

**San José State University**  
**Department of Counselor Education**  
**Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)-Preparation Information**

\*For students who began the EDCO program AFTER 8/1/2012\*

*The Department of Counselor Education (EDCO) has been reviewed and accepted by the Board of Behavioral Services (BBS) verifying that our program is in compliance with California State law.*

In this informational packet, you will find:

- Terminology
- How is being licensed beneficial?
- Steps to become an LPCC
- **Educational Requirements**
- **Applying to become a PCCI** (post-graduation)
- Exams
- Internship Requirements
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Memberships/Networking

#### **TERMINOLOGY**

- **LPCC** – Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
- **PCCI** – Professional Clinical Counselor Intern
- **Practicum** – Supervised counseling (fieldwork) completed before degree (individual, group, families)
- **Internship** – Supervised counseling completed after degree
- **Direct Client Hours** – Hours spent face-to-face with clients
- **Indirect Hours** – Hours spent not with clients; case management, supervision, completing notes, planning for sessions, communicating with other professionals about clinical work

#### **HOW IS BEING LICENSED BENEFICIAL?**

- Broader scope of practice integrating socioemotional, academic, and career
- Can practice in a variety of settings including schools, mental health agencies, VA facilities, jails, private practice, hospitals, and many more; not *where* you practice it's *how* you practice
- Eligible for jobs comparable to LMFTs, LCSWs
- Reimbursement by Medi-Cal and insurance
- Lends credibility to you as a mental health professional
- Competitive for jobs in medical and nonprofit sectors (provides job stability amidst budget concerns)
- Transferable between states (may need to take additional steps, but being licensed in one state often expedites licensure in other states)

#### **STEPS TO BECOME AN LPCC**

1. Complete 60 unit M.A. degree through EDCO
2. Apply to become a PCCI
3. Complete post-degree Internship hours
4. Pass 2 Exams

## EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### Minimum Requirements:

- ✓ **60-unit Master's degree**
- ✓ **Core Content Areas:**
  - 13 Core Content areas (see advising form)
  - 10 Areas MUST be completed in degree program
    - **\*\*232, 282, 283 MUST be taken in program; cannot be remediated\*\***
  - All 13 must be completed before education can be approved
- ✓ **Supervised Fieldwork:** 6 units (EDCO 292); Minimum 250 direct client hours
- ✓ **Advanced Coursework:** 15 units
- ✓ **Additional Content** (covered in EDCO courses)

	MA with LPCC	MA with LPCC + PPSC
<b>Required Semester Units</b>	• 60	• 63
<b>Core Content Areas</b>	• See advising form	• See advising form
<b>Supervised Fieldwork</b>	• 292, 292	• 292, 292, 292
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 6 semester units</li> <li>• Minimum 280 direct client hours</li> </ul>		
<b>Advanced Coursework Minimum 15 units</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required: EDCO 218, 248, 298</li> <li>• Select 2 more from the following: 227, 244/280, 267, 286, 287, 289</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required: 218, 248, 227, 287, 298</li> </ul>

### APPLYING TO BECOME A PCCI

1. Once you have completed the Master's degree (and your degree is posted on your transcript), you are eligible to apply for your PCCI number. See the Professional Clinical Counselor Intern (PCCI) Application Packet: [http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci\\_app.pdf](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf)
  
2. **Submit to Dr. Hu:**
  - Completed **Advising Form**
  - **Form B** (pp. 18-19 in PCCI packet)
    - If completed all coursework in EDCO:
      - For #1-3, 4a-e, check 'yes' on all boxes
      - Leave question #5 empty
    - If completed 1-3 courses outside of EDCO:
      - For #1-3, check 'yes'
      - On box 4b, check 'no'
      - On #5 'Core Content Areas', write in what course(s) you took outside of EDCO. Check 'yes' on all other boxes.
    - Email Dr. Hu with questions before you submit
  - **Transcript(s)** -- include SJSU and any other transcripts if you took classes at other institutions.
  
3. **Submit to BBS:** [http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci\\_app.pdf](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/pci_app.pdf)
  - **PCCI Application** (pp. 11-13)
  - **Official transcript(s)**
  - **Fingerprinting** (pp. 22-26)
  - **Form B** once its signed by university (can take about a month to get back from SJSU)

## EXAMS

- California Law and Ethics Exam – Taken *during the first year of having your PCCI number*
  - National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) – Taken after all 3000 hours are completed
- \*You must first pass the CA Law & Ethics exam before you can take the NCMHCE
- \*You can buy books and study materials to help you prepare for the exams. For example, AATBS has books and provides practice exams.

## INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- You must have a PCCI number to begin internship.
- Total Required Internship Experience: 3,000 Hours
- **Direct counseling work experience** (minimum 1,750 hours)
  - ✓ Individual Therapy/Counseling (no minimum or maximum)
  - ✓ Group therapy or counseling (maximum 500 hours)
  - ✓ Telephone Counseling (maximum 250 hours)
  - ✓ At least 150 hours of clinical experience must be gained in a hospital or community mental health setting
- **Non-counseling work experience** (maximum 1,250 hours)
  - ✓ Administering and evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing progress or process notes (maximum 250 hours)
  - ✓ Workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences (maximum 250 hours)
  - ✓ Client centered advocacy
  - ✓ Supervision (individual and group)
- **Supervision Requirements** (from BBS website): *In order to claim any work experience within a week towards the required 3,000 hours of experience, a registrant must receive at least one hour of individual supervision or two hours of group supervision. A PCCI who earns in excess of 10 hours of direct counseling work experience in a week must obtain an additional hour of individual or two hours of group supervision. **Supervisor must be licensed** (LPCC, LMFT, LCSW, Licensed Psychologist or Psychiatrist).*
- \*\*A maximum of 40 hours of work experience may be gained in a week
- Keep track of your hours using the following BBS form:  
[http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpc\\_wkylog.pdf](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpc_wkylog.pdf)
- For additional questions about being a PCCI, check out this information:  
[http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/pcci\\_faq.pdf](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/pcci_faq.pdf)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: What if I am missing courses required for the LPCC-Preparation?**

A: As long as you have met the minimum core content areas required within the degree, you can remediate the missing full course(s) either through a BBS-approved provider: <http://calpcc.org/graduate-course-providers>

### **Q: Can I get all of my courses signed off by EDCO/SJSU even though I am missing a core content course or am currently taking it outside of EDCO?**

A: No. We need to verify that all coursework has been completed before we (EDCO/SJSU) can sign off on it.

**Q: I already graduated from EDCO. Can I still apply for the LPCC?**

A: Yes. To be eligible for the LPCC, you must have completed the minimum requirements within your degree: (a) 10 of the 13 core content areas; (b) 6 units of 292; (c) 15 units of advanced coursework; (d) MA degree must contain at least 60 units. As of 2017, law and ethics (EDCO 232), diagnosis (EDCO 282), and assessment (EDCO 283) must be completed within the degree and cannot be remediated.

**Q: What if I did not complete the minimum requirements before I graduated?**

A: Unfortunately, your degree is not eligible for licensure.

For more information, check the BBS and CALPCC websites:

[http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lpcc\\_program/](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lpcc_program/)

<http://calpcc.org/lpcc>

**Additional Questions?**

Email Dr. Xiaolu Hu at [xiaolu.hu@sjsu.edu](mailto:xiaolu.hu@sjsu.edu)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:  
MORE INFORMATION & NETWORKING!**

- **California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC)**
  - <http://calpcc.org/lpcc/>
  - Local networking community
  - Annual conference with professional development opportunities
  - Has information specific to California laws, guidelines, and LPCC-specific information
  - Student membership dues: \$40/year
- American Counseling Association (ACA)
  - <http://www.counseling.org/>
  - National community
  - Annual conference
  - Student membership dues: \$96/year
  - Membership includes liability insurance
- California Association of School Counselors (CASC)
  - Local and state community
  - A growing number of California school counselors are becoming licensed
  - Annual conference
  - Student membership dues: \$45/year
  - Liability insurance only costs \$22 for student members
- American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
  - Local and national community
  - A growing number of California school counselors are becoming licensed
  - Student membership dues: \$69
- American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division E: Counseling & Human Development
  - [http://www.aera.net/DivisionE/CounselingHumanDevelopment\(E\)/tabid/11208/Default.aspx](http://www.aera.net/DivisionE/CounselingHumanDevelopment(E)/tabid/11208/Default.aspx)
  - National community
  - Annual conference
  - Student membership dues: \$55/year