



**IDFPR**

Illinois Department of  
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

# **Qualifications for Licensure:**

## **LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR (178)**

Effective: 05/2025  
Revised: N/NNNN

# READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for a license in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your license and eliminate any processing delays.

## Important:

- An application is active for three years from the date of receipt by the Department.
- Before contacting the Department, please review our FAQs for answers to most questions. <http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/About/FAQ.html>
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's, please contact the department at 1-800-560-6420.

# LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS

**Licensed Professional Counselor is the SUPERVISED PRACTICE level license.**

## Education:

- A graduate level (Master's or Doctorate) degree in counseling or a *closely* related field.
- Degree programs must be at least 2 academic years.
- Degree programs must be at least 48 semester hours (or 72 quarter hours). Beginning July 1, 2026, degree programs must be at least 60 semester hours (or 90 quarter hours).
- **Degrees that are less than 39 semester hours or with less than half of the required core areas are not acceptable for Illinois Professional Counselor licensure.** Degree programs of at least 39 semester hours (59 quarter hours) and at least half of the required core areas may be remediated with additional coursework.
- Degrees from outside the United States must be evaluated by an international credentials evaluation company such as such as ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators) or WES (World Education Services).
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1375.45](#) and [Section 1375.Appendix A](#) address the education requirements for licensure including the 13 required core areas.

## Supervised Experience:

- Illinois Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) licensure does NOT require any post-degree supervised clinical experience.

## Examination:

- **EITHER** the National Counselor Examination (NCE) of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), **OR** the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRCE) of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).
- IDFPR provides NCE approval upon submission of the IL LPC licensure application.
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1375.60](#) addresses the examination requirements for licensure.

# REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

## One must provide:

### Proof of Education:

- [Application form ED-PC](#)(s) completed by a university official(s) to verify completion of the education requirements of [Rules 68 IAC Section 1375.45](#). One must provide a separate ED-PC for each institution where graduate level (Master's or Doctorate) counseling coursework was completed.

**OR**

- National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification from NBCC.

**OR**

- Graduates of programs located outside the United States must provide a course-by-course international credentials evaluation from a company such as ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators) or WES (World Education Services).

## Applicants licensed in another state must also provide:

### Certification of Licensure from the other state/US jurisdiction.

Certification of Licensure is detailed information about the license such as: status, issue and expiration date, and whether the license has been disciplined. The other state board or agency provides the information and *certifies* that it is true and correct as of a specific date. One may use [form CT](#) to request Certification of Licensure from the other state board. Most states have their own format for this information. IDFPR will accept other state's formats if it contains the required minimum information. If the Certification is only available online, one may print the online certification/verification and upload it. If the other state board will only send the certification directly to IDFPR, one will need to upload evidence of ordering the certification or confirmation of delivery to IDFPR.

## Applicants who have already passed one of the following licensing examinations:

One who has passed the **National Counselor Examination (NCE)** must contact NBCC to make arrangements for an **Official NCE Score Verification** to be provided directly to IDFPR from NBCC. **The National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) shall NOT be accepted towards Illinois Licensed Professional Counselor licensure.** One will be prompted to upload proof of ordering the official score report from NBCC/CCE or NBCC/CCE confirmation of delivery to IDFPR.

One who has passed the **Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRCE)** may provide a copy of their **CRC certificate or an official score report** from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE LICENSED

- All Illinois Professional Counselor licenses expire March 31 of odd years. The first licensure period may be less than 2 years. After the first renewal, the licensure cycle is 2 years. No Continuing Education is required for the first renewal.
- It is your responsibility to update your contact information including email address with the Department to ensure that you receive all courtesy renewal email reminders and other notifications.