

Virginia Licensure Requirements

To become a LPC in Virginia, your degree must be either CACREP or CORE accredited or be a graduate degree from a program that prepares individuals to practice counseling, as defined in §54.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia, which is offered by a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency and which meets the following criteria:

1. Academic study with the expressed intent to prepare counselors; 2. Identifiable counselor training faculty (licensed LPC faculty) with an identifiable body of students; and, 3. Have clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty area. Additionally, the regulations require you to complete 60 graduate semester hours or 90 graduate quarter hours that must include three (3) semester hours or four (4) quarter hours in the following 13 core content areas:

Out-of-State Supervision: Supervision completed in another jurisdiction can possibly count toward licensure if it meets the requirements outlined in Virginia's Regulations. The board will not review this supervision until you have completed your supervised experience, pass the NCMHCE examination and apply for LPC licensure by examination. You must have your past supervisor(s) complete Virginia's Verification of Supervision form. You should keep this information until you are ready to apply for LPC licensure by examination. Additionally, you will be required to submit your supervisor's license verification in order to verify that they meet the supervisor requirements.

LPC LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION ANY PERSON PURSUING A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR (LPC) BY EXAMINATION WILL NEED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS: STEP 1. Complete the education requirements. STEP 2. Apply for Temporary License as a Resident in Counseling (Registration of Supervision) and receive licensure prior to obtaining supervised residency experience in Virginia. STEP 3. Complete supervised residency experience requirements. STEP 4. Renew License as a Resident in Counseling. Step 5. Take and pass the NCMHCE examination. STEP 5. Apply for LPC Licensure by Examination. STEP 6. Receive LPC License.

LPC ENDORSEMENT LICENSURE PROCESS Virginia does not have reciprocity with any state. All applicants are required to complete the application process. You may apply at any time. It is not required that you have a Virginia address in order to apply for licensure. PREREQUISITES FOR APPLYING BY ENDORSEMENT FOR A VIRGINIA LPC CREDENTIAL: To apply for licensure by endorsement, you must have or have held an independent equivalent professional counselor license in another U. S. jurisdiction and meet one of the following: 1. Have 24 of the last 60 months of post-licensure active practice with an independent clinical counseling licensed. a. Provide evidence of post-licensure clinical practice in counseling for 24 of the last 60 months immediately preceding your application in Virginia. i. Clinical practice shall mean the rendering of direct clinical counseling services or clinical supervision of counseling services. b. Documentation of education and supervised experience that met the requirements of the jurisdiction in which you were initially licensed as verified by an official transcript and a certified copy of the original application materials 2. If you do not have 24 of the last 60 months of post-licensure active practice with an independent clinical counseling license, your education and supervision experience must be consistent with those required by Virginia Code and Regulations. Please refer to the education and residency requirements outlined previously in the handbook. APPLYING FOR LPC BY ENDORSEMENT: To apply for LPC by Endorsement, you must submit the following to the Virginia Board of Counseling: 1. A completed application; 2. \$175 application processing fee; 3. Verification of all mental health or health professional licenses, certificates or registration ever held in any other jurisdiction. In order to qualify

for endorsement, you must have no unresolved action against a license or certificate. The board will consider history of disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis. 4. Official transcript; 5. Documentation of having completed education and supervision experience; 6. Verification of a passing score on an examination required for counseling licensure in the jurisdiction in which licensure was initially obtained; 7. Verification of post-licensure clinical active practice (if applicable); 8. Certified copy of licensure application from the jurisdiction where you were originally licensed (if applicable); 9. Attest to having read and understood the regulations and laws governing the practice of professional counseling in Virginia; and 10. National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB) query is required for every licensure application.