

Associate Counselor of Mental Health
POST-MASTERS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

When applying for Licensed Associate Counselor of Mental Health (LACMH), you must provide a written plan for acquiring the experience required in Board's [Rules and Regulations](#). Your proposed supervisor must sign the plan.

Definitions to Understand

- *Professional mental health clinical counseling experience* means hours spent providing face-to-face professional mental health clinical counseling services with clients and other matters directly related to the treatment of clients in a setting that is clearly designated to provide professional and mental health clinical counseling services and is subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) ([Section 2.1.3](#)).
- *Direct supervision* means face-to-face consultation, on a regularly scheduled basis with the supervisor overseeing the supervisee's application of clinical counseling principles, methods or procedures to assist individuals in achieving more effective personal and social adjustment ([24 Del. C. § 3031\(1\)](#), [Section 2.1.4.5](#)).
- An *acceptable clinical supervisor* must have
 - have at least two years of practice after licensure in any jurisdiction
 - no disciplinary record.

Requirements for Supervisors

If your proposed supervisor is *not* an active Delaware-licensed LPCMH, the Board must **pre-approve** the supervisor.

1. If a Delaware-licensed LPCMH is not available, you may request approval from the Board for supervision by another professional licensed by the Board of Professional Counselors of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals.
2. If a supervisor licensed by the Board is not available, you may request approval from the Board for supervision by a professional counselor of mental health licensed in another state. The proposed supervisor must have held a license in good standing for at least five years in that state and must be certified by the National Board of Certified Counselors.
3. Only if none of the above professionals is available, you may request approval from the Board for supervision by an individual who is trained in professional mental health counseling supervision and holds any of the following licenses in any state:
 - clinical social worker
 - psychologist practicing in the clinical realm

Any proposed supervisor who is not licensed by the Delaware Board of Professional Counselors of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals must attest that he/she has read and is familiar with Delaware's licensure requirements, including the applicable statutes, rules and regulations. He/she must also attest that he/she is trained to provide clinical supervision and has at least five years of good standing, post-licensure experience in another jurisdiction. ***The proposed supervisor will be required to provide an official verification of professional licensure from that jurisdiction.***

Certified school counselors and certified school psychologists are NOT approved clinical supervisors.

Breakdown of Hours of Counseling Experience Under Direct Supervision

You will be required to provide verification that you have completed a total of **at least 1,600 hours of post-Masters mental health counseling** while under the **direct supervision** of one or more **approved clinical supervisors**.

- At least 1,500 of the 1,600 hours must be actual face-to-face direct mental health counseling services. Of the 1,500 hours, at least 750 hours must be individual face-to-face client sessions and must involve providing direct mental health counseling services. The other 750 hours may be individual, group, couple or family counseling services or some combination of those services.

- At least 100 of the 1,600 hours must be face-to-face professional direct supervision with your supervisor. When totaled, at least 60 of the 100 hours of direct supervision under all approved clinical supervisors must be face-to-face one-on-one – that is, you and your supervisor. The remaining 40 may be in a group setting – that is, you, your supervisor, and up to six LACMH supervisees.
- **All of the required hours—whether or not directly supervised—must be completed in a period of not less than two but no more than four years.**

Counseling Experience *Not* Under Direct Supervision

Whether any further documentation of hours of post-Masters experience is required depends on whether you have completed 30 post-Masters credit hours in the field of counseling.

IF you have...	THEN...
completed 30 post-Masters credit hours in the counseling field	no further documentation of post-Masters experience is required other than an official transcript, sent directly from the school(s), showing that you have completed the credit hours.
<i>not</i> completed 30 post-Masters credit hours in the counseling field	your clinical or administrative supervisor(s) must verify that you have provided additional hours of post-Masters mental health counseling. These hours, when added to the 1600 or more hours of direct supervision verified by your clinical supervisor(s), must total at least 3200 hours.

For more information about the experience requirements, refer to Sections 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 of the Board's [Rules and Regulations](#).