

## PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSING GUIDE

### OVERVIEW:

The professional counselor license type allows a licensee to engage in the practice of counseling.

*NOTE: The content contained below is a general overview of licensing requirements. Links to access the Public Health Code and Administrative Rules for this profession can be found at the end of this guide.*

### LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

**(Listed below are the minimum requirements needed to obtain a counseling license.)**

#### APPLICATION AND FEES

- Online Application for a Counseling License - Complete all fields, answer all questions and upload any supporting documentation.
- Online application can be completed by visiting [www.michigan.gov/miplus](http://www.michigan.gov/miplus).
- Application Fee (Application fee + 3-year license fee) (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit or debit card.):
  - Professional Counselor By Exam - \$259.05
  - Professional Counselor By Endorsement – \$259.05
  - Professional Counselor Relicensure – \$279.05

#### THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL APPLICANTS

- Criminal Background Check – Once the online application is completed and submitted you will be emailed an Application Confirmation letter containing instructions to complete the Criminal Background Check (except those applicants seeking relicensure, if the license expired within the last three years).
- Good Moral Character Questions – Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking a license.
- Social Security Number – An individual applying for licensure is required to provide his or her social security number at the time of application. If exempt under law from obtaining a SSN or do not have a SSN, the SSN affidavit form will be required to be uploaded at the time the application is submitted.
- Verification of Licensure – Verification of licensure must be sent directly to our office by the licensing agency of any state of the United States or country in which you hold or ever held a license. The verification must show that disciplinary proceedings are not pending against the applicant and sanctions are not in force at the time of application. Verification can be emailed to [bpldata@michigan.gov](mailto:bpldata@michigan.gov) or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.

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- Human Trafficking – Individuals seeking licensure must have completed training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meets the standards in Administrative Rule 338.1771 prior to being issued a license. The training must only be completed one time.
- English Language Proficiency – An individual applying for licensure must demonstrate a working knowledge of the English language. This can be established if either the applicant's required health professional educational program was taught in English, a transcript establishes the applicant earned not less than 60 college level credits from an English-speaking graduate or undergraduate school, or that the applicant obtained a passing score on an approved English proficiency exam as established by the department in R 338.7002b(2) of the Public Health Code – General Rules.
- Implicit Bias Training – Beginning June 1, 2022, individuals seeking licensure must have completed at least 2 hours of implicit bias training within the five years immediately preceding issuance of the license.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAM

- Official transcripts submitted directly to this office from an accredited college or university confirming receipt of a master's or doctoral degree in counseling from a qualified program, or a degree determined by the department in consultation with the board to be substantially equivalent to a counseling degree from a qualified program.
- A program that is not accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP) under either 2009 or 2016 standards, must include graduate coursework and training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders and all other coursework requirements of CACREP, including a practicum and internship. The applicant shall bear the expense of a program evaluation to determine whether his or her educational program was substantially equivalent to a program that satisfies the CACREP accreditation standards. The evaluation must be completed by either the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE) OR a credential evaluation organization that is a current member organization of the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](http://www.naces.org). To request an evaluation with the CCE please visit <http://www.cce-global.org> and select Licensure Education Reviews under the Business Support Services drop down.
- A Professional Disclosure Statement (See Specifications on page 5).
- Certification of your examination scores must be submitted directly to this office from the examination agency. You may request score reports for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) from the National Board for Certified Counselors at <http://www.nbcc.org/Exams/>. You may request score reports for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Examination from the CRCC at <https://www.crccertification.com/>. You may request score reports for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) at <https://nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>. Scores from only one testing organization is required. You may register for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) at <http://www.cce-global.org> or email a request for a paper registration to [paperreg@cce-global.org](mailto:paperreg@cce-global.org). You may register for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Examination at <http://crccertification.com/crc-certification>. You may register for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) at <https://nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>.

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- ❑ Completed Counseling Work Experience form submitted directly to this office from your supervisor. An applicant must have completed counseling experience under the supervision of a licensed professional counselor who meets the requirements outlined in R 338.1781. All supervised experience obtained in Michigan must be completed after the limited counselor license has been issued. Supervised experience gained prior to obtaining the limited license cannot be counted toward licensure. Individuals with a master's degree must accrue 3,000 hours of post-degree counseling experience in not less than a two-year period with at least 100 hours accrued in the immediate physical presence of the supervisor or via 2-way real-time audiovisual technology that allows direct, contemporaneous interaction by sight and sound between the supervisor and the supervisee. Individuals who have completed a doctoral degree in counseling must accrue 1,500 hours of post degree counseling experience in not less than a one-year period with at least 50 hours accrued in the immediate physical presence of the supervisor or via 2-way real-time audiovisual technology that allows direct, contemporaneous interaction by sight and sound between the supervisor and the supervisee.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

**Applicants for licensure by endorsement who have been licensed in another state of the United States as a fully licensed professional counselor for a minimum of 5 years at the time of application must submit the following:**

- ❑ A Professional Disclosure Statement (See specifications on Page 5).

**Applicants for licensure by endorsement who have been licensed in another state of the United States as a fully licensed professional counselor for less than 5 years at the time of application must submit the following:**

- ❑ Official transcripts submitted directly to this office from an accredited college or university confirming receipt of a master's or doctoral degree in counseling from a qualified program, or a degree determined by the department in consultation with the board to be substantially equivalent to a counseling degree from a qualified program.
- ❑ A program that is not accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP) under either 2009 or 2016 standards, must include graduate coursework and training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders and all other coursework requirements of CACREP, including a practicum and internship. The applicant shall bear the expense of a program evaluation to determine whether his or her educational program was substantially equivalent to a program that satisfies the CACREP accreditation standards. The evaluation must be completed by either the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE) OR a credential evaluation organization that is a current member organization of the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](http://www.naces.org). To request an evaluation with the CCE please visit <http://www.cce-global.org> and select Licensure Education Reviews under the Business Support Services drop down.
- ❑ A Professional Disclosure Statement (See Specifications on page 5).
- ❑ Certification of your examination scores must be submitted directly to this office from the examination agency. You may request score reports for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) from the National Board for Certified Counselors at <http://www.nbcc.org/Exams/>. You may request score reports for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Examination from the CRCC at

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<https://www.crccertification.com/>. You may request score reports for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) at <https://nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>. Scores from only one testing organization is required. You may register for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) at <http://www.cce-global.org> or email a request for a paper registration to [paperreg@cce-global.org](mailto:paperreg@cce-global.org). You may register for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Examination at <http://crrcertification.com/crc-certification>. You may register for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) at <https://nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR THOSE LICENSED IN A PROVINCE OF CANADA

(These are in addition to the requirement stated above that apply to ALL applicants)

**Note: Applicants for licensure by endorsement who are licensed in Canada must be fully licensed as a professional counselor.**

- Official transcripts submitted directly to this office from an accredited college or university confirming receipt of a master's or doctoral degree in counseling from a qualified program, or a degree determined by the department in consultation with the board to be substantially equivalent to a counseling degree from a qualified program.
- A program that is not accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP) under either 2009 or 2016 standards, must include graduate coursework and training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders and all other coursework requirements of CACREP, including a practicum and internship. The applicant shall bear the expense of a program evaluation to determine whether his or her educational program was substantially equivalent to a program that satisfies the CACREP accreditation standards. The evaluation must be completed by either the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE) OR a credential evaluation organization that is a current member organization of the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#). To request an evaluation with the CCE please visit <http://www.cce-global.org> and select Licensure Education Reviews under the Business Support Services drop down.
- A Professional Disclosure Statement (See Specifications on page 5).
- Certification of your examination scores must be submitted directly to this office from the examination agency. You may request score reports for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) from the National Board for Certified Counselors at <http://www.nbcc.org/Exams/>. You may request score reports for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Examination from the CRCC at <https://www.crccertification.com/>. You may request score reports for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) at <https://nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>. Scores from only one testing organization is required. You may register for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) at <http://www.cce-global.org> or email a request for a paper registration to [paperreg@cce-global.org](mailto:paperreg@cce-global.org). You may register for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) Examination at <http://crrcertification.com/crc-certification>. You may register for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) at <https://nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce>.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR RELICENSURE**

- Online application can be completed by visiting [www.michigan.gov/miplus](http://www.michigan.gov/miplus), select **MiPlus Login**, select **“Modification”** next to your license number and then select **“Relicensure.”**
- Applicants for relicensure whose license has been lapsed for less than 3 years at the time of application must submit the following:**
  - A Professional Disclosure Statement (See specifications on Page 5)
- Applicants for relicensure whose license was lapsed for more than 3 years at the time of application must submit the following:**
  - Professional Disclosure Statement (See specifications on Page 5).
  - AND** one of the following:
    - Takes or retakes and passes 1 of the following:
      - The National Counselor Examination (NCE) developed by the National Board for Certified Counselors. You may request score reports for the NCE from the National Board for Certified Counselors at [www.nbcc.org/Exams/ScoreReport](http://www.nbcc.org/Exams/ScoreReport).
      - The certification examination given by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). Certification of your examination scores must be submitted directly to this office from the examination agency. You may request score reports for the CRCC Examination from the CRCC at [www.crc certification.com/](http://www.crc certification.com/).
      - The National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) developed by the NBCC. You may request score reports for the NCMHCE examination from the NBCC at [www.nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce](http://www.nbcc.org/exams/ncmhce).
    - Submits evidence of current certification issued by the National Board for Certified Counselors, the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, or an equivalent program submitted directly to this office from the agency. You may request certification from the National Board for Certified Counselors at [www.nbcc.org/Certification](http://www.nbcc.org/Certification) or from the CRCC at [www.crc certification.com/](http://www.crc certification.com/).

**Professional Disclosure Statement Specifications**

Section 18113 of the Michigan Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, requires that a licensed counselor furnish a Professional Disclosure Statement to all prospective clients before engaging in counseling services.

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A Professional Disclosure Statement is required from every applicant, even if you are not currently practicing. You must provide a separate Professional Disclosure Statement for each practice location. You are required to submit a new Professional Disclosure Statement to the board within 30 days if you have any changes to the required information.

Your license cannot be issued without a Professional Disclosure Statement(s) on file. Attach a copy of your Professional Disclosure Statement(s) to your application for licensure.

**YOUR PROFESSIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

- Your name, business address, and telephone number. (If not currently employed provide your name, address and telephone number as shown on your application for licensure.)
- A description of your practice.
- A description of your education and experience.
- The fee you charge your clients or a statement if you do not charge a fee
- The following information must be included in your Professional Disclosure Statement in the event your client(s) would like to file a complaint regarding your counseling services. This address and phone number should not be used for any other purpose.

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Bureau of Professional Licensing  
Investigations & Inspections Division  
P.O. Box 30670  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 241-0205

### RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- Online Application For a Professional Counselor Renewal – Can be completed by visiting [www.michigan.gov/miplus](http://www.michigan.gov/miplus)
- Renewal Application Fee (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit or debit card.):  
  
Professional Counselor Renewal Application Fee: \$198.45
- Renewal Cycle: 3 years
- Good Moral Character Questions – Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking license renewal.
- Disciplinary Question – Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to having sanctions imposed against you by a similar licensure, registration, certification, or disciplinary board of another state or country you have not previously reported to the department.

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- Accept Renewal Attestation - By accepting the renewal attestation you as the licensee are certifying that you have met all the Professional Counselor renewal requirements.
- Licensees seeking renewal must have completed training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meets the standards in Administrative Rule 338.1771 prior to renewing their license. The training must only be completed one time.
- Implicit Bias Training – Beginning June 1, 2022, and all renewals thereafter, licensees seeking renewal must have completed a minimum of 1 hour of implicit bias training for each year of the applicant’s license cycle. For the first renewal on or after June 1, 2022, licensees will only need to have 1 hour for each year since the rule’s promulgation date of June 1, 2021.

### HELPFUL RESOURCES AND FORMS

- By visiting [www.michigan.gov/healthlicense](http://www.michigan.gov/healthlicense) and clicking on the counseling link you can access the following helpful resources and forms:
- Resources:
  - [Public Health Code](#)
  - [Administrative Rules for Professional Counseling](#)