

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD'S LICENSING PROCESS

June 25, 2021



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FIVE STEPS TO LICENSURE

STEP 1: OBTAIN A MASTER'S DEGREE

STEP 2: REGISTER WITH THE BOARD

STEP 3: PASS THE CA LAW & ETHICS EXAM

STEP 4: APPLY FOR LICENSURE

STEP 5: PASS THE CLINICAL EXAM

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MASTER'S DEGREE

	LMFT	LPCC	LCSW	LEP
An educational institution approved by the California Bureau for Private Post Secondary Education	X	X		
An educational institution accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)	X			
An educational institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)			X	
An Educational institution approved by one of the following: Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.				X

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REGISTERING WITH THE BOARD

- Submit the Registration Application, Transcripts, Livescan, Degree Program Cert (LMFT & LPCC), Fee (\$150)
- Allows a candidate to collect supervised experience hours
- Valid for six years (renewable five consecutive years)
- Must take the California Law & Ethics to renew
- Registrants can apply for a subsequent registration after six years (Need to have passed the California Law & Ethics and cannot practice in non-exempt setting)

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90 DAY RULE

An applicant for registration can begin to collect post degree supervised experience hours if:

- The Board receives the application for registration within 90 days from the date of graduation (conferral).
- Fingerprinted by the agency where they are gaining hours.

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REGISTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

	INITIAL APPS RECEIVED	SUBSEQUENT APPS RECEIVED	REGISTRANT POPULATION
AMFT	2,887	742	14,792
ASW	3,237	653	16,572
APCC	1,348	58	5,579
TOTAL APPS RECEIVED	7,472	1,453	36,943

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REGISTRATION ISSUES

Forget to renew (loss of hours, unlicensed practice)

Unaware that the CA Law & Ethics Exam is required for renewal

Unaware of the need to apply for a subsequent registration

Unaware of the prohibition of subsequent registrations in non-exempt settings

Unable to gain hours within six years (Average length to collect hours is three years)

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CALIFORNIA LAW & ETHICS EXAM

- Simple form and fee for applying
- Applicants will be approved if they have a registration that is current, delinquent or cancelled
- The CA Law & Ethics Exam can be taken every 90 days
- If the candidate needs to retake the CA Law & Ethics Exam and they have a current or delinquent renewal, they will have to provide a certificate for completing a 12-hour CA Law & Ethics course with the retake application submitted after their last renewal

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CALIFORNIA LAW & ETHICS EXAM DETAIL

	LMFT	LPCC	LCSW
DEVELOPED BY	Board of Behavioral Sciences and DCA Office of Professional Examination Services	Board of Behavioral Sciences and DCA Office of Professional Examination Services	Board of Behavioral Sciences and DCA Office of Professional Examination Services
SCORED QUESTIONS	50	50	50
PRE-TEST QUESTIONS	25	25	25
TIME ALLOTTED	90 Minutes	90 Minutes	90 Minutes
RETAKE WAIT PERIOD	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days
CURRENT PASS RATE (YTD)	82%	75%	80%
EXAMS ADMINISTERED (YTD)	3,543	1,311	3,693

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CA LAW & ETHICS EXAM ISSUES

Unaware that the CA Law & Ethics Exam is needed for renewal

Confusion as to when the 12-hour CA Law & Ethics course is required for retake

There is no limit to the amount of exam attempts

Prevents issuance of a subsequent registration for those who have not passed

Depending on exam status a passing score may never expire (Clinical exam and seven-year rule)

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APPLYING FOR LICENSURE

- Applicants must submit the following: Supervisory Plan, Supervisor Responsibility Statement, Volunteer Letter, W-2s, Experience Verification, Written Agreements, Fee (\$250/\$500)
- SIX YEAR RULE: only hours that were gained within the previous six years from the date the application was received by the Board count (LMFT: Some practicum will count)

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LICENSE APPLICATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

	LICENSE APPS RECEIVED (FY 20/21 to date)	LICENSING POPULATION
LMFT	3,154	50,208
LCSW	2,553	33,304
LPCC	445	2,692
TOTAL APPS RECEIVED	6,132	86,204

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LICENSE APPLICATION ISSUES

Deficiencies (usually run about 20-30%)

Confusion about the six year rule for supervised experience and the six year limitation of a registration

Evaluation and calculation of hours can be complicated

Non qualifying degrees

Understanding of appropriate supervision settings

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CLINICAL EXAM SPECIFICS

	LMFT	LPCC	LCSW	LEP
Developed By	Board of Behavioral Sciences and DCA Office of Professional Examination Services	National Board for Certified Counselors and the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE)	Association of Social Work Boards	Board of Behavioral Sciences and DCA Office of Professional Examination Services
Scored Questions	150	Approx. 200	150	100
Pre-Test Questions	25	N/A	20	25
Time Allotted	240 Minutes	180 Minutes	240 Minutes	150 Minutes
Days Until Retake	120 Days	90 Days	90 Days	180 Days
Current Pass Rate (FY YTD)	77%	81%	81%	74%
Exams Administered (FY YTD)	4,315	324	3,584	173

LIMITATION: Must pass within seven years from first attempt or need to start over by taking the Law & Ethics Exam

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CLINICAL EXAM ISSUES

Candidate not maintaining their exam eligibility by taking the exam every year

Confusion about accepting the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam

Candidates requesting extension of exam eligibility

The California exam may not be recognized by other jurisdictions

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QUESTIONS



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