

P-LPC Questions

What is a Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor (P-LPC).

- An individual who has completed the Board requirements and been approved as a P-LPC. This designation shall mean and is restricted to any person who holds himself or herself out to the public by any title or description of services incorporating the words provisional licensed professional counselor or psychotherapist, and who offers to render professional counseling or psychotherapy services, under the supervision of a Board qualified supervisor (LPC-S), to individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, institutions, government agencies or the general public for a fee, monetary or otherwise, implying that he or she is licensed.

What are the benefits of becoming a P-LPC?

- Under the supervision of a Board Qualified Supervisor (LPC-S), a P-LPC has a license to practice counseling in the state of Mississippi. Having a license allows one to compete for jobs that require a counseling license. Before July 1, 2018, counselors working on their supervised experience after earning a master's degree could not compete for these jobs because they did not hold a license.
- Having a P-LPC allows individuals to gain supervised experience toward becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor in Mississippi. If one does not have a P-LPC, then one cannot count hours toward becoming an LPC in Mississippi.

How to obtain a Provisional LPC?

1. Complete a minimum of a master's degree in counseling (60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours)
2. Create an online account on the Board's website
3. Obtain a location for supervised experience and a supervising LPC-S
 - Complete online supervision agreement with LPC-S
 - Upload copy of signed supervision contract

- Upload signed copy of Declaration of Practice statement. It must be reviewed and approved by your LPC-S. ([Sample](#))
<https://www.lpc.ms.gov/secure/pdf/Declaration%20of%20Practices.pdf>
4. Complete an online application
 - Complete attestations
 - Remit P-LPC fee and pay for Fingerprint Processing Fee to the Board
 5. Request official transcript to be sent to the Board (preferably by eScrip)
 6. Complete background check
 - Follow instructions included with the fingerprint card that is mailed from the Board.
 7. Submit passing NCE score, which can be taken at time: Board approval is not required to take the NCE
 8. Once the Board receives supporting documents to fulfill steps 5-7, then your application is complete for Board review.

How do I know if the Board has received the supporting documents (transcript, score report, and background check results)?

As supporting documents are received in the Board office, the date received for each item is posted in the tracking section of the App Info tab in your profile.

When can I start logging hours?

Once your P-LPC application is submitted. (The above steps 1-4 have been completed.)

How to become part of the “Transitional Cohort.”

The Transitional Cohort ONLY includes individuals who have applied for an LPC or were under contract for supervision as registered with the Board before July 1, 2018. These individuals have until September 30, 2018, to apply for the P-LPC. If these individuals do not apply by the deadline, they are required to apply for the P-LPC under the guidelines of the new law.

OK, so I am not part of the Transitional Cohort. Do I have to take the NCE even if I have a passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam?

Yes

If I am not part of the Transitional Cohort, can I count my pre-master's counseling experience (for example, Practicum and Internship) for my LPC?

No. Only post master's supervised counseling experience counts.

When do I take the NCMHCE?

Once supervised experience requirements are completed, you will apply for the LPC. The Board will review the application and approve to take the exam.

I'm not in the Transitional Cohort, but what if I already have a passing NCMHCE score?

That score will stand for your LPC exam. You do not have to retake the NCMHCE. However, you must take the NCE to obtain the P-LPC.

I have taken and have passed the NCMHCE exam upon finishing my master's degree. Does this mean that I must take the exam again after I complete my supervision hours?

No, your score will stand for your LPC exam. You do not have to retake the NCMHCE. However, you must have a passing NCE score to apply for the Provisional LPC, even if you have a passing NCMHCE score.

Individuals making initial application for licensure who have already taken the NCMHCE must include in their application packet an official VERIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION AND EXAMINATION SCORES report from the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc., or directly from another state's appropriate licensing board, indicating a passing score. These individuals will be considered for licensure without retaking the NCMHCE.

Can I provide Distance Professional Services with a P-LPC?

No.

If one has completed the required hours to be able to test for licensure, but the application submitted has expired, does a new application have to be submitted?

Yes. Any Applicant who has not completed the application process within 365 days from the date the application was received by the office of the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for LPC must pay a Reapplication Fee to continue the application process in order to reactivate file for an additional one (1) year. If an applicant does not complete the application process within the additional year, the application will become void.

Can a P-LPC file insurance?

Third party reimbursement is dependent on the contract between the provider and the third party.

I am currently under supervision with agreement on file with the Board prior to July 1, 2018. I took the NCE prior to July 1, 2015. Will the NCE be acceptable for full licensure or do I now have to take the NCMHCE?

No. Applicants must pass the NCMHCE to become an LPC.

I recently completed a master's in counseling. However, the program contains 33 hrs instead of 60. Is it possible to complete the remaining 27 hours to meet the 60-semester hour requirement?

A master's degree shall be either sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours of graduate study. For degrees conferred after January 1, 2017, the Board will only accept sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter-hour master's degree programs. Degrees conferred prior to this date must be a minimum of 48 hours, and the applicant must take 12 hours to meet the 60 graduate hour requirement.

I will be finished with my hours for LPC in about 6 weeks. Do I just apply for LPC and disregard the new P-LPC?

You would be part of the Transitional Cohort. You should apply for the P-LPC. If you have met all the licensure requirements, you would be approved to take the NCMHCE.

Will opening own practice be available with P-LPC or will have to wait until LPC is obtained?

You cannot engage in independent private practice as a P-LPC. In a private practice setting, you must practice with an LPC on site with you, and you must be under supervision by a Board Qualified Supervisor (LPC-S).

Is the "Transitional Cohort" expected to apply as a P-LPC? If so, what is the process?

Yes. The Transitional Cohort members have until September 30, 2018 to apply for the P-LPC. If these individuals not apply by the deadline, they are required to apply for the P-LPC under the guidelines of the new law.