



NATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFIED COUNSELORS.

National Certification Information for Students

A Guide to NCC Application Procedures for Participating Universities



National Counselor Examination For Licensure and Certification

- ▶ The National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) is a **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.

What is national certification?

1. To protect the public by **defining practitioners who can legally use the title of a licensed counselor and/or who can provide counseling services in a particular state.** These standards are set by state legislatures.
2. **Differs from state to state.** Most common titles are: Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). Issued by each state regulatory board.

- 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?

1. To promote and represent the counseling profession through a national certification program where the standards are set by members of the counseling profession.
2. **National Certified Counselor (NCC)** – Issued by NBCC. NBCC also offers three specialty certifications for NCCs in addictions, clinical mental health and school counseling.

- A state license in counseling is literally **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**.



National certification from NBCC shows your colleagues and the public that you have **voluntarily** met high national standards for the practice of counseling. **Benefits below:**

- The **ability to market yourself** using your certification;
- Access to low-cost, highly rated liability insurance through Lockton Affinity, designed to meet the needs of counselors;
- Use of NBCC **certification marks on business cards**, advertisements, Web sites and other promotional materials;
- A **free six-month listing in the Therapy Directory**, an effective tool for attracting clients;
- The opportunity to participate in **free webinars** offered by the NBCC Foundation;
- Continuing **education credit** with Psychology Today;
- **Access to ProCounselor**, an effective and convenient online resource that offers many features, including a timeline tool for tracking continuing education;
- **Specialty certifications** to show your expertise in the areas of addictions, clinical mental health or school counseling.

Questions

Why should I apply for the NCC certification? What will it do for me?

- ▶ 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**.

Does my NCC certification mean that I don't have to get a state license?

- ▶ **No**, counselors who hold the NCC and who wish to do private practice counseling in their state must still comply with all state laws regulating the practice of counseling. they **must obtain a state license in order to do private practice counseling**.

Questions

If I get my NCC certification, will my state automatically license me?

- **No. You still have to apply.** Also, if your state utilizes the same examination that you took to get your NCC, you may not have to pass another examination in order to be licensed.

Do I have to pay an annual fee?

- **Yes.** It is standard practice to charge an annual fee for the maintenance of any professional credential, including a license or national certification. **Annual certification fees support all NBCC certification, legislative and advocacy efforts.**



What can I call myself when I am certified?

- ▶ Counselors who complete the national certification process through NBCC are called **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.



Exam

- ▶ Application fee \$335
- ▶ The NCE will be offered in a paper-and-pencil format, and the exam will be administered on campus.
- ▶ Order Examination Preparation Guides online at NBCC
- ▶ The scoring process is completed approximately six to eight weeks after your exam date.
- ▶ You are allowed to test a total of three times in a two-year period before your application closes.

How Students Apply Application

► Sign up with CPS

► CPS website - current students – forms - NCC & CCMHC: National Certified Counselor Sign Up Form

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

► **Follow invitation instructions** carefully to avoid errors and benefit from student pricing.

► Click on “request a password” link. (Make sure to use the same e-mail address to which the invitation was sent.)

► Do not log on as a “new visitor.”

► Go to “My Open Applications” after logging in for the first time.