

Memorandum to Counseling Compact Member States on the Requirements for Participation in the Counseling Compact

As the Licensed Professional Counseling Compact Commission moves towards full implementation and the issuance of compact privileges, the Commission's Rules Committee is sending to all member states a reminder of the existing requirements for a state to join the Counseling Compact in response to concerns raised by the public during the initial meetings of the Rules Committee. This document does not list all state requirements, merely provides clarification on the requirements that have caused confusion.

To participate in the compact, your state must currently require a licensee to:

1. Have passed a nationally recognized exam as approved by the Compact Commission;
2. Have completed graduate coursework that follows one of the two pathways below:
 - a. a 60 semester-hour (or 90 quarter-hour) master's degree in counseling
 - b. 60 semester-hours (or 90 quarter-hours) of graduate course work including the following topic areas:
 - i. Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice;
 - ii. Social and Cultural Diversity;
 - iii. Human Growth and Development;
 - iv. Career Development;
 - v. Counseling and Helping Relationships;
 - vi. Group Counseling and Group Work;
 - vii. Diagnosis and Treatment; Assessment and Testing;
 - viii. Research and Program Evaluation; and
 - ix. Other areas as determined by the Commission.
3. Require licensees to complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience as defined by the Commission; and
4. Have a mechanism in place of receiving and investigating complaints regarding licensees under the compact.

In order to participate in the compact, states—and therefore licensees credentialed within each member state—must meet compact criteria. Your state may issue certain types of licenses that are valid in your state but do not enable those licensees to participate in the compact. Practitioners can still use such licenses in their home state, but these licenses will not qualify them to join the compact. Your state is responsible for ensuring information shared with the compact data system will result in licensees who do not meet the criteria being noted as ineligible for a compact privilege.