**Applying for your LCMHCA**

0:00  
Hi everyone.

0:01  
I wanted to walk through the process of applying for your licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate license and just tell you a little bit about what that is.

0:11  
I am Doctor Star Joel, the testing and Testing and Licensure coordinator for the department.

0:20  
So as I mentioned, LCMHCA stands for Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counseling Associate.

0:27  
I'm actually going to skip forward and just foreshadow The next slide is that the A in associate means that you're under a restricted license and when you get 3000 hours of supervised professional practice after graduation, then that A falls off and you're an unrestricted LCMHC.

0:47  
So that is the license that allows you to practice with no supervision.

0:53  
So that's really the primary difference is when you have an A for every 40 hours that you work as a licensed clinical mental health counselor, you have to get one hour of supervision.

1:07  
So and that's for the 1st 3000 hours and then you can apply to have your A drop off.

1:12  
There's no additional test required.

1:15  
You just have to do those 3000 supervised hours and that is after graduation.

1:21  
After you get this associate license, then you can go forward to get an S, which means that you're able to supervise.

1:29  
So then you could supervise A's for the 1st 3000 hours out in the field.

1:34  
But LCMHCA is a license to practice counseling as a clinical mental health counselor in the state of North Carolina.

1:43  
And you can bill insurance.

1:47  
Just certain insurance companies don't accept provisional licensure.

1:52  
The A, but you know you can build like Blue Cross Blue Shield and a lot of of insurance panels so and you're you're operating under your own license.

2:01  
You are a counselor at that point.

2:04  
You just have that restriction of that you need to get supervision.

2:08  
So LCMHCA is your license to practice counseling in the state.

2:14  
Nothing else allows you to call yourself a professional counselor aside from having this license.

2:20  
So it is absolutely necessary if you want to practice counseling to have your LCMHCA.

2:26  
Unless you're a school counselor.

2:27  
Then you would have the LSC licensed school counselor through the Department of Public Instruction.

2:32  
But for a Clinical mental health counselor, you have to have your LCMHCA.

2:37  
It is not a certification.

2:40  
So there's a lot of other certifications and in the testing video I'll talk about the national certified counselor certification that you're able to acquire that does not allow you to practice and in any state.

2:53  
What that does is say that across the nation you have the highest standard of education and training that's the national certified counselor.

3:00  
So any certification is not a license to practice.

3:05  
With that little caveat, you could you could be a licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist Lcas if you're going through that graduate certificate in Addictions counseling.

3:15  
However, again, that is not a license to practice clinical mental health counseling.

3:19  
That's your LCMA HCA and you must have a license to practice as a counselor.

3:25  
So and then there's other there's certifications, registrations, You can become like a registered play therapist, but that's not a license to practice.

3:33  
You would still be practicing under your LCMA, HCA as a play therapist.

3:39  
So that I think is is very clear.

3:42  
If you want to practice counseling, you have to get your LCMHCA.

3:46  
You will be licensed.

3:47  
You're eligible.

3:48  
When you complete our program, we meet that we help you meet the educational requirements and then the other thing that you need to do is pass the national counselor exam or there's a there's a handful of exams that you can take the National Counselor exam, NCE, National Clinical Mental Health Counselor exam, NCMHCE.

4:07  
Or you can do the CRC which is the rehabilitation counseling.

4:11  
I suggest the NCE.

4:13  
So between the education that we provide, plus you're passing the NCE, the National Counselor exam, then you will be eligible for to apply for licensure.

4:26  
So as I mentioned, you've got 3 tiers under this first tier.

4:29  
As an A, you do need to be supervised.

4:32  
You have to have a supervision contract on file with the board with an approved supervisor who is most likely going to be an LCM HCS.

4:43  
OK, so the first thing to do is go to the boards website which is National Clinical or the North Carolina Board for Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, NCBL, chc.org and you are able to apply for licensure just right before graduation.

5:02  
Here's the what you're waiting on.

5:05  
You can have everything else complete because we do offer the early administration of the NCE, which means that you can take it and pass it during internship too.

5:14  
However, the board cannot issue your license until they have your conferred.

5:19  
Transcripts and transcripts are conferred, you know, several weeks.

5:23  
I would say 4:00 to 6:00, six weeks after graduation.

5:28  
And so you can have everything submitted, you can have the application submitted, you can have all of your forms submitted.

5:35  
However, they're going to wait until they have your official transcripts.

5:39  
So I would say submit your application maybe right before graduation or actually like right after graduation and that way the fill placement coordinator can verify your internship 2 hours because you've graduated and finished the semester and have your grades in.

5:56  
Your transcripts are just waiting to be conferred.

5:58  
So I would actually suggest that you apply the week after you graduate.

6:03  
When you see your final grade for internship to in the system, that's when you can apply.

6:09  
And again they won't issue your license until you get your final conferred transcript.

6:14  
So when you request the transcripts from the the registrar, make sure to check the box that says hold for conferred degree because unofficial or they'd be official transcripts but they wouldn't confer that you have earned and completed the degree.

6:29  
Those would not allow you to get your license.

6:32  
So when you go to this website, you go to licensure, you go to applying for licensure, you will select LCMHCA from the menu and then you will go through a series of forms.

6:45  
And I'm actually going to skip ahead here.

6:48  
It'll look something like this.

6:49  
You've got a list of different forms now this is old, so this might not align one-on-one.

6:55  
It's the best I can do because it's my list of forms from when I was applying, so it looks similar.

7:04  
This is the format you're going to see.

7:06  
Every single one of these needs to be checked complete in order for your license to be to be issued.

7:13  
And probably the very last two things that are going to need completed would be your transcripts.

7:21  
Because again, you can submit your you have to submit your transcripts are received and that is the conferred transcripts.

7:30  
And then the other thing would also be your national exam scores, because relatedly, the National Board for Certified Counselors will not release your NCE scores, your test scores until they have your conferred transcripts.

7:44  
So you're actually sending conferred transcripts to two places.

7:48  
To NBC, see the National Board for Certified Counselors and to the North Carolina Board for Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors and NBCC.

7:56  
Send your NCE test scores over to the board.

8:00  
The NCBLCMHCI know it's a lot of acronyms, but you need to send send Conferred Transcripts to NBCC as well as the North Carolina Board for Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counsellors.

8:15  
And then the last thing that I wanted to talk to you about is the verifying of your graduate counseling experience.

8:20  
That's the 700 hours that you did across practicum internship 1 and internship 2.

8:26  
And the field placement coordinator is going to verify those hours for you.

8:31  
And so you will send to the field placement coordinator one form, one graduate verification form for every site.

8:40  
So not one for practicum, internship 1 and internship 2 unless you did all three semesters at different sites.

8:48  
What we do need is one form for every site.

8:51  
So say you did practicum an internship at one spot that one form, and then you did internship 2 at another one, a second form and then I will show you where you go.

9:01  
You When you're logged into the gateway, you go to forms, you select online Forms and requests and then you select verification of Graduate Counseling experience.

9:11  
Then you'll be able to type in the Field Placement Coordinator's e-mail and send that form over to them.

9:19  
All right, so that is a brief overview of how to apply for your license to practice as an LCM HCA, a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate in the State of North Carolina.

9:31  
And do remember that you need to send your conferred transcripts to from the UNCP registrar to both NBCC as well as to the board.

9:42  
You also need to request that NBCC send your scores over to the board.

9:48  
And once you get your license, you need to have a supervision contract approved and on file in order to practice as a professional counselor.