

The LPCC Track

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of working toward my LPCC?

- Opportunity to provide mental health services in multiple settings (e.g., private practice, community mental health, medical settings, and schools)
- Increased job opportunities in the schools. Schools are continuously enhancing and developing mental health services. Many are seeking licensed professionals to provide services and oversee other mental health professionals the work
- Ability to supervise other professionals providing mental health services across settings
- Development of advanced counseling skills, at the individual and systems level, to support individuals during a mental health crisis
- Schools are shifting to enhancing and developing mental health services and will likely be looking for licensed professionals to provide services and oversee other mental health professionals' work
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How many counseling hours are required prior to graduation?

- The Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) requires you complete 280 trainee hours prior to completing your degree.

Where can I obtain hours for my LPCC ?

- We will work with you to locate appropriate sites, they must be preapproved by our program and can include schools (with mental health counseling programs, a student counseling center, counseling clinic, etc).

What types of activities count as "counseling" hours?

- Face to face contact hours with individuals and their families (see restrictions)
- Should be related to mental health (see below)
- Can include assessment for the purpose of establishing goals and empowering individuals
- 4999.20. (a)
 - "Professional clinical counseling" means the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques to identify and remediate cognitive, mental, and emotional issues, including personal growth,

adjustment to disability, crisis intervention, and psychosocial and environmental problems. "Professional clinical counseling" includes conducting assessments for the purpose of establishing counseling goals and objectives to empower individuals to deal adequately with life situations, reduce stress, experience growth, change behavior, and make well-informed, rational decisions.

- "Professional clinical counseling" is focused exclusively on the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques for the purposes of improving mental health, and is not intended to capture other, nonclinical forms of counseling for the purposes of licensure. For purposes of this paragraph, "nonclinical" means non mental health.

Clinical Practicum Experience: Chapman's Legal Responsibility

- On and after January 1, 1995, all hours of experience gained as a trainee shall be coordinated between the school and the site where the hours are being accrued. The school shall approve each site and shall have a written agreement with each site that details each party's responsibilities, including the methods by which supervision shall be provided. The agreement shall provide for regular process reports and evaluations of the student's performance at the site.
- —Section 4980.42 (b) of Business and Professions Code
- For an LPCC Clinical Counselor Trainee, BPC 4999.34: "A clinical counselor trainee may be credited with pre-degree supervised practicum and field study " if experience completed in a setting that meets all of the following requirements:
 - Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling and psychotherapy.
 - Provides oversight to ensure that the clinical counselor trainee's work at the setting meets the practicum and field study experience and requirements set forth in this chapter and is within the scope of practice for licensed professional clinical counselors.
 - Is not a private practice
 - Experience may be gained by the clinical counselor trainee solely as part of the position for which the clinical counselor trainee volunteers or is employed.
- 4999.36.
 - (a) A clinical counselor trainee may perform activities and services provided that the activities and services constitute part of the clinical counselor trainee's supervised course of study and that the person is designated by the title "clinical counselor trainee."
 - (b) All practicum and field study hours gained as a clinical counselor trainee shall be coordinated between the school and the site where hours are being accrued. The school shall approve each site and shall have a written agreement with each

site that details each party's responsibilities, including the methods by which supervision shall be provided. The agreement shall provide for regular progress reports and evaluations of the student's performance at the site.

- (c) If an applicant has gained practicum and field study hours while enrolled in an institution other than the one that confers the qualifying degree, it shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide to the board satisfactory evidence that those practicum and field study hours were gained in compliance with this section.
- A clinical counselor trainee shall inform each client or patient, prior to performing any professional services, that he or she is unlicensed and under supervision.
- No hours earned while a clinical counselor trainee may count toward the 3,000 hours of post degree internship hours.
- A clinical counselor trainee shall receive an average of at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every five hours of client contact in each setting. For purposes of this subdivision, "one hour of direct supervisor contact" means one hour of face-to-face contact on an individual basis or two hours of face-to-face contact in a group of not more than eight persons in segments lasting no less than one continuous hour.

What is CSP 624 (Practicum per BBS)?

- The class is a structured course sequence in which students gain clinical hours by working under supervision at approved clinical sites, **while attending a supervision class concurrently.**

Why Must You Be Enrolled in CSP 624 – Clinical Practicum, to Have Your Experience Approved?

- Students are legally defined as "Trainees" after completing 12 semester units in the Masters program. Chapman does not sanction the acquisition of clinical experience until students have enrolled in CSP 624.
- In addition to assisting you in gaining approved supervision hours, this is the most effective way to carry out the coordination and approval function mandated by state law. It is designed to monitor the clinical training experience of our students and to encourage their growth as therapists. The course structure also allows us to collect evaluations from supervisors, students and fieldwork instructors, serving as the "regular progress reports" required by law.
- **The BBS requires that LPCC students are concurrently enrolled in the Supervision course while earning clinical hours.**

Does Chapman Actually Approve Hours?

- By law, only the Board of Behavioral Sciences has the authority to approve hours and does so at the time you file your application for the license exam. However, the board has given considerable responsibility to both supervisors and schools for guiding and

evaluating students' clinical experience. Supervisors verify the hours of their interns and trainees by signing both weekly logs and summaries of experience. Schools attempt to ensure that their students' clinical sites will provide supervision and clinical experience that is consistent with statutes and regulations.

- Thus, Chapman approves each trainee's clinical experience in general, but not his or her hours per se. However, only those hours gained in an approved site with a written agreement between the school and the site will count. Again, the 280 hours of direct client contact required for LPCC Practicum are not counted towards the 3000 hours.

Supervision Post Graduation: A minimum of 3,000 post-degree hours of supervised experience, by a LPCC, LMFT, LCSW, licensed psychologist or licensed physician and surgeon, who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, over a period of not less than two years, including not less than 1,750 hours of direct counseling with individuals or groups in a clinical mental health counseling setting and 150 hours in a hospital or community mental health setting.

Examination: Passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) and the California Law and Ethics Exam, which are taken at the completion of the supervised hours.

How much supervision do I need? Who can provide this supervision?

- Supervision Defined
 - Section 1833 (b) of the BPC defines supervision as “ensuring that the extent, kind and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training and experience of the person being supervised; reviewing client/patient records, monitoring and evaluating assessment, diagnosis and treatment decisions of the intern or trainee; monitoring and evaluating the ability of the intern or trainee to provide services at the site(s) where he or she will be practicing and to the particular clientele being served; and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of marriage and family therapy. Supervision shall include that amount of direct observation or review of audio or video tapes of therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.”

Specific Requirements for Receiving Supervision

You, the supervisee, must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- For every week you claim hours and at each setting you work (if more than one at a time), you must have a minimum of one (1) hour of individual or two (2) hours of group supervision.

- A SUPERVISION UNIT is either one (1) hour of individual or two (2) hours of group supervision. 1 hour of supervision must be 60 minutes of supervision
- For every five (5) hours of client contact, trainees must receive on average over the length of time at the site ONE UNIT of supervision. This is called the “five-to-one ratio” and is discussed in greater detail below.
- Post-degree Interns shall receive at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for the first ten hours of client contact in each setting and one additional hour for any hours over ten in a working week.
- No more than 5 total clock hours of supervision may be counted in any one week (Be sure to record all supervision hours on your logs for ratio purposes).
- You must receive individual, face-to-face supervision for at least 52 weeks of your total pre-licensed experience. Weeks do not have to be consecutive.

How many post-graduation hours will I need to accumulate?

3000 hours

What are the restrictions on who I can serve?

It has proven to be a most challenging task to differentiate the clinical practices between LMFTs and LPCC’s. Some clarity can be achieved by describing what clinical practices LPCC’s are not permitted to do under current regulations. According to Business and Professions Code applicable to LPCC’s,

- “Professional clinical counseling” does not include the assessment or treatment of couples or families unless the professional clinical counselor has completed additional training and education, beyond the minimum training and education required for licensure.”
- Furthermore, the Business and Professions Code states that “professional counseling does not include the provision of clinical social work services”.

In addition, the administration of assessment services, “...shall not include the use of projective techniques in the assessment of personality, individually administered intelligence tests, neuropsychological testing, or utilization of a battery of three or more tests to determine the presence of psychosis, dementia, amnesia, cognitive impairment, or criminal behavior” – this is the domain of clinical psychology”.

LPCC Scope Restrictions regarding Couples and Families

There is no restriction regarding the assessment and treatment of **children** in LPCC statute or regulation.

The California LPCC Scope does not include the assessment or treatment of couples or families, or the supervision of MFT Interns, unless the LPCC has:

1. 6 semester-units (or 9 quarter-units) focused on MFT or a named specialization in MFT
2. 500 hours supervised experience working with couples, families or children
3. 6 hours of CEUs in MFT each renewal cycle

California Business & Professions Code 4999.20(a)(3), 4980.03(g)

Supervision Issues:

LPCCs and PCCIs are exempt from the above restriction, if they are earning the 500 hours of experience, and if they are under the supervision of a LMFT or a LPCC, who has met the above requirements.