

California Licensing for PMHC and PMHC-A Students at Lewis & Clark

Updated April 2020

UPDATE 4.17.2020

A new law in California allows for someone who has been licensed in another state for at least two years to also be licensed in California. More details here:

https://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/license_portability.pdf

California licensing requirements go beyond the requirements for CACREP and not all of the requirements can be met at Lewis & Clark. Currently the best way to look at their requirements are through the application form and information listed here:

https://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpc_app_oos_01012016.pdf

https://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpcc_oos_req_guide.pdf

The majority of the coursework and CE credits required can be met AFTER graduation. However, two areas must be met DURING YOUR GRADUATE PROGRAM. **First** is the requirement for 3 credits in Diagnosis. As of Spring 2020, the PMHC program meets that requirement through a combination of the 2 credit CPSY 522 Diagnosis of Mental and Emotional Disorders class and an additional credit from MHC 524 Counseling & Interventions with Adults. Our graduates have been approved in California with this combination. **Second**, you need 3 credits in Assessment. Our program may not currently meet this requirement. We are recommending that students take an additional credit of assessment. The easiest method to meet this is to take a 3-semester credit assessment class from another program (online CACREP approved programs are okay) and transfer in the credits toward your degree at Lewis & Clark. It may also be possible to do an Independent Study for 1 credit.

If you are CERTAIN that you are going to move back to California we recommend that you apply for the Professional Mental Health Counseling – Addictions program. It more closely meets California requirements, but there is still additional coursework that is needed. We believe that PMHC-A meets the requirements for both Diagnosis and Assessment, however as of April 2020 we have not had confirmation that a graduate has been determined to have met the Assessment requirement. Please note that California may change their requirements. We will assist you in meeting the requirements as we understand them but we cannot guarantee that a graduate will be accepted for California licensure. Our program meets requirements in the state of Oregon, and any state that accepts CACREP standards. Each state determines its licensing requirements. During a student's first semester we ask them to research the state where they are interested in obtaining licensure. We can then work with the student to assist them in taking additional coursework or obtaining additional clinical hours as needed.

Please contact Amy Rees at arees@lclark.edu if you have questions.