State Licensure Response Paper (Merged)

by Hani Ashamalla

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State Licensure Requirements Response Instructions

- **What is the role of an LMHC or an LPC?**

In New York, an LMHC (Licensed Mental Health Counselor) or an LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) is a mental health professional who is licensed to provide counseling services to individuals, couples, families, and groups. The primary role of an LMHC or LPC in NY is to help people with mental health concerns to achieve their personal, social, educational, and vocational goals.

LMHCs and LPCs in NY are trained to diagnose and treat mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and many others. They work with clients to develop treatment plans that may include various forms of therapy, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, psychodynamic therapy, family therapy, and group therapy.

In addition to providing counseling and therapy, LMHCs and LPCs in NY also play a role in crisis intervention and suicide prevention. They work with clients to develop coping strategies and skills to manage challenging situations and emotional distress. They may also provide referrals to other healthcare professionals, such as psychiatrists or medical doctors, for additional treatment or medication management.

Overall, the role of an LMHC or LPC in NY is to provide compassionate, professional mental health services to individuals, couples, families, and groups in need of support and guidance.

- **What is the protected scope of practice?**

The protected scope of practice for **LMHCs** (Licensed Mental Health Counselors) and LPCs (Licensed Professional Counselors) in New York state includes a wide range of mental health services. According to the New York State Education Department, the scope of practice for LMHCs and LPCs includes:

1. Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, including the use of psychotherapy and counseling techniques.
2. Administration and interpretation of psychological and other diagnostic tests and assessments.
3. Planning, development, and implementation of treatment plans and goals.
4. Collaboration with other healthcare professionals to ensure comprehensive care for clients.
5. Crisis intervention and management, including the development and implementation of safety plans.
6. Education and counseling on issues related to mental health, such as stress management, coping skills, and communication.
7. Referral to other healthcare professionals for further treatment or services.

It's important to note that LMHCs and LPCs in New York state are required to practice within the boundaries of their education, training, and competence. They are also required to adhere to professional ethical standards and guidelines. Additionally, there may be limitations to their scope of practice based on their specific training, credentials, or work setting.

- **What are the educational and experience requirements?**

Education: To become an LMHC, individuals typically need to have at least a master's degree in counseling or a related field from an accredited institution. Some states may require specific courses or coursework

in certain areas, such as ethics, psychopathology, or assessment. The program should also include a supervised practicum or internship, where the individual gains practical experience in counseling.

Experience: In addition to education, states often require individuals to have a certain amount of supervised clinical experience, which can range from 1,000 to 4,000 hours depending on the state. During this time, the individual works with clients under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional, typically an LMHC or licensed psychologist. The supervised experience is important for developing the skills and knowledge needed to work effectively with clients.

Exam: Most states also require individuals to pass a licensing exam, such as the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE), which assesses their knowledge and understanding of counseling principles and practices.

Continuing Education: After obtaining an LMHC license, individuals are typically required to complete a certain number of continuing education hours each year to maintain their license. These courses may cover new developments in counseling theory and practice, ethical and legal issues, or specialized areas of counseling.

- **How does the state define "be of good moral character"?**

In New York State, the "**good moral character**" requirement for professional licenses, including LMHCs, is defined in New York State Education Law § 6505. This law states that the applicant must be of "good moral character as determined by the department."

In practice, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) evaluates an applicant's moral character by considering factors such as the following:

- Criminal history: NYSED will conduct a criminal background check on each applicant, and a prior criminal record can raise concerns about moral character.
- Professional conduct: NYSED may investigate any prior disciplinary actions taken against the applicant, as well as any allegations of professional misconduct.
- Personal conduct: NYSED may also consider an applicant's personal conduct, such as whether the applicant has engaged in behavior that reflects poorly on their character, such as substance abuse or dishonesty.

It's worth noting that New York State has additional requirements for LMHCs, including education and experience requirements, as well as passing the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination. You can find more information about the requirements for becoming an LMHC in New York State on the NYSED website.

- **What is the licensing exam that is required and when can you sit for it?**

The licensing exam for LMHCs in New York is the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE), which is developed and administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The NCMHCE is a computer-based exam that assesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competent practice as a mental health counselor.

To be eligible to sit for the NCMHCE in New York, an individual must have completed a master's degree or higher in mental health counseling, or a related field, from a regionally accredited institution. In addition, the individual must have completed at least 3,000 hours of post-graduate supervised experience in mental health counseling or a related field.

Once an individual has met the educational and experience requirements, they can apply to take the NCMHCE through the NBCC website. The exam is typically offered on an ongoing basis throughout the year at computer-based testing centers throughout the United States, including several locations in New York.

- **What does the exam entail?**

The New York State LMHC licensing exam is the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE), developed and administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The exam is designed to assess the knowledge and skills necessary for the practice of mental health counseling, and is used by many states, including New York, as a licensing exam for LMHCs.

The NCMHCE is a computer-based exam that consists of 10 clinical mental health counseling cases, or simulations, with multiple-choice and constructed-response questions related to each case. The exam covers a range of topics, including but not limited to:

Human Growth and Development
Assessment and Diagnosis
Counseling and Psychotherapy
Group Counseling and Psychotherapy
Career Counseling
Research and Program Evaluation
Professional Orientation and Ethics
The exam is designed to be taken in three and a half hours and contains 160 questions.

The passing score for the NCMHCE in New York is determined by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and is subject to change.

- **When should I complete the application for permit/licensure?**

There are different application forms and requirements depending on whether I am applying for a permit or a license.
Since I will be a recent graduate with a master's degree in mental health counseling, I will be eligible to apply for a permit to practice as an LMHC under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional. I can apply for the permit using the Application for Licensure and First Registration as an LMHC form, which can be found on the New York State Education Department (NYSED) website.
If I have already completed the required postgraduate supervised experience, I can apply for a full LMHC license using the Application for Licensure as a Mental Health Counselor form, which can also be found on the NYSED website.
It's important to note that the application process can take several months, and I should plan accordingly. I will need to provide detailed information about my education, experience, and other qualifications, as well as documentation of my completion of the required coursework and supervised experience. In addition, I will need to pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) and demonstrate "good moral character" as determined by the NYSED.

Professional Organizations Reaction Instructions

The American Counseling Association (ACA):

1. Membership Benefits:

- Access to counseling journals and publications
- Discounts on counseling books and resources
- Opportunities to participate in professional development workshops and webinars
- Networking opportunities with other counseling professionals
- Access to job postings and career resources
- Opportunities to serve on ACA committees and task forces
- Access to liability insurance and legal support
- Advocacy and lobbying efforts on behalf of the counseling profession

2. Membership Fees:

The annual membership fees for the American Counseling Association vary based on the type of membership and the level of experience. Here are the current annual fees:

- Graduate Student: $75
- New Professional (within 2 years of graduation): $105
- Professional: $189
- Retired: $84
- International: $219

3. Annual Events:

The American Counseling Association hosts several annual events for its members, including:

- ACA Conference & Expo: This is the largest counseling conference in the world, with thousands of attendees and hundreds of workshops and presentations on a wide range of counseling topics.
- Institute for Leadership Training: This event is designed to help counseling professionals develop their leadership skills and build their professional network.
- Counselors for Social Justice Conference: This conference focuses on issues related to social justice and diversity in counseling.
- ACA Government Affairs Institute: This event provides an opportunity for counseling professionals to learn about and engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of the counseling profession.

AMHCA refers to the American Mental Health Counselors Association, which is a professional organization for mental health counselors. Here is some information about what the American Mental Health Counselors Association offers to its members, including membership benefits and fees, as well as the annual events it offers to its members:

1. Membership Benefits:

- Access to professional liability insurance and other insurance products
- Access to online continuing education courses and webinars
- Access to research articles and other resources related to mental health counseling
- Opportunities to participate in advocacy efforts on behalf of the profession
- Access to networking opportunities and a member directory
- Opportunities to serve on AMHCA committees and task forces
- Discounts on AMHCA products and events

2. Membership Fees:

The annual membership fees for the American Mental Health Counselors Association vary based on the type of membership and the level of experience. Here are the current annual fees:

- Regular Membership: $190
- New Professional Membership (within first two years of graduation): $135
- Student Membership: $75
- Retired Membership: $100

3. Annual Events:

The American Mental Health Counselors Association hosts several annual events for its members, including:

- AMHCA Annual Conference: This conference provides an opportunity for mental health counselors to learn about new research, connect with colleagues, and attend workshops on a variety of topics related to mental health counseling.
- AMHCA Leadership Training Institute: This event is designed to help mental health counselors develop their leadership skills and build their professional network.
- AMHCA Advocacy Day: This event provides an opportunity for mental health counselors to meet with members of Congress and advocate for policies that support the mental health counseling profession.
- Webinars and online workshops: AMHCA offers a variety of online continuing education opportunities for its members, including webinars and workshops on topics such as ethics, diagnosis, and treatment planning.

AACC stands for the American Association of Christian Counselors.

1. Membership Benefits:

- Access to online resources and publications related to Christian counseling
- Discounts on books, videos, and other counseling resources
- Access to online continuing education courses and webinars
- Opportunities to attend regional conferences and networking events
- Opportunities to participate in professional development and training programs
- Access to job postings and career resources
- Opportunities to serve on AACC committees and task forces

2. Membership Fees:

The annual membership fees for the American Association of Christian Counselors vary based on the type of membership and the level of experience. Here are the current annual fees:

- Professional Membership: $179
- Student Membership: $59
- Retired Membership: $79
- International Membership: $149

3. Annual Events:

The American Association of Christian Counselors hosts several annual events for its members, including:

- World Conference: This is the largest Christian counseling conference in the world, with thousands of attendees and hundreds of workshops and presentations on a wide range of topics related to Christian counseling.
- AACC Leadership Summit: This event is designed to help Christian counselors develop their leadership skills and build their professional network.
- AACC Regional Conferences: These events provide an opportunity for Christian counselors to connect with colleagues and attend workshops on a variety of topics related to Christian counseling.
- Online Events: AACC also offers a variety of online events, such as webinars and workshops, which allow members to access training and continuing education opportunities from anywhere in the world.

My Preference:

I am a member and in the ACA and AACC. I am more impressed with the AACC. I find it much more suitable to my preferences and my needs.

I am impressed with the Christian ethics and principles that are being discussed by the AACC and in their conferences.

I am hoping I can become active in this organization. I am also hoping that their information will assist me in my own service in my community church.

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ORIGINALITY REPORT

24%	15%	12%	11%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	Submitted to nyack college Student Paper	6%
2	American Counseling Association. "The ACA Encyclopedia of Counseling", Wiley, 2015 Publication	3%
3	Submitted to Bethune Cookman University Student Paper	2%
4	www.phoenix.edu Internet Source	1%
5	counseling.northwestern.edu Internet Source	1%
6	cocodoc.com Internet Source	1%
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8	Linda Seligman. "Diagnosis and Treatment Planning in Counseling", Springer Science and Business Media LLC, 2004 Publication	1%

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GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

23 /25

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

Hani:

This paper did not include the cover page or reference page per APA structure.

You were able to complete the assignment questions and content was a good demonstration of your understanding of the licensing process. I hope it has served you well to gain insight regarding the process.

Note I did not receive a copy of the updated paper, so I merged them as attached.

State Licensure Rubric: 13

Responded questions 3.75 pts

Grammar 1.75 pts

Critical Thinking: 3.75 pts

Clarity : 3.75 pts

Professional Organizations: 10

Accuracy : 2.5 pts

Grammar : 2.5 pts

Clarity in written expression 2.5 pts

Consistency: 2.5 pts

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