Assignment 1.2: Licensing and Licensure Requirements

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South Carolina Licensing and Licensing Requirements:

- South Carolina
- Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPC-Associate) https://llr.sc.gov/cou/pc.aspx
- A master's in counseling. The program must be:
    - Accredited by a recognized body (e.g., CACREP or similar), and offered by an institution regionally accredited (e.g., SACS)
    - 60 semester hours, unless program is CACREP-accredited, in which case 48 semester hours may be acceptable
    - 100 hours of supervised counseling practicum during the graduate program
    - 600 hours of supervised internship as part of the degree; for counseling with substance use populations, 300 of those must involve substance-focused work, including at least 120 hours of direct client contact
- Post Degree Supervised Experience:
    - 1,500 hours of supervised post-master's clinical experience accumulated over at least two years
    - These must be direct counseling hours with individuals, couples, families, or groups.
    - Of these, 1,380 hours must be direct client contact; remaining may be indirect or related activities
    - 120 hours of clinical supervision (immediate/direct supervision)
    - Practicum and internship hours are from the graduate degree and are separate

    - Direct hours must be Face-to-face counseling with clients (individual, group, family)
    - The 1,500 hours must be accrued in no less than two years (LPC-Associate license is valid two years)
    - Weekly supervision is implied by the structure (120 hours over 2 years ≈ 1–2 hours/month minimum, but most programs require weekly contact).
    - Supervisors must be Board-approved LPC Supervisors, i.e., licensed Professional Counselors approved to supervise in SC
- Examinations
    - Must pass either the National Counselor Examination (NCE) or the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE)
- Continuing Education for Maintenance
    - LPC-Associate and full LPC licenses must be renewed every two years
    - Continuing Education (CE) requirement: 40 hours every two-year period, generally the same for associates
        - At least 6 hours must be in ethics
        - At least 25 hours must be clinically oriented (practical counseling/therapy skills); the rest may be professional development
- Additional Key Considerations
    - Out-of-state LPCs may be licensed by endorsement if prior requirements meet or exceed SC's standards