Preparing for Licensing
Case Seminar
Notre Dame de Namur University
Spring 2016

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LMFT Path:

Step 1. Register with the BBS as an MFT Intern and get your Intern number
   This can take several weeks, so a good goal is to have gathered your documents to send in
   by the end of May, at the latest.

Step 2. While gaining hours, apply to take the Law & Ethics Exam.
   The application has a minimum processing time of 30 days, so don’t wait
   too long to apply!

Step 3. Schedule your Law & Ethics Exam
   Be sure to schedule your exam well before the end of your first year as a registrant - you
   will not be able to renew your intern number without having taken the exam (passing is
   not
   a requirement, thankfully).

Step 4. Study, study study, and take Law & Ethics Exam
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??

LMFT Path, cont.

Did you pass the Law & Ethics Exam?

No 🙄

Sorry! You’ve met the requirement for re-registering at the end of your first internship year, but you will need to take it again, after a 90-day waiting period, until you pass. Also, if you don’t pass your second year, you will have to take a 12-hour Law & Ethics course approved by the BBS, and will have to pass the exam before renewing a second time.

Yes! 😊

Congratulations! Finish collecting your hours and move to the next slide!
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??
LMFT Path, cont.

You’ve passed Law & Ethics and completed your hours! WOOT!!!

Step 4. Send in your Application for Licensure and Examination

The processing time for this application is a minimum of 60 days.

Step 5. Schedule your Clinical Exam as soon as you get approval

You must take the exam within one year of your approval date!
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??

LMFT Path, cont.

Did you pass the Clinical Exam?

Yes! 😊

No 😞

Sorry! You will have to retake the test. This means reapplying (including fees), and also waiting the mandatory 6-month waiting period before you can take the exam another time.

Congratulations! You are now a Licensed MFT!!!! 😁
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??

LPCC Path:

Step 1. Check the hours requirements for LPCC! They are slightly different.

Step 2. While gaining hours, apply to take the LPCC Law & Ethics Exam.

   Yep. You get TWO!! Clinicians must take separate L & E exams for each type of license.

Step 3. Schedule your Law & Ethics Exam

   Be sure to schedule your exam well before the end of your first year as a registrant - you will not be able to renew your intern number without having taken the exam (passing is not a requirement, thankfully).

Step 4. Study, study study, and take Law & Ethics Exam
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??

LPCC Path, cont.

Did you pass the Law & Ethics Exam?

Yes! 😊

No 😞

Sorry! You’ve met the requirement for re-registering at the end of your first internship year, but you will need to take it again, after a 90-day waiting period, until you pass. Also, if you don’t pass your second year, you will have to take a 12-hour Law & Ethics course approved by the BBS, and will have to pass the exam before renewing a second time.

Congratulations! Finish collecting your hours and move to the next slide!
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??
LPCC Path, cont.

You’ve passed Law & Ethics - AGAIN! - and completed your hours! WOOT!!!

Step 4. Send in your Application for Licensure and Examination
The processing time for this application is a minimum of 60 days.

Step 5. Schedule your National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam as soon as you get approval
The minimum processing time is 60 days. You must take the exam within one year of your approval date!
Brief Timeline: I’ve graduated, now what??

LPCC Path, cont.

Did you pass the NCMHCE?

No 😞

Sorry! You will have to retake the test. This means reapplying (including fees), and also waiting the mandatory 6-month waiting period before you can take the exam another time, but you must also take the exam within one year of the date of failure, so you’ll need to keep careful track of dates.

Yes! 😊

Congratulations! You are now a Licensed PCC!!!! 😄
Summary **Post 2021:**

Need 3,000 hours total: 1,300 hrs MAX Pre-Degree, 1,700 hrs MIN Post-Degree
MIN 104 weeks Supervision (MIN 52 weeks Individual)
MIN 500 hrs of Couples, Family, Child

- Individual - No MIN/MAX
- Group - No MIN/MAX
- Telemed - No MIN/MAX
- Non-Clinical Practice - 1,250 hrs MAX
- Progress Notes/Tests/Advocacy - No MIN/MAX
- Training/Workshops - No MIN/MAX
*Cannot count person psychotherapy*
MFT Exam - Getting Your Hours Ready!

Summary Pre 2021:

Need 3,000 hours total: 1,300 hrs MAX Pre-Degree, 1,700 hrs MIN Post-Degree
MIN 104 weeks Supervision (MIN 52 weeks Individual)
MIN 500 hrs of Couples, Family, Child
First 150 hrs Conjoint couples and Family count x2

Individual - No MIN/MAX
Group - 500 hrs MAX
Telemed - 375 hrs MAX
Progress Notes/Advocacy - 500 hrs MAX
Non-Counseling Experience - 1,000 hrs MAX
Training/Workshops - 250 hrs MAX
Personal Psychotherapy - 100 hrs MAX - count x3 (=300 hrs MAX)
MFT Exam - Overall Walkthrough

The LMFT Licensing Process in a Nutshell
We need to gather an understanding of the "big picture" of the LMFT licensing process before we discuss the more detailed aspects of this process. Any person pursuing an LMFT license in California will probably follow a similar path:

1. Get your qualifying Master's degree and earn supervised experience as a trainee;
2. Register with the BBS as an MFT Intern and begin earning post degree experience;
3. Apply to take the California Law & Ethics Examination;
4. When you have earned the total 3,000 supervised hours (+ 104 weeks of supervision) and passed the CA Law & Ethics, apply for the Clinical Examination;
5. Pass the Clinical Examination;
6. Apply for initial licensure;
7. Get your official LMFT license

Different individuals might take a slightly unique path towards licensure depending on whether or not they move out of state or take a few years off. However, the vast majority of future LMFTs will follow a path much like the one described in 1-7 above.

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/app-reg/mft_presentation.shtml
MFT Exams

LMFT Clinical

MFT Standard Written Examination - replaced by (California Law and Ethics Examination)

MFT Written Clinical Vignette Examination - replaced by (California Clinical Examination)

LMFT Law & Ethics (The Law & Ethics Examination will be a separate exam for each license type.)

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/exams/exam_news.shtml
The Six-Year Rule

Hours of experience must be gained no more than six years immediately preceding the date on which you filed your application for LMFT examination eligibility. The only exception is a maximum of 500 hours of experience as a Trainee (direct counseling and supervision) that may be older than six years.

Example: Andrea applies for LMFT examination eligibility. The Board receives her application on 4/27/2012. All of the hours she gained between 4/27/2006 and 4/27/2012 will be acceptable. If needed, she could count up to 500 hours of direct counseling and supervision hours gained as a Trainee while enrolled in practicum that are older than 4/27/2003.

Once your application is approved, you will begin the process of taking the required examinations (the Standard Written and the Written Clinical Vignette Examination). Once you are in the examination process, meeting your examination deadlines is critical. Failing to meet an examination deadline results in the abandonment of your examination eligibility and requires you to resubmit an application to become re-eligible. Once you pass both examinations, you can apply to receive your Marriage and Family Therapist license.

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/app-reg/mft_presentation.shtml
You can “double-dip” your MFT and LPCC hours until licensing. After licensing, they must be separated.
LPCC Exam - Getting Your Hours Ready!

Summary “Old Requirements”:

Need 3,000 hours total - ALL POST-DEGREE
  MIN 1,750 hours Direct Counseling Individuals, Groups, Families
    Individual - NO MIN/MAX
    Group - 500 hrs MAX
    Telemed - 250 hrs MAX
  MIN 150 hrs Hospital & Community MH
    MIN 104 weeks Supervision (MIN 52 weeks Individual)

  Non-Clinical Practice - 1,250 hrs MAX
    Progress Notes/Tests/Reports - 250 hrs MAX
    Training/Workshops - 250 hrs MAX
  Client Advocacy - No MIN/MAX
LPCC Exam - Getting Your Hours Ready!

Summary 2016 Forward:

Need 3,000 hours total - ALL POST-DEGREE
   MIN 1,750 hours Direct Counseling Individuals, Groups, Families
      Individual - NO MIN/MAX
      Group - NO MIN/MAX
      Telemed - NO MIN/MAX
      MIN 150 hrs Hospital & Community MH
      MIN 104 weeks Supervision (MIN 52 weeks Individual)

Non-Clinical Practice - 1,250 hrs MAX
   Progress Notes/Tests/Advocacy - No MIN/MAX
   Training/Workshops - No MIN/MAX
LPCC Exam - Overall Walkthrough

1. Counselors will complete a graduate degree that includes the LPCC requirements.

Next, counselors will apply to the BBS to register as a Professional Clinical Counselor Intern (PCCI) to earn their 3,000 (post-degree hours) supervised hours over a minimum of two years and a maximum of six years. Applicants will have one year, from the date of their letter of deficiencies, to complete any education deficiencies outlined by the BBS. All education requirements must be completed before the intern number can be assigned.

1. The LPCC Law & Ethics Exam is taken in the first year of internship and the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam is taken when all supervised hours are complete. An exam must be attempted at least once a year until all have been passed.

This process can take several years, since applicants will have one year to complete the application, one year to complete deficiencies after Board notification, one year to complete each exam and up to six years to complete the 3,000 supervised hours.

http://calpcc.org/licensure-requirements
LPCC Exam

Examination Eligibility
Once a professional clinical counselor intern meets all experience requirements, he or she will submit an application for examination eligibility. The law stipulates that at the time the BBS receives an individual's application for examination eligibility, the qualifying supervised work experience shall be gained no more than six years prior to application. For example, the BBS receives Susan's application for LPCC examination eligibility on April 27, 2013. The hours of supervised work experience earned between April 27, 2007 and April 27, 2013 will meet the six-year requirement.

Applicants must receive a passing score on the following examinations:

1. California Law and Ethics Examination
2. National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE)

You must first pass the California Law and Ethics Examination before you can take the NCMHCE. Please continue to check the BBS Web site for future updates relating to LPCC licensure requirements.

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/lpcc_program/lpcc_is_traditional_path.shtml
Application and forms (MFT)

After registering as an intern and collecting your hours, you apply to BBS for licensure and examination.

In-state OR out-state application (California degree).

In-state ( http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/mftapp.pdf )

Out-state ( http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/mftapp_oos_01012016.pdf )
With the application (MFT)

With the application you need to send:

1. 200$

2. Examination Security Agreement (in the application PDF)

3. Experience Verification:

   You have two options to do so (no mixing & matching).
   
   Use separate form for each supervisor and employer.
   
   Pre-degree and post-degree experience must be verified separately.
   
   Include seminars, workshops, trainings, and conferences if they were part of the supervised experience (no completion proof is needed)
With the application (MFT)

4. Required coursework: if you started your degree prior to Aug. 2012, submit proof of completion of the courses found in (http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/mftapp.pdf) unless identified on your transcript previously submitted for intern registration.

5. Background questions (if any is answered yes, complete and send Background Statement form found on: http://www.bbs.ca.gov/forms.shtml)
Forms

Experience Verification - option 1 (http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/lmft_expver_37a-301_option1.pdf)

Experience Verification - option 2 (http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/lmft_expver_37a-302_option2.pdf)

Request for initial Law and Ethics exam (http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/registrant_initial_law-ethic_exam_request.pdf)

Request for the Clinical exam (http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/lmft_clinical_exam_app.pdf)
More forms

- Request for initial license issuance
- Employment as a volunteer verification
- Request for re-examination
- Request for test accommodation
- Request for rescoring

(http://www.bbs.ca.gov/forms.shtml)
Application and forms (PCC)

Same thing with collecting hours and then applying.

In-state ( http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpc_app_st.pdf )

Out-state ( http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpc_app_oos_01012016.pdf )
Application and forms (PCC)

With the application you need to send:

1. $180

2. Examination Security Agreement (in the application PDF)

3. Experience Verification:

   You have two options to do so (no mixing & matching).

   Use separate form for each supervisor and employer.

   Pre-degree and post-degree experience must be verified separately.

   Include seminars, workshops, trainings, and conferences if they were part of the supervised experience (no completion proof is needed)
Application and forms (PCC)

Submit the original Supervisory Plan signed by each of your supervisors.

4. Background questions (if any is answered yes, complete and send Background Statement form found on: http://www.bbs.ca.gov/forms.shtml
Testing Preparation

http://www.aatbs.com/


http://www.therapistdevelopmentcenter.com/
National MFT Exam Prep $350 / California MFT Law & Ethics $295 / CA COMBO: MFT Law & Ethics and Clinical Exam $620

MFT Law and Ethics Exam Study System includes INSTANT online access to:

- An organized, step-by-step study plan
- 15 online AUDIO workshops with downloadable HANDOUTS
- Complete review of essential content areas
- Effective study tools
- Clinical examples that help you learn instead of memorize
- Clear test-taking strategies you will use on exam day
- 4 Practice Exams with audio rationales
- Test anxiety management
- Coaches available for on-going questions and support

This program is designed to maximize learning and minimize stress. The program takes approximately 35 hours to complete once and can be repeated as needed. **Access is set for 4 months, but extensions are FREE.** We are with you until you pass!
Costs: GGS

Law and Ethics Workshop Package and MFT CA Clinical Exam Course COMBO: $870

Law and Ethics package consists of the following:

1. An engaging live seven hour workshop that distills the information contained in the BBS Law & Ethics Candidate Handbooks. An exam-focused powerpoint and in-class quizzes facilitate experiential learning and the acquiring of test-taking principles.

2. Up-to-date, streamlined books (either MFT or LCSW) that present an overview of essential Legal and Ethical principles in easy-to-follow outline format.

3. Online testbanks of six 75 question exams that are statistically proportioned to match the percentages of the content areas on the exams. Candidates can choose to use the test bank in either exam or study mode. Buying this package gives you a single-user license to access the online Law and Ethics testbank for six months or until you pass your Law and Ethics exam, whichever comes first. Each exam may be taken up to three times. Questions can also be taken in randomized quiz format, which allows you choose questions from specific content areas. Each content area quiz can be taken up to five times.

4. Law and ethics flashcards which offer essential content in a fluid, easy-to-use study tool.

5. An audio presentation that systematically covers fundamental legal and ethical principles.
Costs: GGS

MFT California Clinical Exam Self-Study Package: $335.00

- The 2016 GGS CCE testbank
- Get instant access to the GGS online exam practice testbank consisting of 9 complete exams of 200 questions for six months or until you pass your Clinical Exam, whichever comes first.
- The 2016 Comprehensive GGS CCE Study Guide
- Flashcards - DSM-5, Counseling Theory, Law and Ethics
- Family Therapy Audio Series:
  - Object Relations/Bowen
  - Strategic/Gestalt
  - Experiential (Satir)/Structural (Minuchin)
  - Narrative/Solution Focused
  - Cognitive Individual/Cognitive with Couples, Children, Families
- Clinical Issues Audio Presentations
  - Crisis Management
  - Law and Ethics
  - Management Practice
- Theory Comparison chart
- Crisis Management chart

This package includes a single-user license to access the online CCE testbank for six (6) months or until passing the California Clinical Exam, whichever comes first. The testbank consists of nine complete exams and randomized 25-question quizzes on all BBS content areas.
Costs: GGS

Mock Exams: $125

9am - 5pm on various Saturdays, various locations throughout northern and southern CA

*MFT California Clinical Mock Exam - "The Koala"

This test features small paragraph length questions reflective of the California Clinical Exam format. Going from 9 AM until 5 PM, this day includes a complete 4-hour, 170-question exam and an hour lunch break, followed by a 3-hour feedback session so you can get immediate answers to your pressing questions about the exam process. You keep the test and rationales.

*Law and Ethics Mock Exam

This test features small paragraph length questions reflective of the current exam format. Going from 9 AM until 1:00 PM, this day includes a complete 90 minute, 75-question exam followed by a 2-hour feedback session so you can get immediate answers to your pressing questions about the exam process. You keep the test and rationales.
MFT California Law and Ethics Self-Study Program: $270.00

Complete study package for the LMFT California Law and Ethics Exam.
  - MFT Law & Ethics Testbank
  - Classroom Textbook
  - Audio Presentation
  - Flashcards

This package includes a single-user license to access the online Law & Ethics testbank for six (6) months or until passing the Law & Ethics Exam, whichever comes first. The testbank consists of six complete exams and randomized 20-question quizzes on all BBS content areas.
Costs: AATBS

CA MFT Law & Ethics Package: Online Price: $195.00 / Association Membership Price: $175.50

- **Law & Ethics Comprehensive Study Volume**
- Legal and Ethical Fast-Flip Reference Cards
- **Exam Readiness Audio Lectures**
- TestMASTER - Law & Ethics 120-day subscription (Online mock exam program only available in a package; unlimited rounds through exam questions during your subscription) *Newly updated with even more questions! Includes a brand new mock exam (75 additional questions) for a total of three mock exams (225 questions).*
- **Expert Phone Consultation**
- **Package Protection Guarantee**
- **Money-Back Guarantee**
Costs: AATBS

The CA MFT Clinical Exam Package: Online Price: $295.00 / Association Membership Price: $265.50

• Comprehensive Study Volumes

• TestMASTER (online mock exam program) *Now with unlimited access during your subscription period!*

• Expert Phone Consultation

• Package Protection Guarantee

• Pass Guarantee
Helpful URLS:

Examination Plans:
http://www.bbs.ca.gov/exams/exam_plans.shtml

Marriage and Family Therapist California Law and Ethics Examination CANDIDATE HANDBOOK:

Find Test Dates:
https://candidate.psiexams.com/testdate/testdate.jsp

Marriage and Family Therapist California Clinical Examination CANDIDATE HANDBOOK:
LMFT Exam Content

The examination outline consists of six content areas:

1. Clinical Evaluation
2. Crisis Management
3. Treatment Planning
4. Treatment
5. Ethics
6. Law
Clinical Evaluation Question:

A 25-year-old client initiates therapy with complaints of chronic depression and lack of motivation. The client currently lives with his grandparents, does not have any money, and is attempting to finish graduate school. He discloses that his parents had a traumatic divorce several years ago and he fears he will become like his father, who had an emotional breakdown and abused his mother. The client currently has a girlfriend who lives in another state, and he says he feels alone without her.

Which of the following actions should the therapist take to assess this client?

A. Gather family history, explore client’s strengths, identify coping mechanisms

B. Gather family history, determine somatic symptoms, identify familial coping patterns

C. Explore substance use, determine somatic symptoms, identify coping mechanisms

D. Explore substance use, explore client’s strengths, identify familial coping patterns
A 36-year-old client initiates therapy and reports that the previous night she went on a date with a man she had met online. After dinner he raped her and then dropped her off at home as if nothing happened. She tells the therapist that she spent the night in the emergency room, and is afraid to go home because her assaulter knows where she lives. Which of the following actions should the therapist initially take in this crisis situation?

A. Re-establish the client’s feelings of control to reduce her sense of victimization

B. Evaluate the client’s support systems to identify a safe place for the client to stay

C. Develop the client’s trauma narrative of the event to desensitize emotional impact

D. Encourage the client to file a police report to protect other women from the perpetrator
A 7-year-old client is brought to therapy by his mother, who states that the client has been moody and defiant at home and has been fighting with other children at school. She states that the client’s change in behavior began four months ago, following a foreclosure of the house that the family had lived in for several years. She further states that the client’s father did not move with them to the new apartment, and that despite the fact that he works constantly, they still face eviction so she is refusing to let him see the client. Which of the following goals should be included in the treatment plan for this case?

A. Decrease fighting at school and defiance at home Re-establish appropriate relationships between family members Refer the mother for financial assistance

B. Decrease fighting at school and defiance at home Re-establish appropriate relationships between family members Refer the mother for anger management

C. Enhance impulse-control and attention span Explore the marital relationship Refer the mother for financial assistance

D. Enhance impulse-control and attention span Explore the marital relationship Refer the mother for anger management
Treatment

A 19-year-old college student is referred to therapy by her physician for symptoms of panic. Her physician declined to prescribe medication until the client has initiated therapy. The client, however, believes that only medication will control her symptoms and that therapy is a “waste of time.” Which of the following interventions would a cognitive-behavioral therapist use to address the client’s participation in therapy?

A. Interpret the client’s distorted cognitions and identify their connection to her current symptoms of panic

B. Explore the client’s disappointment with her physician and validate her automatic thoughts as a logical consequence

C. Examine the client’s assumptions regarding treatment and collaborate with her to promote a shift in personal conclusions

D. Role-play with the client to increase her assertiveness and encourage her to communicate her concerns directly with her physician
A therapist is currently involved in a contentious divorce and perceives his spouse as aggressive and unreasonable. The therapist begins meeting weekly with a colleague for consultation to prevent his feelings from impacting therapy with his clients. Three weeks later, a client who has been in ongoing therapy for symptoms of depression begins describing relationship difficulties that are similar to what the therapist is experiencing. Which of the following actions should the therapist take to manage the ethical issues involved in this case?

A. Provide continued treatment to the client and discuss the case with the colleague to monitor own feelings

B. Utilize limited self-disclosure and reassure the client of the therapist’s understanding to enhance therapeutic empathy

C. Explain the potential for bias on the part of the therapist and refer the client to an alternate therapist to provide ongoing treatment

D. Contain the therapist’s own feelings and focus discussions on the client’s depression to maintain consistency with established treatment goals
A 47-year-old client is referred for therapy by his pastor for complaints of problems in his marriage. The client wants to work on issues that involve only him, but mentions that he was in therapy with his wife several months ago. He wants to obtain the records from the previous therapist, but does not want his wife to know he has sought treatment alone. Which of the following actions should the therapist take in this situation?

A. Have the client sign a release to obtain treatment records that pertain to him

B. Contact the previous therapist to request summary records of the client’s therapy

C. Inform the client that the couple must each sign a release for previous treatment records

D. Reassure the client that the records are not necessary because the treatment focus has changed
Sample Questions CA LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION

An intern is considering asking his clinical supervisor to be his therapist. The intern would like to address ongoing personal relationship issues. Which of the following actions should the intern take to manage the ethical issue in this case?

A. Explore the relationship issues with the supervisor as part of supervision
B. Arrange for therapy with the supervisor that is separate from supervision
C. Seek personal therapy from another therapist to avoid a dual relationship
D. Wait until supervision hours are complete prior to initiating personal therapy
A client initiates therapy for depression following a failed marriage. The therapist finds the client very attractive. Which of the following actions should the therapist take to manage the ethical obligation in this case?

A. Suppress personal feelings of attraction and continue providing therapy

B. Inform the client of the therapist’s feelings and discuss therapeutic boundaries

C. Explain the ethical issue to the client and provide a referral to an alternate therapist

D. Seek consultation to manage the attraction and monitor therapeutic boundaries
A 58-year-old client who is working on childhood abuse issues has recently become the conservator of her mother’s finances. The client states that now that she has control of her mother’s money she finally has extra money to buy what she wants and enjoy her own life. The client states that her mother is “finally getting what she deserves.” Which of the following actions should the therapist take to address the legal issue involved in this case?

A. Maintain confidentiality and address the client’s childhood trauma

B. Maintain confidentiality and seek consultation for any countertransference issues

C. Break confidentiality and contact an adult protective services agency

D. Break confidentiality and initiate a well-person check
Study Time!

L&E Exam
On average about two months of studying with TDC (reviewing only once)
Use Dr. Marlo’s gigantic L&E book!

Clinical Exam
A few hours a day for 4-5 weeks to 6 months (anxiety level dependent)

Lesson: It really comes down to how comfortable you feel with the material after having gone through your test prep materials. During research some felt ready after having gone through their materials once while on the other hand others went through 2-3 times with multiple mock exams to build familiarity.

Celebrate the uniqueness of you.
3 weeks and passed both exams on the first try.
6 months using a ton of study materials and failed their exam.
People are different, and have different needs in the study process!

Lesson: Understand that your study plan may look quite different from others and that you have unique needs.
Studying Tips

How to take care of yourself while you are studying

Try to study in 1 hour sessions with breaks as needed

Eat well

Sleep well

Continue seeing friends and loved ones

Exercise

Meditate

Practice Relaxation Techniques
Social Media

**MFTGUIDE - Facebook/blog**

- [https://www.facebook.com/TheMFTGuide](https://www.facebook.com/TheMFTGuide) (need invite)
- [https://www.facebook.com/groups/mftguide/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mftguide/) (free to follow)
- [http://www.mftguide.com/blog/](http://www.mftguide.com/blog/)

**NDNU MSCP Alumni - Linkedin**

Mostly just Hannah posting stuff (still very helpful info, thanks Hannah)

**Trackyourhours.com**

- Test prep coupon codes!
- Updates on licensure requirements

**Quizlet.com**

- Flashcard like material using key terms and definitions

**Youtube.com**

Simply searching “MFT Exam”. Information is hit and miss but there are a lot of quick theory refreshers.

**Crashcourse in psychology (among other categories)**

- Fun and interesting presentations of basic psychological concepts and diagnosis. Fact checked & partially written by mental health professionals
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6)
If you take and fail an examination, you must re-take it no later than one year from the date of failure. Also, after failing an examination, you must wait a minimum of six months from the date of failure before the Board can approve you again to take the examination. You must submit a MFT Examination/Re-Examination form with the required $100 fee in order to retake the test. Again, the processing time for this form is 60 days.

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/app-reg/mft_part4.shtml
### Examination Statistics

#### MFT Standard Written Examination

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Statistics for the recent LMFT exam cycle for the Standard Written exam is broken down by school and available in a pdf format. For detailed information by school see [LMFT Standard Written - School Exam Results](#).

#### MFT Written Clinical Vignette Examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Date</th>
<th>Total Examinees</th>
<th>Total Passed</th>
<th>Passing Percentage</th>
<th>First Time Takers Total Examinees</th>
<th>First Time Takers Total Passed</th>
<th>First Time Takers Passing Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/13 - 6/30/13</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/13 - 12/31/13</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/14 - 6/30/14</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/14 - 12/31/14</td>
<td>1556</td>
<td>1354</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>1309</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/15 - 6/30/15</td>
<td>1356</td>
<td>1143</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>1171</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics for the recent LMFT Written Clinical Vignette exam is broken down by school and available in a pdf format. For detailed information by school see [LMFT Written Clinical Vignette - School Exam Results](#).
### LPCC Law & Ethics Examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Date</th>
<th>Total Examinees</th>
<th>Total Passed</th>
<th>Passing Percentage</th>
<th>First Time Takers Total Examinees</th>
<th>First Time Takers Total Passed</th>
<th>First Time Takers Passing Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/13 - 6/30/13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/13 - 12/31/13</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/14 - 6/30/14</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/14 - 12/31/14</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/15 - 6/30/15</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics for the recent LPCC Law and Ethics examination is broken down by school and available in a pdf format. For detailed information by school see LPCC School Exam Results.

### LPCC NCMHCE Examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination Date</th>
<th>Total Examinees</th>
<th>Total Passed</th>
<th>Passing Percentage</th>
<th>First Time Takers Total Examinees</th>
<th>First Time Takers Total Passed</th>
<th>First Time Takers Passing Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/13 - 6/30/13</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1/13 - 12/31/13</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/14 - 6/30/14</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/1/14 - 12/31/14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/15 - 6/30/15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics for the recent LPCC NCMHCE examination is broken down by school and available in a pdf format. For detailed information by school see LPCC School Exam Results.
Odds and Ends

When you go to take the exam DO NOT WEAR CLOTHING WITH POCKETS! It’s not allowed!

No watches allowed.

No snacks, no water, no good luck charms.

Only one person at a time allowed to have a bio-break. No longer than 5 minutes in the loo allowed.

(Check the Clinical Handbook for dress code & more)

http://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/publications/mft_swhbk.pdf (pg 7)
Special Accommodations

All testing sites are physically accessible to those with disabilities.

They recognize their responsibilities under the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act by providing testing accommodations or auxiliary aids or services for candidates who substantiate the need due to a physical or mental disability or qualified medical condition.

Accommodations will only be made if applicant has the proper communication with the BBS and submits the "request for accommodation package."

www.bbs.ca.gov/bbsforms.htm.

Must be submitted 90 days prior to desired test date for processing.
Reporting to Test Site

Arrive 30 minutes prior to scheduled test time.

Arriving late can result in a forfeit of test.

You will be fingerprinted before and after your test.

If candidate passes the exam the thumbprint record will be destroyed.

If candidate abandons application the records will be destroyed.

If candidate does not pass the records will be kept for future applications.

If the exit thumbprint does not match the entrance thumbprint exam will be disqualified and proper authority will be notified for subsequent disciplinary measures.
Law and Ethics Exam

How long do I have to wait until I know my results? What happens when I pass the Law & Ethics Exam?

At the end of your test, a pass or fail result will be shown on the screen and you will receive a printed score report. Numerical (raw) scores are provided to candidates who fail, but are not provided to candidates who pass. Your test results are confidential and are released only to you and your state licensing agency. To protect your privacy and to maintain the confidentiality of test results, score information is not given over the telephone.

If you are still earning your hours of supervised experience, you will continue as a registrant until you have completed your hours. Once you have met all education and experience requirements, you will submit an Application for Clinical Examination Eligibility. Upon approval of your application, you will be required to take and pass either a California clinical or national clinical exam, as indicated below:

LMFT: California Clinical Exam

LPCC: National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE)
Law and Ethics Exam

What if I don’t pass the Law & Ethics Exam? How long do I have to wait before I can retake the Law & Ethics exam?

The score report will indicate the candidate’s overall score and grade, including the number of items answered correctly. It also reveals how the candidate performed on each major section of the test as defined by the MFT Examination Plan. The number correct in each content area is displayed. The primary purpose in providing a subscore for each part of the examination is to guide candidates in areas requiring additional preparation for re-testing.

You may retake the exam after at least 90 days have passed from the date you last took the exam. If you don’t pass the exam prior to the registration’s expiration date (one year from initial registration date), you must complete a 12-hour course in California Law and Ethics before you will be allowed to retake the exam during the next renewal cycle.

What happens if I’m required to take the 12-hour course but am unable to complete it before my registration expires?

You will be permitted to renew your registration, however, you will not be permitted to retake the LAw & Ethics Exam until the Board receives proof of course completion. Remember, if you do not take the exam at least once during any one-year renewal cycle, you will not be permitted to renew your registration until the exam has been taken.
How many attempts will I have to pass the Law and Ethics Exam during a renewal cycle? What is the waiting period between exam attempts?

The exam can be retaken after a 90-day waiting period, which provides registrants with at least three attempts to pass the exam during each renewal cycle. To obtain the maximum number of attempts, applicants must submit a re-exam form and fee in a timely manner.
Law and Ethics Exam

What happens if I haven't passed the Law and Ethics Exam by my registration's 6-year time limit?

California law permits a registration to be renewed a maximum of five times before being cancelled. Effective January 1, 2017, an individual cannot be granted a subsequent registration number unless he or she has passed the Law and Ethics Exam. There are no exceptions.

How does the the exam restructure taking place affect individuals who need to apply for a subsequent (2nd, 3rd, etc.) registration number?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you will need to obtain a subsequent Intern or ASW registration number, and</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Your application for subsequent registration is postmarked prior to January 1, 2016 (and is subsequently issued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Your application for subsequent registration is postmarked between January 1, 2016 &amp; January 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Your application for subsequent registration is postmarked after January 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
California Clinical Exam (MFT)

California Clinical Examination will replace the Clinical Vignette Examination for LMFT applicants. It is designed to assess an applicant's knowledge of psychotherapeutic principles and methods in treatment and their application, and the ability to make judgments about appropriate techniques, methods and objectives as applicable to the profession's scope of practice. This exam consists of 170-item multiple choice questions administered over a four hour period and will be comprised of items similar to those that were included on the previous Standard Written and Clinical Vignette Examination. All items will be comprised of a scenario and a single question. The re-exam waiting period is 90 days.

Possible delay in results: Exam candidates who take the LMFT and LCSW Law and Ethics Examination and the LMFT Clinical Examination after January 1, 2016 could experience up to an eight (8) week delay in obtaining their exam score report. Each new Board examination requires an analysis of candidate responses to examination items in order to identify any problematic items that may need to be excluded from scoring. Once the analysis is complete and the passing score is validated, score reports will be mailed to candidates. The Board is obligated to perform additional exam analysis, which will occur after April 1, 2016, July 1, 2016, and October 1, 2016, which will also result in 6-8 week delays for exam scores, during each period.
How is the NCMHCE Scored? How soon do I know if I passed?

Each simulation option on the NCMHCE is assigned a weight ranging from +3 to -3 based on the level of appropriateness for effective client care. Your score will be determined for both information gathering and decision making sections. To pass the examination, you must obtain total scores equal to or greater than the minimum passing score for both information gathering and decision making.

After completing the examination, candidates are asked to complete a short evaluation of their examination experience. Then, candidates are instructed to report to the examination proctor to receive their unofficial score report. Your score report will indicate “pass” or “fail.”

The unofficial score report will include your name, examination identification number, and a report of your score and how you performed on Information Gathering and Decision Making sections of the test.

After verifying that you have abided by testing policies and procedures during the administration of your exam, CCE will report your official scores to your licensing organization.
If you pass the Exam

Your scores will be forwarded to your state licensure board within 30 days. Candidates who pass the examination should follow their state board requirements for licensure.

If you don't pass the Exam

Candidates may take the examination once every three months. You can re-register by submitting a new examination registration form with the appropriate fee. ($100 for National Certified Counselors and $195 for Non-National Certified Counselors)

Link to the form: [http://www.nbcc.org/assets/registrationform/ncmhceregistrationform.pdf](http://www.nbcc.org/assets/registrationform/ncmhceregistrationform.pdf)
The Process - If you are an applicant or current or former National Certified Counselor (NCC), to have your examination scores sent to a third party, order a score verification from our online store. Your score report will also verify your current certification status.

If you are not an applicant or current or former NCC, please download a score verification request form from the Center for Credentialing & Education. You will find a link to the form under the “for the professional” heading on the home page.

The Timeline - Score verification requests are completed in approximately four weeks from the date your payment clears. Express score verifications are also available.

Helpful link: http://www.nbcc.org/assets/exam/handbooks/ncmhce.pdf
In a nutshell...

You will receive the results of the examination(s) at the test site center once the examination is complete.

If you fail an exam, you will be given instructions on applying to retake it. You will have one (1) year from the date you failed the exam to retake it. You can retake an exam every 180 days (MFT).

For LPCC, you can retake an exam every 90 days, which requires re-registering with this form:
http://www.nbcc.org/assets/registrationform/ncmhceregistrationform.pdf

Once you pass both required exams: The Board will send you a letter along with a Request for Initial License Issuance form, which you must submit with the required fee. Your license will be issued within 30 business days from the date of receipt.

Three EXTREMELY helpful resources for the entire licensing process are:

