



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

PLEASE SHARE THIS NOTICE WITH COLLEAGUES, EMPLOYERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

***** New CE requirements- LGBTQ and Public Health CEs are now mandatory.*****

Read below for:

COVID-19 Update

Licensing and Renewal Information

CE Changes

Invitation for DC residents to join the board and help make a difference!

Licensees should monitor the Board's webpage for the most up to date information [Board of Professional Counseling](#). Those with additional questions should contact the Board, at dcbopec@dc.gov

COVID-19

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, DC Health remains operational. We continue to provide essential services; however, there are changes to how some services are provided. For the latest information please continue to review and monitor coronavirus.dc.gov or the Board's webpage: [Board of Professional Counseling](#).

The Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) Processing Center will be open to the public by appointment only on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The online appointment scheduler is appts.dcvsim.com.

DC COVID Alert Notice (DC CAN) is an alert notification system that allows iPhone and Android mobile device users to receive an alert when they may have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. For more information about DC CAN, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/dccan.

For questions related to the District of Columbia's COVID-19 vaccination plan, please see coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine or send inquiries to covid-19.vaccine@dc.gov

LICENSURE/REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- Licenses expired on December 31, 2020. Renewals are occurring online, and the portal is still live.
- Licensees that didn't renew by December 31, 2020 will have a sixty (60) day grace period to do so with an additional late fee of \$85. The grace period ends on February 28, 2021.
- The Board of Professional Counseling regulates the following four (4) professional groups:
 - Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)
 - Licensed Graduate Professional Counselors (LGPC)
 - Certified Addiction Counselors I (CACI)
 - Certified Addiction Counselors II (CACII)
- As graduates (an individual no longer in a student/intern/practicum status) are preparing to enter the workforce, remember **a LGPC license is required before becoming employed, providing services, and accumulating post-graduate supervision hours.**
 - **Supervised Practice Approval** – A Board approved status which allows an individual with a complete* licensure application and negative criminal background check (CBC) results the opportunity to work, while the application is in the processing phase. **A Request for Supervised Practice Form must be submitted to the Board and approved before employment can begin.**

*A complete application means, all required forms and documents have been received following the application checklist, meets the requirements, and there is no positive criminal background result.

- **A filed application is not a license and does not authorize the provision of services.**
- Verify a license by visiting doh.force.com/ver/s.
- Supervision of an unlicensed individual subjects a licensed LPC to disciplinary action. LPCs, remember that **supervisees must have a LGPC prior to receiving post-graduate supervision hours and providing services.**
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has suspended the immediate (in-person) post-graduate supervision requirement. For additional information, please visit [Board of Professional Counseling](#) and view under Policy Statements.
- If your information (name, mailing address, email address, phone number, etc.) has changed since your last renewal, please send your new contact information to dcbopc@dc.gov. For name changes, please include copy of name change documents (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.).

UPDATED CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION for LPC & CACI/II:

In order to renew your license, you must complete the required number of hours for your license type. Below is a detailed outline of the various CE requirements for each license type regulated by the Board of Professional Counseling.

The public health priorities requirement was established for all health care professions regulated by the Department of Health, with the intent of going into effect starting with the 2018-2020 license cycle. Below are the updated established requirements:

- An LPC or CACI/II applicant for renewal of a license expiring on December 31, 2020, and all subsequent licensure terms, shall complete forty (40) hours of approved continuing education (CE) during the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires. LPC licensees participating in their first renewal are not required to complete CE.
- At least ten percent (10%) or four (4) hours of the total required CE shall be in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities of the District of Columbia every five (5) years or less frequently as deemed appropriate.
- The following topics have been identified as key public health priorities:
 1. Responsible opioid prescribing and effective pain management;
 2. Nutrition and obesity prevention;

3. Identifying and reporting abuse (child and adult), neglect (child and adult), human trafficking, and domestic violence;
 4. Sexual health (including taking sexual history, discussing sexual experiences with patients, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), HPV vaccines, connections to cancer, latent tuberculosis, safe sex, and birth control);
 5. Ethics and appropriate patient interactions (i.e. boundaries, patient privacy, and communications including telehealth);
 6. Smoking, vaping, and tobacco (including dangers, smoking cessation, and non-smoke tobacco products);
 7. Preparing your patients for an emergency and handling vulnerable populations in an emergency;
 8. Identifying impairment (physical or mental) in patients and providers (including complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act);
 9. Vaccinations (including legal requirements and appropriate exemptions); and,
 10. Implicit bias, cultural competence and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in health and health care.
- Two (2) hours of CE of the forty (40) hours are *required in cultural competence and appropriate clinical treatment specifically for individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
 - LPCs and CACI/II must complete six (6) CE in ethics.
 - LPCs must complete four (4) CE in trauma counseling.
 - CACI/II must complete three (3) CE in trauma counseling.
 - Proof of successful completion shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after it is requested by the Board.
 - Licensees renewing for the first time are not required to complete the CE requirement for the renewal.

- For additional information pertaining to CE, please see pages 13 to 19 of the LPC regulations located at [Professional Counseling Regulations](#) or pages 9 to 10 of the CAC regulations located at [Certified Addiction Counseling Regulations](#)
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has suspended the in-person CE requirement for CACI and CACII. For additional information, please visit dchealth.dc.gov/node/118472 and view under Policy Statements.

*Please note that the required 2 hours of CE for the LGBTQ cultural competence requirement are **NOT** included as part of the public health priorities and must be completed in addition to those requirements.

BOARD INFORMATION:

- If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact the Mayor's office of Talent and Appointments: <https://motaboardstheresumator.com/apply/>. There is currently **one (1) vacancy** for a **District of Columbia resident** to serve as a board member.
- The public is invited to attend the Open Session of Board meetings, which are held the second Friday of every month (except August) at 10:00AM. View the web page at dchealth.dc.gov/node/160252 for agendas and the meeting schedule.

Licensees with additional questions should contact the Board, at dcbopc@dc.gov