What can I do with an LPCC license?
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) license holders can practice counseling and psychotherapy outside of schools in private practice or clinic settings. The license in professional clinical counseling is a master’s level license regulated by the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners (BBSE), the same state agency that controls licensing for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

When are Chapman University classes held?
To accommodate working professionals, Chapman graduate courses are conveniently scheduled in the late afternoons and evenings, Monday through Thursday between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Where is Chapman University located?
Chapman University is located in the City of Orange, California, near the historic Old Towne Orange. Our beautiful campus is centrally located in Orange County, a short distance from the 5, 55, 22, and 91 freeways.

How many counseling hours are required prior to graduation?
If you began your graduate program at Chapman after August 1, 2012, the requirement is 280 trainee hours. If you began prior to August 1, 2012, you need to complete 150 trainee hours. These counseling hours are in addition to the hours required for your counseling or school psychology credential.

Where can I obtain hours for my LPCC?
We will work with you to locate appropriate sites. Sites must be preapproved by our program and can include schools (with mental health counseling programs, a student counseling center, counseling clinic, etc.).
What types of activities count as “counseling” hours?

- Face to face contact hours with individuals and their families (see restrictions)
- Should be related to mental health (see below)
- Can include assessment for the purpose of establishing goals and empowering individuals

Section 4999.20 (a) of the BPC provides the following definitions:

- “Professional clinical counseling” means the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques to identify and remediate cognitive, mental, and emotional issues, including personal growth, adjustment to disability, crisis intervention, and psychosocial and environmental problems. “Professional clinical counseling” includes conducting assessments for the purpose of establishing counseling goals and objectives to empower individuals to deal adequately with life situations, reduce stress, experience growth, change behavior, and make well-informed, rational decisions.
- “Professional clinical counseling” is focused exclusively on the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques for the purposes of improving mental health, and is not intended to capture other, nonclinical forms of counseling for the purposes of licensure. For purposes of this paragraph, “nonclinical” means non mental health.

Why must I be enrolled in CSP 624 (Clinical Practicum) to have my experience approved?

The CSP 624 (Practicum per BBS) class is a structured course sequence in which students gain clinical hours by working under supervision at approved clinical sites, while attending a supervision class concurrently.

Students are legally defined as “trainees” after completing 12 semester units in the master’s program. Chapman does not sanction the acquisition of clinical experience until students have enrolled in CSP 624.

In addition to helping you gain approved supervision hours, the most effective way to carry out the coordination and approval function mandated by state law is to monitor the clinical training experience of our students and to encourage their growth as therapists. The course structure also allows us to collect evaluations from supervisors, students, and practicum instructors that serve as the “regular progress reports” required by law.

As of August 1, 2012, the BBS requires that LPCC students be concurrently enrolled in the supervision course while earning clinical hours.

How many post-graduation hours will I need to accumulate?

3,000 hours
Does Chapman actually approve hours?

By law, only the Board of Behavioral Sciences has the authority to approve hours and does so at the time you file your application for the license exam. However, the board has given considerable responsibility to both supervisors and schools for guiding and evaluating students’ clinical experience. Supervisors verify the hours of their interns and trainees by signing both weekly logs and summaries of experience. Schools attempt to ensure that their students’ clinical sites provide supervision and clinical experience that is consistent with statutes and regulations.

Thus, Chapman approves each trainee’s clinical experience in general, but not his or her hours per se. However, only those hours gained in an approved site with a written agreement between the school and the site will count. The 280 hours of direct client contact required for LPCC Practicum are not counted toward the 3,000 post-graduation hours.

How much supervision do I need? Who can provide this supervision?

Supervision is defined in Section 1833 (b) of the BPC defines supervision as “ensuring that the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training, and experience of the person being supervised; reviewing client/patient records, monitoring and evaluating assessment, diagnosis and treatment decisions of the intern or trainee; monitoring and evaluating the ability of the intern or trainee to provide services at the site(s) where he or she will be practicing and to the particular clientele being served; and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of marriage and family therapy. Supervision shall include that amount of direct observation or review of audio or video tapes of therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.”

Specific Requirements for Receiving Supervision

You, the supervisee, must meet all of the following criteria:

- For every week you claim hours and at each setting you work (if more than one at a time), you must have a minimum of one (1) hour of individual or two (2) hours of group supervision.
- A supervision unit is either one (1) hour of individual or two (2) hours of group supervision. One (1) hour of supervision must be 60 minutes of supervision.
- For every five (5) hours of client contact, trainees must receive on average over the length of time at the site one unit of supervision. This is called the “five-to-one ratio” and is discussed in greater detail below.
- Post-degree interns shall receive at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for the first 10 hours of client contact in each setting and one additional hour for any hours over 10 in a working week.
- No more than five (5) total clock hours of supervision may be counted in any one week. (Be sure to record all supervision hours on your logs for ratio purposes.)
You must receive individual, face-to-face supervision for at least 52 weeks of your total pre-licensed experience. Weeks do not have to be consecutive.

Your supervisor decides whether or not workshops, seminars, and other training may be counted on the weekly logs.

**Specific Requirements of Supervisors**

All students must have an on-site supervisor at their fieldwork placement who will support them in handling in-the-moment issues/concerns. Each person must be enrolled in a supervision course to gather trainee hours.

For the cohort that prior to August 2012, per Chapman University policy, each trainee should receive supervision for a minimum of 120 of their face-to-face hours from a licensed university supervisor. They may have 30 of their hours completed by an onsite supervisor who does not have to meet the below licensing requirements but must be approved by university faculty.

For the cohort that began after August 2012, per Chapman university policy, each trainee should receive supervision for 250 of their face-to-face hours from a licensed university supervisor. They may have 30 of their hours completed by an onsite supervisor who does not have to meet the below licensing requirements but must be approved by University faculty.

**Requirements for University Supervision Hours**

Must be a California-licensed LMFT, licensed LPCC, Clinical Psychologist, LCSW, or Board Certified Psychiatrist who has held a valid, unexpired California license for at least two years prior to commencing supervision. (Note that Educational Psychologists do not qualify as clinical supervisors).

**Requirements for On-Site Supervision Hours**

In order to collect trainee hours, students must be supervised on-site by a person with sufficient experience in counseling/clinical work (school psychologist, school counselor, social worker, therapist, etc.) who can provide weekly supervision and support on site. The on-site supervisor must be approved by Chapman University faculty prior to collecting supervision hours.

As of August 1, 2012, the BBS requires that LPCC students are concurrently enrolled in a supervision course (CSP 624) while earning clinical hours. Therefore, if you have additional practicum requirements to complete beyond your second class, you may either enroll in an additional practicum course or be aware that your hours of experience may not count after 60 days beyond your second practicum class. You may also continue to accrue hours during your winter or summer breaks provided you have been enrolled in the class within 60 days of accrual and your fieldwork supervisor is able to provide you with at least 1 hour of individual supervision and 1 hour of group/ or individual- for a minimum of 2 supervision hours per week.
Other Supervisor Requirements

- May not be your spouse or relative by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, or anyone with whom you have or had a personal or business relationship that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervisor.
- Must keep informed of developments in marriage, family and child counseling, as well as the California laws and regulations governing Trainees and Interns.
- Shall ensure that the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training and experience of the intern or trainee.
- Shall evaluate the site where an intern or trainee will be gaining hours and shall make sure that the site provides experience that is within the scope of LPCC and in compliance with the specific regulations for supervision.
- Must notify the trainee immediately of any event that affects the supervisor’s ability to supervise.
- Must give at least one (1) week’s written notice to an intern or trainee of the intent not to certify any further hours of experience.
- Shall obtain from a future trainee or intern the name, address and phone number of the trainee’s/intern’s most recent supervisor and employer.

Additional requirements may be found in Section 1833.1 of the BBS regulations.

Supervisor Training
BBS-licensed supervisors (LMFT or LCSW) must complete six (6) hours of training in supervision methods every two years. This training may be included in the 36 hours of continuing education required for license renewal every two years. Both AAMFT and CAMFT offer courses in supervision.

The regulations allow the supervisor to begin a supervisory relationship as long as the supervisor meets the training requirement within 60 days of starting supervision. Note that it is important that you ask your supervisor if he or she has taken this mandated training or plans to take it in the time allotted—otherwise, your hours won’t count.

What are the restrictions on who I can serve?
It has proven to be a most challenging task to differentiate the clinical practices between LMFTs and LPCCs. Some clarity can be achieved by describing what clinical practices LPCCs are not permitted to do under current regulations. According to Business and Professions Code applicable to LPCCs,

- “‘Professional clinical counseling’ does not include the assessment or treatment of couples or families unless the professional clinical counselor has completed...additional training and education, beyond the minimum training and education required for licensure.”
• Furthermore, the Business and Professions Code states that “professional counseling does not include the provision of clinical social work services.”

In addition, the administration of assessment services, “shall not include the use of projective techniques in the assessment of personality, individually administered intelligence tests, neuropsychological testing, or utilization of a battery of three or more tests to determine the presence of psychosis, dementia, amnesia, cognitive impairment, or criminal behavior.” This is the domain of clinical psychology.

**What exams do I need to pass for LPCC licensure?**
Licensure requires the successful passage of two exams:

• California LPCC Law and Ethics Exam (taken during first year of internship)
• National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (taken when supervision requirements have been met)

Until exams have been passed, applicants must attempt an exam at least once each year after eligibility.

**How do I receive more information?**
The Attallah College of Educational Studies offers monthly graduate information sessions. These sessions are great opportunities to obtain further information about the program and meet with the program coordinator.

[RSVP »]

To request further information about Chapman University’s graduate programs, please complete the form at the link below so that the Office of Graduate Admission can send you more information about life as a Panther.

[Request Information »]

For more information about the Attallah College LPCC programs, contact

Dr. Amy Jane Griffiths, Assistant Professor of Clinical Counseling
agriffit@chapman.edu
(714) 744-7988

Hilary Leath, Administrative Assistant
leath@chapman.edu
(714) 744-2142

For more information and application materials related to LPCC licensure, please contact the [Board of Behavioral Sciences.](#)
Clinical Practicum Experience:
Chapman’s Legal Responsibility

On and after January 1, 1995, all hours of experience gained as a trainee shall be
coordinated between the school and the site where the hours are being accrued. The
school shall approve each site and shall have a written agreement with each site that
details each party’s responsibilities, including the methods by which supervision shall
be provided. The agreement shall provide for regular process reports and evaluations
of the student’s performance at the site.
—Section 4980.42 (b) of Business and Professions Code

For an LPCC Clinical Counselor Trainee, BPC 4999.34: “A clinical counselor trainee may be
credited with pre-degree supervised practicum and field study “if experience completed in a
setting that meets all of the following requirements:

- Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling and psychotherapy.
- Provides oversight to ensure that the clinical counselor trainee’s work at the setting
  meets the practicum and field study experience and requirements set forth in this
  chapter and is within the scope of practice for licensed professional clinical counselors.
- Is not a private practice
- Experience may be gained by the clinical counselor trainee solely as part of the
  position for which the clinical counselor trainee volunteers or is employed.”

BPC 4999.36:

a) A clinical counselor trainee may perform activities and services provided that the
activities and services constitute part of the clinical counselor trainee’s supervised
course of study and that the person is designated by the title “clinical counselor
trainee.”

b) All practicum and field study hours gained as a clinical counselor trainee shall be
coordinated between the school and the site where hours are being accrued. The
school shall approve each site and shall have a written agreement with each site that
details each party’s responsibilities, including the methods by which supervision shall
be provided. The agreement shall provide for regular progress reports and evaluations
of the student’s performance at the site.

c) If an applicant has gained practicum and field study hours while enrolled in an
institution other than the one that confers the qualifying degree, it shall be the
applicant’s responsibility to provide to the board satisfactory evidence that those
practicum and field study hours were gained in compliance with this section.
A clinical counselor trainee shall inform each client or patient, prior to performing any professional services, that he or she is unlicensed and under supervision.

No hours earned while a clinical counselor trainee may count toward the 3,000 hours of post-degree internship hours.

A clinical counselor trainee shall receive an average of at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every five hours of client contact in each setting. For purposes of this subdivision, “one hour of direct supervisor contact” means one hour of face-to-face contact on an individual basis or two hours of face-to-face contact in a group of not more than eight persons in segments lasting no less than one continuous hour.
LPCC Scope Restrictions regarding Couples and Families

There is no restriction regarding the assessment and treatment of children in LPCC statute or regulation.

The California LPCC Scope does not include the assessment or treatment of couples or families, or the supervision of MFT Interns, unless the LPCC has:

1. 6 semester-units (or 9 quarter-units) focused on MFT or a named specialization in MFT
2. 500 hours supervised experience working with couples, families or children
3. 6 hours of CEUs in MFT each renewal cycle

California Business & Professions Code 4999.20(a)(3), 4980.03(g)

Supervision Issues
LPCCs and PCCIs are exempt from the above restriction, if they are earning the 500 hours of experience, and if they are under the supervision of a LMFT or a LPCC, who has met the above requirements.