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Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA)

2-27-2016

2016-02-27 PCA New Counselor Career Development Workshop Presentation, February 26, 2016

Pennsylvania Counseling Association


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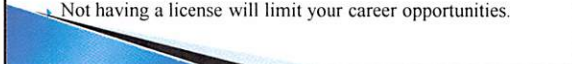
New Counselor Career Development Workshop

PCA presentation draft 1




Counselor Career Development

- ▶ **Licensure**
- ▶ In Pa counselors seeking their LPC (licensed professional Counselor, Masters level) need 3000 hours of practice for which they received supervision.
- ▶ Half of these hours can be done must be completed by someone with an LPC. There other half can be completed by another type of licensed professional, ART, MFT, MSW, etc..
- ▶ You also need 60 credits in the areas specified on the licensure application.
- ▶ Level of competence.
- ▶ Not having a license will limit your career opportunities.




Counselor Career Development

- ▶ **Overview**
- ▶ Population
- ▶ Theory
- ▶ Rationale
- ▶ Expected Outcomes
- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Evaluation Form




Counselor Career Development

- ▶ **Continuing Education**
- ▶ All Counselors are required to take continuing education credits.
- ▶ For licensure in Pa, it is 30 clock hours every two years and 20 of those hours can be done by home study/online.
- ▶ For the NCC certification it's a 100 clock hours every 5 years.
- ▶ (link for licensure info:
<http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/SocialWorkersMarriageandFamilyTherapistsandProfessionalCounselors/Pages/default.aspx#.VcubtPIVhBc>)



Counselor Career Development


- ▶ **Professional Organizations**
- ▶ American Counseling Association
- ▶ Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA)
- ▶ PCA has a Facebook, Linkedin, and Twitter.
- ▶ **Get involved!!**
- ▶ Specializations
- ▶ Branches and Divisions
- ▶ Continuing Education
- ▶ Support Lobbying for Counselors federally and locally.



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Counselor Career Development

- ▶ **Ethics Codes**
- ▶ *American Counseling Association Code of Ethics*
- ▶ *ACA Ethics Code Link:*
<https://www.counseling.org/resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf>
- ▶ **Know this document inside and out!! If you were ever to get sued, the courts look to our ethics code to guide decisions. More importantly, best practices lead to best outcomes!!**



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Slide 6

b3 go to PA Law which recognizes ACA ethics and ethic codes of other NBCC and others.
bsteich, 2/8/2016

Counselor Career Development

- ▶ **NCC and NCE**
- ▶ The NCC for graduate students is an application opportunity for recent graduates to begin the process of becoming nationally certified.
- ▶ One of the exams on the National Board of Certified Counselors website will also serve as the exam you will take for licensure.



NCE sample item #2

found at http://www.nbccc.org/nce/Exam/ExamItems/NCE_Sample.aspx

- In attempting to understand the life perspectives and characteristics of their clients, some counselors use Kohlberg's theory of moral development as a theoretical framework. These counselors know that Kohlberg's theory includes three progressive levels culminating in:**
- A. principled thought, wherein the individual adopts a self-accepted set of standards of behavior
 - B. personhood, wherein the individual is free from moral dilemmas
 - C. self-actualization, wherein the individual is fully humanistic
 - D. androgyny, wherein the individual exhibits both male and female stereotypic behaviors

Counselor Career Development

Certification

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

Compliance with continuing education requirements and the NBCC *Code of Ethics* ensure that NCCs stay current with the profession's best practices.

State Licensure

- 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.
- 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.

From: <http://www.nbccc.org/Certification-Licensure/>

Counselor Career Development

▶ **Do I continue with my education?**

▶ These are couple of more common PhD, EdD or PsyD in the counseling field. There are too many to list here. There are many PhD's that reflect specific theoretical practices and schools of thought.

- Educational psychology
- Clinical psychology
- Counseling psychology
- Counselor education and supervision

• Are you interesting in teaching one day? Conducting research? Providing psychological testing for learning disabilities, for example? Then continuing on with a PhD may be worth it for you. Explore the ads for professionals on psychologytoday.com and see if where you want to practice as well as with which population there is any real financial differences. Getting a doctoral degree often means more job opportunities than more financial gain.

Counselor Career Development

In PA you can take the NCE exam the first two weeks of every month.

*General information:

<http://www.nbccc.org/>

*NCE information:

<http://www.nbccc.org/NCE/>

*National site list:

<http://www.nbccc.org/Assets/Exam/sitelist.pdf>

*Preparation materials overview:

<http://www.nbccc.org/Exams/Study#NCE>

*Student information

<http://www.nbccc.org/Student>

References

American Counseling Association (2012). *Licensure requirements for professional counselors: A state-by-state report*. Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association.