseling, school counseling and clinical mental health counseling.

State Licensure Board Requirements

State Licensing Division

- The State of New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners Professional Counselor Examiners Committee. Located at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 45044, Newark, New Jersey 07101

Obtaining a Professional License in New Jersey

The New Jersey Professional Counselor Examiners Committee offers two level of professional counselors: License Associate Counselor (LAC) and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). These two licenses are progressive, a future counselor must first receive the LAC license and

then fulfill the further requirements for the full LPC license. (“How to become a licensed counselor in New Jersey,” n.d.)

Licensed Associate Counselor (L.A.C.) Requirements

- A non-refundable application fee of \$75, in the form of check or money order made out to the State of New Jersey, must be submitted with the required application to the Division.
- Educational Requirements: Completion of a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in a planned educational program, which includes a master’s or degree in counseling from a regionally accredited institution of higher education of which 45 graduate semester hours are distributed in at least eight of the identified areas set forth in N.J.A.C 13:34-11.3.
- Supervisory Experience is not required as a licensed associate counselor
- Examination required: National Counselor Examination (N.C.E)

Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C.) Requirements

- Educational Requirements: Completion of a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours in a planned educational program, which includes a master’s or degree in counseling from a regionally accredited institution of higher education of which 45 graduate semester hours are distributed in at least eight of the identified areas set forth in N.J.A.C 13:34-11.3.
- There are two options available with the supervised experience: Option A has 4500 hours. Option B includes 3,000 hours plus 30 graduate hours beyond the master’s degree in areas clearly related to counseling.
- Examination required: National Counselor Examination (N.C.E.).

National Counselor Examination (N.C.E)

- In New Jersey applicants for licensure to practice as a professional counselor and associate counselor are required to provide proof that the applicant has successfully passed the National Counselor Examination administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors.
- Pursuant to N.J.A.C 13:44-11.4(b) applicants are first to apply to for approval by the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee to sit for the examination (This does not apply to applicants who have completed the examination through qualifying graduate degree programs.)
- Once approved, the applicant will be notified by the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee.
- Upon receipt of the exam approval letter from the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, you would go to the NBCC website to register for the examination.

Supervision in New Jersey

- The individual shall have obtained 3,000 hours of work experience subsequent to holding a clinical license to provide mental health counseling services. The 3,000 hours shall have been obtained over a minimum of two years, but no more than six years; and,
- On or after October 5, 2011, the individual shall hold an approved clinical supervisor credential from the Center for Credentialing and Education of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) or an equivalent clinical supervisor credential recognized by the individual's respective professional healthcare licensing board, if applicable, or

shall have completed a minimum of three graduate credits in clinical supervision from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

- A qualified supervisor shall be responsible for creating a written supervision plan with the licensed associate counselor. The supervision plan shall outline the work setting, the licensed associated counselor's job description, including the nature of his or her duties and his or her qualifications and the supervisor's responsibilities and qualifications.
- Supervision may be provided through live observation or through the review of videotapes, audiotapes and/or self-reporting of sessions with clients consistent with the requirements listed in the N.J. Administrative Code.
- The written supervision plan shall be approved by the Committee prior to the performance of counseling by the licensed associate counselor.
- A qualified supervisor shall maintain all documentation with respect to the supervision provided to licensed associate counselors for a minimum of three years. A qualified supervisor shall attest to compliance with the supervision requirements of this section by completing all forms provided by the Committee.
- A qualified supervisor shall not supervise more than a total of six mental health counselors at any one time.
- A qualified supervisor shall supervise only in areas for which he or she possesses the requisite skills, training and experience.
- A qualified supervisor shall not supervise an individual with whom the supervisor has a relationship that may compromise the objectivity of the supervisor or impair the professional judgment of the supervisor. Examples of inappropriate supervisory relationships include but are not limited to, current and former clients, current employers,

relatives of the supervisor, immediate relatives of current clients, current students or close friends.

References

Application for licensure professional counselor/rehabilitation counselor/associate counselor

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