

APA-3
Revised 1/2018

**CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
FILED WITH THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OTHNI LATHRAM, DIRECTOR**

(Pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, S 41-22-6, as amended).

I certify that the attached is/are correct copy/copies of rule/s as promulgated and adopted on the 17th Day of September 2021, and filed with the agency secretary on the 17th day of September 2021.

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling

X Amendment New Repeal (Mark appropriate space)

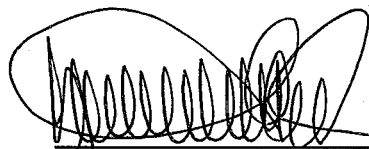
Rule No. 255-X-3-.01 (If amended rule, give specific paragraph, subparagraphs, etc., being amended)

Rule Title: Licensed Professional Counseling (LPC)

ACTION TAKE: State whether the rule was adopted **with** changes from the proposal due to written or oral comments.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION PUBLISHED IN VOLUME XXXIV, ISSUE NO. 10 DATED July 30, 2021.

Statutory Rulemaking Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, § 34-8A-5



Keith E. Warren
Administrative Director

(NOTE: In accordance with S 41-22-6(b), as amended, a proposed rule is required to be certified within 90 days after completion of the notice.)

255-X-3-.01 Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

(1) General. All applicants must meet the qualifications specified in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-8A-7(1) through (6).

(2) Education.

(a) Beginning January 1, 2022, a master's degree in counseling is defined as a minimum of sixty (60) graduate semester hours or ninety (90) graduate quarter hours at a regionally accredited college or university (e.g. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). A master's degree is defined as a single conferred/awarded master's degree in counseling (clinical counseling; rehabilitation counseling; marriage, couple, and family counseling; community counseling; or school counseling). That master's degree must consist of at least sixty (60) graduate semester hours, or ninety (90) graduate quarter hours, and containing the academic areas specified below in paragraph 2(b). No less than these hourly requirements and academic areas in a single program will be accepted. Anyone enrolled prior to January 1, 2022, in any approved program (clinical counseling; rehabilitation counseling; marriage, couple, and family counseling; community counseling; or school counseling) will be given twenty-four (24) months to submit an application for licensure.

(b) All applicants shall have a master's degree from a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) or CORE (Commission on Rehabilitation and Education) accredited program, or the content equivalent of CACREP or CORE in the hours specified above in paragraph 2(a). Content equivalent is minimally defined as graduate course work in each of the following academic areas (acceptable area content must be based on focal content (primary) rather than ancillary (secondary) emphasis in the courses used to meet each area requirement:

1. Counseling Theory: Includes studies of basic theories, principles and techniques of counseling and their application to professional counseling settings.

2. Human Growth and Development: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels; normal and abnormal

human behavior; personality theory; life-span theory; and learning theory within cultural context.

3. Social and Multicultural Foundations: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends; human roles; societal subgroups; social and mores and interaction patterns; multicultural and pluralistic trends; differing lifestyles; and major societal concerns including stress, person abuse, substance abuse, discrimination and methods for alleviating these concerns.

4. The Helping Relationship: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of philosophic bases of helping processes; counseling theories and their applications; basic and advanced helping skills; consultation theories and their applications; client and helper self-understanding and self-development; and facilitation of client or consultee change.

5. Group Dynamics, Processing and Counseling: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group leadership styles; basic and advanced group counseling methods and skills; and other group approaches.

6. Lifestyle and Career Development: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of career development theories; occupational and educational information sources and systems; career and leisure counseling, guidance, and education; lifestyle and career decision-making; career development program planning, resources, and effectiveness evaluation.

7. Appraisal of Individuals: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group and individual educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal; data and information gathering methods; validity and reliability; psychometric statistics; factors influencing appraisals; and use of appraisal results in helping processes. Additionally, the specific ability to administer and interpret tests and inventories to assess abilities, interests, and identify career options is important.

8. Research and Evaluation: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of types of research; basic statistics; research-report development; research implementation; program evaluation; needs assessment;

publication of research information; and ethical and legal considerations.

9. Professional Orientation: Includes studies that provide a broad understanding of professional roles and functions; professional goals and objectives; professional organizations and associations; professional history and trends; ethical and legal standards; professional preparation standards; and professional credentialing.

10. Practicum: Provides for the development of individual and group counseling skills under supervision. The practicum must be taken through a regionally accredited institution, for a total of one hundred (100) clock hours. A minimum of forty (40) clock hours must be direct service work with clients. At least 80% of the direct service work with clients in the practicum must be in counseling sessions with clients. Assessment activities with clients may not account for more than 20% of the direct services in the practicum. A minimum of one (1) clock hour per week must be of individual supervision by program faculty, and a minimum of one and one-half (1 1/2) clock hours per week must be group supervision.

11. Internship: Provides an opportunity for the student to perform all the activities that a regularly employed staff member in the setting would be expected to perform. The internship must be a minimum of six hundred (600) clock hours, to include: a minimum of two hundred and forty (240) hours of direct service work with clients. At least 80% of the direct service work with clients in the internship must be in counseling sessions with clients. Assessment activities with clients may not account for more than 20% of the direct services in the internship. A minimum of (1) clock hour per week must be of individual supervision by program by program faculty, and a minimum of one and one-half (1 ½) clock hours per week must be group supervision.

(3) Experience.

(a) The experience requirements for applicants are set out in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-8A-7(5), and in Section 255-X-3-.02 of the rules and regulations of the board. All educational requirements for licensure must be completed prior to accruing post-master's supervised experience and/or post master's academic work used to substitute for post-master's supervised experience. No accrual of required supervised

experience shall occur until the Associate Licensed Counselor license has been issued.

(b) Beginning August 1, 2000, applicants must have three thousand (3000) hours of supervised experience in professional counseling with Board approved supervision.

1. Three thousand (3000) hours of required supervised experience in professional counseling acceptable to the Board must include the following minimum requirements:

(i) Two thousand, two hundred and fifty (2,250) hours will be direct counseling service with individuals, couples, families or groups;

(ii) Seven hundred and fifty (750) hours will be indirect counseling services to include, but not limited to, documentation, consultation, referral development, etc.

2. An applicant may subtract one thousand hours of the required professional experience for every 15 graduate semester hours of 22.5 quarter hours obtained beyond the master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, provided that such hours are clearly related to the field of professional counseling, are focused on increasing knowledge and use of skills in the private practice of counseling in one or more of the following areas: counseling theory and practice, human growth and development, social and multicultural foundations, helping relationships, group dynamics, lifestyle and career development, appraisal of individuals, research and evaluation, or professional orientation, and are acceptable to the Board. However, in no case may the applicant have less than one thousand hours of the required professional experience. Formal graduate course work utilized as continuing education for licensure renewal cannot also be utilized as a substitute for supervised experience required to become a Licensed Professional Counselor. Formal graduate course work used as a substitution for supervised experience to become a Licensed Professional Counselor cannot also be utilized as continuing education for licensure renewal.

3. An applicant who is able to subtract one thousand hours of the required professional experience must have two thousand hours of supervised professional experience.

4. Two thousand hours of the required supervised professional experience must include the following minimum requirements:

(i) Fifteen hundred (1,500) hours will be direct counseling service with individuals, couples, families or groups;

(ii) Five hundred (500) hours will be indirect counseling services to include, but not limited to, documentation, consultation, referral development, etc.

5. An applicant who is able to subtract two thousand hours of the required professional experience must have one thousand hours of supervised professional experience.

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(ii) Two hundred and fifty (250) hours will be indirect counseling services to include, but not limited to, documentation, consultation, referral development, etc.

(4) Examination. All applicants not falling within the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-8A-23, must demonstrate professional competence in counseling by passing an examination as provided in Code of Ala. 1975, §34-8A-7(6).

(5) Character and Professional Integrity. All applicants shall furnish the requisite number of references and endorsements required by the application form adopted by the Board pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, §34-8A-7.

Author: Alabama State Board of Examiners in Counseling

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-8A-1, et seq.

History: Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed

February 5, 1988. **Amended:** Filed March 30, 1993. **Amended:**

Filed January 16, 1996; effective February 20, 1996. **Amended:**

Filed November 26, 1996; effective December 31, 1996. **Amended:**

Filed September 22, 1997; effective October 27, 1997. **Amended:**

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May 30, 2003; effective July 4, 2003. **Amended:** Filed
November 9, 2006; effective December 14, 2006. **Amended:** Filed
August 4, 2010; effective September 8, 2010. **Amended:** Filed
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