Professional Counseling Licensure in Virginia: Challenges and Opportunities

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The Path to Licensure as a Professional Counselor
Educational Requirements:

Master’s Degree as part of 60 Graduate Credits in Counseling or a closely related field

Two-years Full-time Study
Internship

Supervised internship of 600 hours to include 240 hours of face-to-face client contact

Up to 900 hours can count towards the licensure requirement
Residency Requirement

3400 hours Post-Graduate Supervised Experience

First Pinch Points –
Finding a Job
Finding a Supervisor
Getting Registered with the Board
Residency Requirement

a. Counseling and psychotherapy techniques;
b. Appraisal, evaluation and diagnostic procedures;
c. Treatment planning and implementation;
Residency Requirement

d. Case management and recordkeeping;

e. Professional identity and function;

f. Professional ethics and standards of practice.
Residency Requirement

200 Hours of Supervision provided Concurrently with the Counseling Experience

One Hour per 20 Worked
Exam

Clinical Exam

Computer Based
## Snapshot of Providers

### Masters Level Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Professional Counselors</td>
<td>7,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident in Counseling</td>
<td>2,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage &amp; Family Therapist Resident</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse Treatment Residents</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Board of Counseling</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,198</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Paraprofessional Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Mental Health Prof-Adult</td>
<td>6,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Mental Health Prof-Child</td>
<td>4,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainee for Qualified Mental Health Prof</td>
<td>5,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QMHP Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,997</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some Issues of Concern

• Finding Work
• Finding Supervision
• QMHP Influence
Questions?

Thank you!

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