LPC Intern Workshop: Preparing for the NCE, Licensure and Supervision

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Licensure in Texas: A 7-step Process

1. Graduate
2. Practicum Documentation Form signed
3. Request official sealed transcript
4. Hire a LPC Supervisor (LPC-S)
6. Apply for, take, and pass the National Counselor Examination (NCE)*
7. Submit LPC-Intern Application to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors

LPC Intern Application

• Requirements:
  1. Complete Application
     1. Online at https://vo.dshs.state.tx.us/datamart/texasMain.do and print receipt page
        2. By mail
  2. Pass NCE
  3. Jurisprudence Certification of Completion
  4. Official Sealed Transcript
  5. Practicum Documentation form
  6. Supervisor Agreement Form
  7. Copy of supervisor’s renewal card
  8. $200 LPC-Intern application fee

• Mail to: Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors – Mail code 1982 – P.O. Box 149347 – Austin, TX 78714-9347 OR drop off

• Once you have submitted your application for license, expect 3 to 4 weeks to get your license number. http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/counselor/

NCE

What to expect

• 200 questions
  - 4 hours to take exam = 1.5 minutes/question
  - 40 = field questions
  - 4 answer choices

NCE

What to expect

• Scoring
  - Angoff method
  - Passing score varies, historically:
    • Min raw score 87 – 104, 65%
    • 90 to 110 questions correct out of 160, 60 – 70%
    • 80-85% of counselors who take the exam pass
  - Receive 14 scores:
    • 8 content areas
    • 5 work behavior areas
    • 1 overall: the only one that counts! (i.e., you can do poorly on several areas of the exam and still pass!)

• 8 Content Areas:
  1. Helping Relationships (36 items)
  2. Professional Orientation & Ethical Practice (29 items)
  3. Career Development (20 items)
  4. Assessment (20 items)
  5. Group Work (16 items)
  6. Research and Program Evaluation (16 items)
  7. Human Growth and Development (12 items)
  8. Social and Cultural Diversity (11 items)
NCE
What to expect

5 Work Behaviors:
1. Fundamental Counseling Issues (32 items)
2. Counseling Process (45 items)
3. Diagnostic and Assessment Services (25 items)
4. Professional Practice (38 items)
5. Professional Development, Supervision and Consultation (20 items)

Ex: A question might ask about the counselor’s behavior in a group related to ethics. Content = groups, work behavior = professional practice issues.

NCE
Study Tips

• To pass = reviewing what you already know + learning some new material
  – Determine what you need to learn (pre and post tests)
  – Review, review, review. The more you review, the more you will retain.
• Prioritize topics
  – Make a study plan and set obtainable goals

Resources

• The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
  • An independent, non-profit agency that works with the state of Texas to set the requirements for licensure. Develops & administers the NCE.
  • 316.547.0607; General inquiries, information requests email nbcc@nbcc.org; Exam content/administration email examinations@nbcc.org
  • NBCC.org
• Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors (TSBPC)
  • LPC “gatekeeper,” governs the practice of counseling in the state of Texas. Responsible for making sure that you are following the proper steps to become licensed.
  • Phone: 512.834.6658, Email: lpc@dshs.state.tx.us
  • www.dshs.state.tx.us/counselor/}

Supervisor Roles

• Consultant & Evaluator
  – Case consultation and review
  – Monitor and assess counselor performance

(CSTA, 2009)

Supervisor Roles

• Teacher, Trainer, Role Model
  – Develop counseling knowledge & skills
  – Identify learning needs
  – Increase self-awareness

Bernard & Goodyear, 2004)

Supervisor Roles

• Counselor
  – Supervisors address interpersonal competencies
  – Personal issues should be addressed in terms of
  – If interns request counseling, supervisor should provide acceptable referrals
Supervisor Roles

• Gatekeeper
  – Monitor client welfare
  – Encourage compliance with relevant legal, ethical, and professional standards
  – Monitor clinical performance

• Administrator
  – Keep supervisor license up-to-date
  – Maintain progress notes on LPC-interns
  – Provide consistent and timely supervision for interns

Supervision Models
Regardless of supervision model, supervisee should be receiving training and guidance within some type of conceptual framework.

Supervisor characteristics

• Rates
  – Vary due to differing business models

• Location
  – Work/life balance

Common Complaints Against LPC-Interns & Their Supervisors

• Marketing issues/ use of LPC-I

• Interns in private practice: what constitutes a private practice?

• Failure to update board of changes to supervisory agreement form

• Health and Safety Code 611 violations

Suggested Questions

• Is his or her LPC-S License active?
  – Verify at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/counselor/lpc_search.shtm

• What are his or her training and credentials?

• What is his or her theoretical orientation?

• What is his or her theoretical model of supervision?

• Questions that estimate how he or she might react to common situations that arise in supervision.
  – In case of emergency, what would you like me to do?
  – How would you communicate to me that something I am doing is inconsistent with standard practice?

• How will he or she provide evaluative feedback and how often?

• See handout
Internship

Accruing Hours

• Options for internship:
  1. Paid position, site matches interest, LPC-S on-site
  2. Paid position, site matches interest, LPC-S off-site*
  3. Paid position, site does not match interest, LPC-S on-site
  4. Paid position, site does not match interest, LPC-S off-site
  5. Unpaid position, site matches interest, LPC-S on-site
  6. Unpaid position, site matches interest, LPC-S off-site
  7. Unpaid position, site does not match interest, LPC-S on-site
  8. Unpaid position, site does not match interest, LPC-S off-site

Internship & Employment

Working toward options 1 & 2

• Searching for opportunity
  – Hidden job market
  – Networking
  – Online
  – Ask
  – See handout

Questions Or Comments?

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References