

## **Part 2201. CHAPTER 4. Licensure Requirements**

### *Rule 4.1: General Requirements*

- A. No person shall practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Mississippi except as provided by state statute and these regulations.
- B. An Applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- C. The Applicant is a Mississippi resident, pays income tax in the State of Mississippi, or has an immigration document to verify legal alien work status in the United States. The immigration document must be current and issued by the United States Immigration Bureau.
- D. An Applicant must be of good moral character. The Board may request endorsements attesting to the Applicant's character, professional integrity, and professional competence.
- E. Applicants must pass Board approved examination to be eligible for licensure.
- F. Applicants must meet all education and experience requirements.
- G. The Board must receive a complete application packet, official transcript(s), and criminal background check results prior to the established application deadline for the Applicant to be considered for licensure or candidacy at any Board meeting.
- H. An applicant may not be in violation of any of the provisions of Section 73-30-1 et seq., of the *Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated* or any of the rules and regulations adopted by the Board.
- I. The application process for licensure must be completed within 365 days of the Board's receipt of the individual's application packet. "Completed" with respect to this provision means either Board approved for candidacy or Board approved for licensure (as appropriate). As stipulated in Rule 2.3(C), an individual who has not completed the application process within the 365 days' time frame must pay a Reapplication Fee in order to reactivate his/her to continue the application process. As stipulated in Rule 9.1(E) (Application Process), incomplete applications will be kept on file for two (2) years, after which time they will be destroyed.
- J. Periodically, this document, the Rules, Regulations and Application for the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors, is updated and/or revised. The Applicant/Candidate/Licensee must comply with the most current version of this document, and it is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that he/she has the most current version(s) of application documents accepted by the LPC Board. Additionally, the Applicant/Candidate/Licensee is responsible for all provisions listed in the most current Rules and Regulations and Application Guidelines. The Rules and Regulations may be downloaded from the Board's website [www.lpc.ms.gov](http://www.lpc.ms.gov).

- K. The Board shall require state and national criminal background check, to include consulting sex offender registries, through the Department of Public Safety for each first time Applicant for licensure as well as Licensees seeking renewal, every six years, to be calculated based on the Licensee's initial date of licensure.
1. For purposes of these background checks, "good moral character" shall be established by an absence of felony convictions or convictions for misdemeanors involving moral turpitude.
  2. The background check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.
  3. The Applicant shall sign a release of information to the Board and shall be responsible for the payment of the fee associated with the criminal background check.
  4. Upon completion of the background check, the Department of Public Safety shall forward to the Board all releasable information obtained concerning the Applicant or Licensee.
  5. No person shall be eligible to receive or hold a license issued by the Board if that person has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of any felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
  6. Upon receipt of information from the Department of Public Safety that a person has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or found guilty of any felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, the Board shall immediately deny licensure or refuse renewal of license.
  7. The provisions of Rule 4.1(K)(5) and Rule 4.1(K)(6) above may be waived by the Board upon request of the affected applicant for licensure or the person holding a license subject to revocation. The request shall be for a show cause hearing within ten (10) days, which shall be conducted pursuant to the process set out in the Regulations providing for the Board complaints process.
  8. Circumstances for which a waiver may be granted shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
    - a. The age at which the crime was committed;
    - b. The circumstances surrounding the crime;
    - c. The length of time since the crime;
    - d. Subsequent work history;
    - e. Employment references;

- f. Character references; and
  - g. Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.
9. There will be no waiver opportunities for any conviction involving Child Abuse or Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult.

Source: *Miss Code Ann.* § 73-30-7 (6) & 73-30-9 & 73-30-21 (Rev. 2008)

*Rule 4.2: Education Requirements*

The following is a list of education requirements that all applicants must meet in order to be licensed:

Effective 2017 the Board will only accept sixty (60) hour masters degree programs, and those programs shall be CACREP degree programs or degree programs with the word counseling in its title, and meet the structure of CACREP as it specifically pertains to the twelve (12) courses specified in Rule 4.2.C, as part of sixty (60) semester hours that are required for completion of the degree or having earned a doctoral or educational specialist degree primarily in a counseling, guidance, or related field, which meets similar standards as specified above.

- A. Sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours of graduate study.
- B. A graduate program related to counselor education is defined as one that contains course work in all of the following areas. Each applicant must have completed a three (3) hour semester course or its equivalent in each of the following areas:
  - 1. Human Growth and Development - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all levels of development, normal and abnormal human behavior, personality theory, life-span theory, and learning theory within cultural contexts. Emphasis is placed on psychological approaches used to explain, predict, and modify human behavior.
  - 2. Social and Cultural Foundations - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends in human roles, societal subgroups, social mores, interaction patterns, and multicultural and pluralistic trends in differing lifestyles, and major societal concerns including stress, person abuse, substance abuse, discrimination, and methods for alleviating these concerns.
  - 3. Counseling and Psychotherapy Skills - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of philosophic bases of helping processes, counseling theories and their applications, basic and advanced helping skills, consultation theories and their application, client and helper self-understanding and self-development, and facilitation of client or consultee change.

4. Group Counseling - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group leadership styles; basic and advanced group counseling methods and skills; and other group approaches.
5. Lifestyle and Career Development - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of career development theories; occupational and educational information sources and systems; career and leisure counseling guidance and education; lifestyle and career decision-making; career development program planning resources and effectiveness evaluation.
6. Testing and Appraisal - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group and individual educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal, data, and information gathering methods, validity and reliability, psychometric statistics, factors, influencing appraisals, and use of appraisal results in helping process. Additionally, the specific ability to administer and interpret tests and inventories to assess interests and abilities and to identify career options is important.
7. Research and Evaluation - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of different types of research, basic statistics, research-report development, research implementation, program evaluation needs assessment, publication of research information, and legal considerations.
8. Professional Orientation to Counseling or Ethics - Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of professional roles and functions of counselors, professional goals and objectives, professional counseling organizations and associations, professional history and trends, ethical and legal standards, professional standards, and professional credentialing.
9. Theories of Counseling Psychotherapy and Personality – Course work includes studies in basic theories, principles and techniques of counseling, and their application to professional counseling settings.
10. Marriage and/or Family Counseling/Therapy – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of marriage and family theories and approaches to counseling with families and couples. This includes appraisal of family and couples systems and the application of these to counseling families and/or couples in pre-marriage, marriage and/or divorce situations.
11. Abnormal Psychology and Psychopathology – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of individuals' current mental/emotional states consistent with accepted classifications such as those provided in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV or DSM-5 or most recent edition), as published by the American Psychiatric Association; and the ICD—10-CM (or most recent edition of ICD) and the development of planned, diagnosed - relevant interventions, including the goals of counseling, methods of treatment, and means of monitoring progress.

12. Internship – Supervised, planned, practical, advanced experience obtained in a clinical setting observing and applying principles, methods, and techniques learned in training and/or educational settings. NOTE: The internship involves a longer period of time than a practicum. For graduate degree programs begun after July 1, 2015, this course requirement must be met as indicated by transcript. Add the definition of Internship to match that stated in other areas of the Rules and Regulations.

- C. Individuals applying for licensure with a graduate degree of less than sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours may complete the additional course work required without earning an additional degree. All graduate counselor education courses or counselor related courses from an approved educational institution completed by the applicant may be counted toward the sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hour's requirement.
- D. Courses completed by applicants that were not part of a counselor education or related counseling graduate program are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine applicability.
- E. All applicants must provide official transcripts of all graduate work. Unopened official transcripts shall be submitted in the application packet or submitted to the Board directly from the approved educational institution.

Source: *Miss Code Ann.* § 73-30-7 (6) & 73-30-9 (Rev. 2008)

*Rule 4.3: Experience Requirements*

- A. Supervision Requirements - An Applicant must document the following supervised experience requirements prior to applying for licensure. The supervisor must be a Board approved Qualified Supervisor (BQS). The art of supervision is defined as assisting the counselor in developing expertise in methods of the professional mental health counseling practice and in developing self-appraisal and professional development strategies.
  - 1. A total of three thousand five hundred (3,500) supervised hours of counseling (approximately 2 years) in a clinical setting post Bachelor's degree (See Rule 1.4(H)) comprised of the following:
    - a. A maximum of forty (40) supervised hours may be obtained per workweek.
    - b. Up to one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) hours may be obtained while enrolled in a Graduate Degree's program internship or practicum and, although not required, where possible the Board would prefer BQS Supervision during internship or practicum.
    - c. A minimum of one thousand one hundred sixty-seven (1,167) supervised hours must be in Direct Services with clients and/or psychotherapy service to clients.. Direct Services are only face to face counseling including individual counseling, couples/family counseling, group counseling, and testing and assessment.

- d. One hundred (100) hours of individual face to face supervision are required. Up to 50 hours may be obtained while enrolled in a Graduate Degree program, including internship/practicum. This is based on at least (a minimum of) 1 hour of supervision for every 25 hours of supervisee's direct service with clients. No more than 50 hours of individual supervision received during a Graduate Degree Program will be accepted.
  - e. Group supervision will be acceptable for not more than fifty (50) hours of the required one hundred (100) hours of individual supervision. This is based on two (2) hours of group supervision being equivalent to one (1) hour of individual supervision. Total hours of group supervision should be reported in full and will then be divided by two (2) by the Board at review time.
  - f. Individual supervision provided by multiple supervisors regarding the same direct client service hours at the same site during the same time frame will not be accepted.
2. In order to receive supervision by a BQS with the LPC-S credential and obtain required experience for licensure, Applicants who have completed the education requirements for licensure may practice in a clinical setting that is governed by federal, State, county or municipality. Where this is not the case, the Applicant may practice under the employment of a Licensed Professional Counselor with a LPC-S on site.
  3. Individual and Group Supervision provided by a BQS with the LPC-S credential to Applicants who have completed the educational requirements for licensure may be provided by way of Distance Professional Services under the following criteria only:
    - a. The LPC-S must hold a Distance Credentialed Counselor credential from the Center for Credentialing and Education. The credential must be on file with the LPC Board office prior to initiating supervision through distance means.
    - b. Distance supervision sessions must be provided by means of synchronous video conferencing only. Supervision by telephone, email, chat, or other forms of communication must be reserved to only emergency communications.
    - c. The Supervision Agreement submitted to the LPC Board must include information explaining the use and limits of distance supervision, specify the qualifications of the LPC-S to provide distance supervision, and establish procedures for managing the failure of the video communication system.
- B. Effective July 1, 2015, Applicants shall present supervised experience obtained within the last (7) years.
  - C. Supervision Verification forms must be submitted in sealed, signed envelopes in the application packet or through the online process available.