



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

Qualifications for Licensure:

LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR (180)

Effective: 05/2025
Revised: N/NNN

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 Clinical Professional Counselor is the INDEPENDENT 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:

- One must complete at least 2 years full time or equivalent part-time supervised experience AFTER the counseling degree.
- One year of experience equals 1680 hours (3360 total hours required).
- At least 50% of the experience must be spent providing direct service to clients.
- The experience must be supervised by a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, or a Licensed Psychiatrist (Physician).
- The experience must include an average of at least 4 hours per month spent in supervision.
- The experience must be evaluated as satisfactory by the supervisor.
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1375.130](#) addresses the supervised experience requirements.

LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS (Continued)

Examination(s):

- The Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRCE) of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).
- OR**
- **BOTH** The National Counselor Examination (NCE) **AND** the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC),
 - **One who has passed only NCE or only NCMHCE will be required to complete the missing examination as part of the Illinois licensure process.**
 - IDFPR provides exam approval upon submission of the IL LCPC licensure application.
 - [Rules 68 IAC Section 1375.150](#) addresses the examination requirements for licensure.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

One must provide:

Proof of Education:

- Evidence of an active Illinois LPC license.
- OR**
- [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 Commission on Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) certificate.
- OR**
- Graduates of programs located outside the United States must provide a course-by-course international credentials evaluation from a company such as such as ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators) or WES (World Education Services).

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (Continued)

Proof of Experience:

- [Application form VE-LCPC](#) is used to document supervised experience. The form must be completed by the supervisor. The experience documented must meet the requirements of [Rules 68 IAC Section 1375.130](#) in order to count towards licensure.
- A separate VE-LCPC form should be submitted for each site, each supervisor, and each experience.
- One whose experience was completed in another state may be able to arrange for another state board to provide copies of experience documented to the other state as part of their licensing process.
- One who is not able to successfully document an experience already completed is permitted to complete new experiences.

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. You 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 states' formats if it contains the required minimum information. If the Certification is only available online, you may print the online certification/verification and upload it. If the other state board will only send the certification directly to IDFPR, you will need to upload evidence of ordering the certification or confirmation of delivery to IDFPR.

An individual applying under the Endorsement licensure method who:

- has been licensed at the *independent practice level* in another state or U.S. jurisdiction
- for 5 consecutive years
- without discipline

will be directed to provide Certification of Licensure (CT forms) for each state in which the applicant practiced during the 5 years instead of proof of education or proof of experience.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (Continued)

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

One who has already 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. One will be prompted to upload proof of ordering the official score report from NBCC/CCE or confirmation of delivery to IDFPR.

One who has already passed the **National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE)** must contact NBCC to make arrangements for an **Official NCMHCE Score Verification** to be provided directly to IDFPR from NBCC. One will be prompted to upload proof of ordering the official score report from NBCC/CCE or confirmation of delivery to IDFPR.

One who has already 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.