

Who are Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs)?

—LPCs establish professional relationships with diverse individuals, families, and groups to empower them to accomplish their mental health, wellness, education, and career goals. (Adapted from American Counseling Association 2010 Definition of Counseling)

—As of February 2015, a total of 2,322 LPCs are licensed in Louisiana. Louisiana also has 704 Counselor Interns working toward licensure. (Their title will change to Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor in May 2015 to more accurately reflect their education and abilities.)

—LPCs hold at least a master's degree, and their education and training standards for licensure are on par with those of other master's-level mental health providers (clinical social workers and marriage and family therapists). To become a Licensed Professional Counselor in Louisiana, one must:

- Possess a master's degree or doctoral degree in counseling from a university accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or equivalent
- Complete a minimum of 3,000 hours of post-master's degree supervised clinical experience, performed in no less than two years, as well as periodic completion of continuing education hours following licensure
- Adhere to a strict Code of Ethics and recognized standards of practice as regulated by the LPC Board.

Where do LPCs work?

—LPCs work in community mental health centers, nonprofit agencies, substance abuse and mental health rehabilitation organizations, private practices, public and private schools, managed care organizations, and with active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families.

—LPC care is often covered by managed care organizations and health plans.

How can LPCS help my clients?

—LPCs can assess, diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders, including addictive disorders, provide psycho-educational techniques aimed at the prevention of such disorders, provide consultation to individuals, couples, families, groups, and organizations, and conduct research into more effective treatments. When working with those with more serious mental illness, LPCs consult and collaborate with a person licensed by the LA State Board of Medical Examiners or a certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. LPCs do not prescribe medication.

—LPCs are trained to understand and effectively work with a diverse array of client backgrounds and issues. LPCs work from a holistic wellness perspective—instead of an illness-centered approach—building strong counselor-client relationships that help clients identify strengths and empower them to make positive changes.

For more information, contact:

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