

COMPARISON OF MINIMUM CLINICAL AND LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS IN NEW YORK STATE
Prepared by the New York Mental Health Counselors Association (NYMHCA.ORG)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	FIRST LEVEL		ADVANCED LEVEL	
	MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR WITH LIMITED PERMIT	LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER	LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR	LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
EDUCATION (completed)	Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling – 60 credit hours in SED-approved program or equivalent Specific content areas must include assessment, psychopathology, group dynamics, counseling theory and skill practice, career development	Masters degree in Social Work – 60 credit hours in SED-approved program or equivalent No required clinical education or clinical skill practice	Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling – 60 credit hours in SED-approved program or equivalent Majority of 60 credit hour program is required to be focused on clinical education and preparation	Masters degree in Social Work – 60 credit hours in SED-approved program or equivalent Minimum of 12 hours of clinical coursework including assessment and diagnosis, social work treatment and practice
INTERNSHIP (completed)	600 clock hours of supervised internship and clinical instruction – with mental health counseling as required focus.	900 clock hours of supervised internship in social work practice - clinical mental health focus is NOT required	No additional clinical internship required beyond original Master's degree No longer needed - permit is replaced by license after experience and exam requirements are met	No additional clinical internship required beyond original masters degree
LIMITED PERMIT	Required – work site must be approved by SED/OP prior to counting hours toward licensure. Permit granted only to persons who meet all but additional experience beyond masters degree and LMHC exam	N/A		Not required.
EXPERIENCE (completed)	Minimum of 600 clock hours during internship must have had mental health counseling as focus.	No clinical mental health experience necessary	3,000 clock hours (not including internship hours) over 2 years of supervised experience in a SED-approved setting. Supervision by LMHC, LCSW, licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse or physician's assistant	2,000 client contact hours over 3 – 6 years of supervised experience in SED-approved setting. Supervision by LCSW, licensed psychologist or psychiatrist
EXAMINATION	Must pass comprehensive exam within masters degree program	Must pass LMSW exam - Assn. of Social Work Boards (ASWB)	Must pass LMHC exam – National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE)	Must pass LCSW exam – Assn. of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT	Child Abuse Reporting Training	Child Abuse Reporting Training	Child Abuse Reporting Training	Child Abuse Reporting Training

To view these requirements on the New York State Education Department's website go to: www.op.nysed.gov

rev. 4/11 (k)