NATIONAL CERTIFICATION INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS
National Counselor Examination For Licensure and Certification

- 200-item multiple-choice examination designed to assess knowledge, skills and abilities determined to be important for providing effective counseling services.

- The NCE is a requirement for counselor licensure in many states and for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification.
How Students Apply

1. Sign up with CPS
   1. CPS website - current students - NCC & CCMHC: National Certified Counselor Sign Up Form

2. Watch for NBCC e-mail invitation (check spam and/or junk filters).

3. Follow invitation instructions carefully to avoid errors and benefit from student pricing.
Exam Options

NCC applicants can choose either the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).

- **NCE** - paper-and-pencil format and administered on campus.
- **NCMHCE** - computer-based test and administered over a two-week period in preapproved testing locations across the country.
Exam

1. Application fee: NCE - $335 / CCMNC - $425
2. Order Examination Preparation Guides online at NBCC
3. The scoring process 6-8 weeks
4. Allowed to test 3 times in a 2 year period before application closes.
Application Options

Clinical mental health counseling track are eligible for the National Certified Counselor/Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (NCC/CCMHC) application.

- The application fee is higher because students earn two certifications. For the April 2017 cycle, the application fee is $425.
- For students who wish to pursue the NCC/CCMHC option, make special note on your roster.
About the NCC Application

Payment
NBCC accepts debit/credit cards and money orders.

Application Review
- You will be contacted directly with any questions regarding their application.
- You can check the status of your application online.

The Exam
- Seven to 10 business days prior to the exam, you receive exam admission information.
- Exam scores become inactive if additional certification steps are not completed within two years.
About the NCC Application

Some NCC requirements will not be met until after you pass the exam and receive your degree.

- Transcripts – Students in CACREP-accredited programs do not need to provide a transcript until after degree conferral.
- Students in programs not accredited by CACREP need to upload an unofficial transcript when applying.
How to Access the On-Line Application

1. Watch for e-mail invitation. Check spam and/or junk filters.
2. Follow invitation instructions & benefit from student pricing.
3. Click on “request a password” link.
   i.  *Do not log on as a “new visitor.”*
4. Go to “My Open Applications” after logging in
What is national certification?

- National counselor certification from NBCC demonstrates to the public and employers that the counselor has met the national standards set by the counseling profession.

- It is not a license to practice. In some states, holding a national certification can assist the counselor in obtaining a state license.

- National certification travels with the counselor no matter the state or country of residence.

- The flagship national certification offered by NBCC is the NCC (National Certified Counselor), and it is the largest national counselor certification in the world.
What is a state license?

■ Permission from a particular state to practice counseling or to call oneself a licensed counselor.

■ Some states have a single license and some have a two-tiered system.

■ The names of state licenses vary from state to state. Some examples are LPC, LCPC, LPCC, LMHC, LPCMH, LCMHC, LPC-MH.
1. **Why should I apply** - National certification can be a continuing source of career enhancement and pride for counseling professionals. It demonstrates to clients and employers that a professional counselor has met national standards.

2. **Does certification mean I don’t have to get a state license?** - No, counselors must obtain a state license in order to do private practice counseling.

3. **Do I have to pay an annual fee?** - Yes. Annual certification fees support all NBCC certification, legislative and advocacy efforts.

4. **What can I call myself when I am certified?** National Certified Counselors. The acronym is “NCC.” National Certified Counselors may use the NCC certification mark on business cards and all professional materials. NCCs also receive a certificate suitable for framing.
1. The **ability to market yourself** using your certification;
2. Access to low-cost, highly rated liability insurance through Lockton Affinity, designed to meet the needs of counselors;
3. Use of NBCC **certification marks on business cards**, advertisements, Web sites and other promotional materials;
4. A **free six-month listing in the Therapy Directory**, an effective tool for attracting clients;
5. The opportunity to participate in **free webinars** offered by the NBCC Foundation;
6. Continuing **education credit** with Psychology Today;
7. **Access to ProCounselor**, an effective and convenient online resource that offers many features, including a timeline tool for tracking continuing education;
8. **Specialty certifications** to show your expertise in the areas of addictions, clinical mental health or school counseling.