

OCTOBER 2018

FACT SHEET

Counselors in North Dakota

There are three different types of licensure for counselors in North Dakota. These include Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), and Licensed Associate Professional Counselors (LAPCs).

The tiered system for behavioral health professionals in North Dakota is a basic ranking of behavioral health professionals based on their scope of practice, with tier 1 being the highest rank and tier 4 being the lowest rank. LPCCs have the most advanced licensure and are tier 2a behavioral health professionals, while LPCs and LAPCs are tier 3 behavioral health professionals.

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs)

LPCCs can provide assessments for establishing treatment plans and provide treatment to individuals or groups to alleviate the effects of emotional, mental, or behavioral problems that significantly impact behavioral health. They can work as independent clinicians.

Licensed Professional Counselors/Licensed Associate Professional Counselors

LAPCs and LPCs have the same scope of practice except for the supervision requirements for the LAPC license. The LAPC license is the preliminary licensure individuals receive before full LPC licensure and therefore requires practice under the supervision of an LPC or LPCC while they are in training.

The scope of practice for both LPCs and LAPCs includes assessing and providing therapeutic interventions to individuals, couples, families, and groups to achieve more effective emotional, mental, and social development and adjustment.

Education

Individuals seeking to become a counselor are required to obtain a master's degree or higher in counseling. Schools with master's degree programs in counseling include the University of North Dakota (APA-accredited), North Dakota State University (CACREP-accredited), the University of Mary (not accredited), and the University of Jamestown (not accredited).

Licensure Requirements

In order to acquire the LAPC licensure, individuals must:

- Have a master's degree from an accredited program.
- Meet training standards adopted by the Board of Counselor Examiners.
- Provide personal and professional recommendations.
- Provide a written plan for supervised experience.

Along with all the above requirements, LPCs must also:

- Have 2 years supervised experience (minimum 50% under an LPC).
- Provide a statement of professional intent to practice.
- Successfully complete the National Counselor Examination.

LPCs working towards licensure for independent clinical practice (LPCC) must meet all the requirements for LPC licensure and:

- Complete 60 graduate semester credits, 12 of which may be training/clinical experience.
- Graduate course work in psychopathology.
- Accumulate 700 hours of training under supervision.
- Ensure that 100 hours of post-master's training must be under supervision of another LPCC.

Counselors in North Dakota

As of 2018, North Dakota had 385 licensed counselors; 175 of them were LPCCs, 156 were LPCs, and 54 were LAPCs. Seventy (40%) LPCCs and 12 (7.7%) LPCs worked as supervisors. Table 1 shows their distribution across rural and urban areas. Approximately 71.8% of LPCCs worked in urban areas, while 77.6% of LPCs and 79.6% of LAPCs worked in urban areas.

Table 1. Rural-Urban Designation for Counselors in North Dakota

License Level	RUCA Four	N	%
LAPC	Urban	43	79.63
	Large Rural	7	12.96
	Small Rural	2	3.70
	Isolated Rural	2	3.70
LPC	Urban	121	77.56
	Large Rural	20	12.82
	Small Rural	4	2.56
	Isolated Rural	11	7.05
LPC/LPCC	Urban	125	71.84
	Large Rural	24	13.79
	Small Rural	6	3.45
	Isolated Rural	19	10.92

Conclusion

- Counselors offer guidance to people dealing with issues that affect their mental health and well-being.
- There are three different levels of licensure for counselors in North Dakota: Licensed Associate Professional Counselors, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors.
- All counselors must have at least a master’s degree or higher in counseling, in addition to the specific requirements at each licensure level.
- Counselors offer guidance to people dealing with issues that affect their mental health and well-being.
- There were 385 licensed counselors in North Dakota, most of whom work in urban settings.

Data

- North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners. (2018). Licensure file. Retrieved from www.ndbce.org/.