

State Licensure Paper

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Internship II

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Running head: NJ LICENSURE

Applicable State: New Jersey

This paper describes the requirements and steps to obtain licensures as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of New Jersey.

Applicants must complete a 2-tiered application process to become a License Professional Counselor (LPC) in New Jersey. The first tier is to obtain a temporary, conditional, supervised license to become a Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC). In order to become an LAC, applicants must complete educational requirements and pass the National Counselor's Examination (NCE). They must also submit the necessary application with the corresponding fees. The second tier is the LPC. In order to become an LPC, applicants must have satisfied the requirements of an LAC, completed the required supervised hours, and submit an application and related fees.

Education Requirements

A 60-credit master's degree must be obtained from a regionally accredited institution. Of the 60 credits, 45 must encompass 8 out of 9 core areas of study. The 9 core areas of study are:

- Counseling theory and practice
- The helping relationship
- Human growth and development, and maladaptive behavior
- Lifestyle and career development
- Group dynamics, processes, counseling, and consulting
- Appraisal of individuals
- Social and cultural foundations
- Research and evaluation
- The counseling profession

Exam Requirements

The NCE is offered monthly in New Jersey at two testing locations, Robbinsville and Wayne. To register for the exam, an applicant must complete a form and send to the Professional Counselors Examiners Committee. Once approved, an admission letter will be sent to the applicant which must be presented at the testing center on the day of the exam. Additionally, two forms of ID must be presented as well. A passing score on the NCE is required to become an LAC. The test does not have to be repeated for the LPC as long as the test scores are still valid.

Work Experience Requirements

Once an LAC is obtained, counselors must complete 4500 supervised hours within a 6-year period in order to become an LPC. In the state of New Jersey, the 700 internship hours accrued during the Master's degree, count towards the total 4500 hours. Therefore, post-internship, applicants would only need to accrue 3800 additional supervised hours. Alternatively, applicants can substitute 1500 hours with an additional 30 credits of post-graduate course work.

My timeline for Licensure

I plan to graduate with a Master's degree in May 2022. This will satisfy the educational requirements towards an LAC. I have stated my application for the LAC and it is pending completion of the Master's degree and a passing score on the NCE. I am registered to take the NCE in May 2022. Upon passing the exam and obtaining the LAC, I will seek out opportunities to accrue the remaining 3800 supervised hours towards the LPC. I plan to accrue the hours on a part-time basis to start and possibly transition to full-time in the future.