

Becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Kansas

Counselors may want to consider licensing for the following reasons:

1. Licensing indicates a commitment to the profession, a desire to continue professional growth through increasing knowledge and competencies, and to enhance the image of the profession.
2. Counselors who are doing some private practice during evenings and/or weekends should certainly consider becoming licensed. This would not only provide a legal basis for this practice, but would also enhance the client's and the public's perceptions of the expertise of the counselor.
3. Most professional counseling organizations have gone on record as supporting licensure laws. The rationale for this is that in seeking licensure, the counselor is manifesting commitment to professional standards and to ongoing professional development.

For up-to-date information on Kansas Licensure see <http://www.ksbsrb.org> for information on statutes and regulations.

Requirements for becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Kansas include:

- a. at least 21 years of age.
- b. completed 60 graduate semester hours including a graduate degree in counseling from a college or university approved by the board and which includes 45 graduate semester hours distributed among each of the following: (a minimum of 2 hours is required in each of the ten areas; courses that we feel would satisfy the requirements are listed after the descriptions):
 1. Counseling Theory and Practice. Includes studies in basic theories, principles and techniques of counseling and their applications to professional counseling settings.

PRE 742 Counseling Theory and Techniques (3)

PRE 952 Advanced Counseling Theory and Research (3)

PRE 956 Theory of Couples and Family Counseling (3)

2. The Helping Relationship. Includes studies in philosophic bases of the helping relationships, application of the helping relationship to the counseling practice, and an emphasis on the development of counselor and client self-awareness.

PRE 740 Counseling & Interviewing Skills (3)

3. Group Dynamics, Processes, Counseling Approaches and Techniques. Includes studies in theories and types of groups, as well as descriptions of group practices, methods, dynamics, and facultative skills.

PRE 844 Theory of Group Counseling (3)

4. Human Growth and Development. Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all levels, with emphasis on psychological, sociological, and physiological approaches. Also included are such areas as human behavior, both normal and abnormal, personality theory, and learning theory.

PRE 705 Human Development Through the Lifespan (3)

PRE 800 Development During Youth and Adulthood (3)

PRE 806 Issues in Human Growth & Development (3)

5. Career Development and Lifestyle Foundations. Includes studies in such areas as vocational theory, the relationship between career choice and lifestyle, sources of occupational and educational information, approaches to career decision-making processes, and career development exploration techniques.

PRE 846 Career Development (3)

PRE 954 Vocational Psychology (3)

6. Appraisal of Individuals. Includes studies in the development of a framework for understanding the individual including methods of data gathering and interpretation, individual and group testing, and the study of individual differences.

PRE 725 Educational Measurement (3)

PRE 830 Individual and Group Assessment (3)

PRE 951 Psychodiagnostic Assessment (3)

7. Social and Cultural Foundations. Includes studies in change processes, ethnic subcultures, families, gender issues, changing roles of women, sexism, racism, urban and rural societies, population patterns, cultural mores, use of leisure time and differing life patterns. These studies include such disciplines as the behavioral sciences, economics and political science.

PRE 875 Understanding Individual and Cultural Diversity (3)

8. Research and Evaluation. Includes studies in the areas of statistics, research design, development of research, development of program goals and objectives, and evaluation of program goals and objectives.

PRE 715 Understanding Educational Research

PRE 710 Statistics I (3) , PRE 711 Statistics Lab (1)

PRE 899 Master's Thesis (4) OR

PRE 898 Master's Research (4)

9. Professional Orientation. Includes studies in the goals and objectives of professional organizations, codes of ethics, legal considerations, standards of preparation, certification, licensing, and role identities of counselors and others in the helping professions.

PRE 880 Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Psychology (3)

10. Supervised Practical Experience. Includes studies in the application in actual practice of the theories and concepts presented in formal study. Each practice shall be performed under the close supervision of the instructor with the use of direct observation through one-way mirror in a counseling laboratory, through the use of video taped sessions, with audio-tapes, or with written case notes.

PRE 842 Counseling Practicum (6)

PRE 948 Advanced Practicum I (6)

PRE 949 Advanced Practicum II (6)

In addition to or as a part of the academic requirements for the graduate degree, must have completed 15 graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, supporting diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders using the “diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders”. These 15 graduate semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, shall include the following:

a. Coursework in Ethics

PRE 880 Ethical and Legal Issues in Professional Psychology (3)

b. Coursework in psychopathology and diagnostic assessment, including the study of the latest edition of the “diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders” and assessment instruments that support diagnosis.

PRE 890 Diagnosis and Psychopathology

c. Coursework addressing treatment approaches and interdisciplinary referral and collaboration.

PRE 742 Counseling Theory and Techniques (3)

PRE 842 Counseling Practicum (6)

PRE 890 Diagnosis and Psychopathology

PRE 948 Advanced Practicum I (6)

PRE 949 Advanced Practicum II (6)

PRE 952 Advanced Counseling Theory and Research (3)

PRE 956 Theory of Couples and Family Counseling (3)

Of the 60 hours, no more than six graduate semester hours of independent study that is related to the field or practice of counseling may be included.

Independent study shall not be used to meet any of the substantive content area requirements specified in items 1-9 above (though they can count if they are beyond the initial required coursework).

c. Pass an examination required by the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board. - Must have an application on file with the BSRB six weeks prior to taking the exam. All questions and requests for information about the examination program should be directed to NBCC 336-547-0607.

d. Has satisfied the board that the applicant is a person who merits the public trust.

There is a provision in the licensing law for "Temporary Permits" for those individuals who are in the process of completing the requirements for obtaining the LPC license.