

Becoming a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor in Your State:

Obtaining licensure is necessary to practice as a clinical mental health counselor. Our M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree meets the educational requirements for licensure in the state of Indiana. If you desire to practice outside of Indiana, you need to research your state's licensing requirements. State licensing authorities review many issues including your educational background before granting individuals licensure. It is essential to review all of the state's educational requirements prior to starting your studies.

At Grace College, we offer both residential and online modalities for earning an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree. Our CMHC program helps prepare learners to work with hurting individuals. However, Grace cannot guarantee that learners will obtain a state license due to state requirements that must be met in addition to educational requirements. Also, licensing requirements differ from state to state and change over time. We can provide you with tools and information to help you determine if the program you are considering will allow you to apply for the license you need. To assist you in your research we have provided some guidelines and resources listed below. An individual who wishes to become licensed is solely responsible for knowing and complying with the licensing requirements for the state in which she or he plans to practice.

The information below is intended as a resource only. We do not maintain the websites mentioned and are not responsible for the accuracy of the content.

What do I need to do to prepare for licensure?

1. Research state-specific licensure information regarding Licensed Mental Health Counselors (or LPC, LCPC) <http://www.nbcc.org/directory/Default.aspx>. Then, visit the state licensing board website that you are interested in and carefully review the state laws and rules. You will want to compare the state licensure requirements with the Grace College requirements listed in the Grace College Department of Graduate Counseling Catalog. It is important to review the:

- a. Clinical mental health counseling licensure requirements.
- b. Specific CACREP accreditation requirements in your state. CACREP is the accrediting body for clinical mental health counseling programs. See <http://www.cacrep.org>
- c. Number of credit hours that are required for the mental health counseling degree in your state.
- d. Specific course content required.
- e. Number of practicum/ internship hours required.
- f. Residency requirements.
- g. Testing and background checks.

2. AFTER obtaining and reviewing the licensure requirements, it is essential that you personally contact the state board to clarify any questions or concerns that you may have. DO NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT LICENSURE QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Who can I contact with additional questions about licensure?

After you have reviewed the above information, if you need additional assistance, please call 574.372.5100 x6051 and ask to speak with the Clinical Coordinator or email the Department of Graduate Counseling at gradcounseling@grace.edu and we will be able to assist with licensing information or direct you to the most appropriate resources.