

**STEP 1****Master's Degree In Qualifying Field**

- Master's program accredited by Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- Master's Degree in Counseling, or related area
- Courses must align with specific content areas.
- Check out [here](#) for a list of programs that may qualify for this license

**STEP 2****Apply for LMHCA (Associate) License**

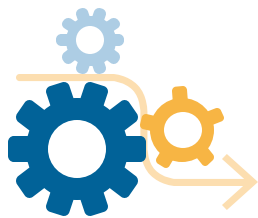
- Apply for your license [here](#). Submit application. Fee, criminal background check (CBC), official transcripts with master's degree conferred, [Form P](#), [Form I](#), and [Form C](#).
- Be approved to take the [NCE](#) examination (See step 3)

**STEP 3****Pass the NCE Exam**

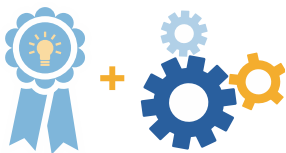
- Applicants must be approved for and pass the [NCE](#) examination.
- Once you take the exam, the exam agency will release the scores to the BHHS Board. Exam results can be shared directly to the BHHS Board.
- Seven (7) to ten (10) business days after scores are received, the BHHS Board will issue the LMHCA license (or notify applications of next steps required).

STEP 4**Get Experience towards full license as LMHC!**

- Must be licensed as a LMHCA.
- Individuals must have 2+ years of mental health counseling experience.
- The applicant must have at least three thousand (3,000) hours of post-graduate clinical experience over a two (2) year period. The clinical experience must consist of one hundred (100) hours of supervision under the supervision of a licensed mental health counselor or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board. (IC 25-23.6-8.5-4b) A qualified supervisor licensed in the state of Indiana (LCSW, LCAC, HSPP, LMHC, LMFT, Psychiatrist).
- Please review IC 25-23.6-8.5-4 and 839 IAC 1-5 to learn more about experience requirements.

**STEP 5****Apply for full license as LMHC and Pass the NCMHCE Exam**

- Apply for your license [here](#). Submit application, fee, criminal background check (CBC), Form E2, and Form S2. Once received, then approved to take the [NCMHCE](#) examination.
- Once you take the exam, the exam agency will release the scores to the BHHS Board. Exam results can be shared directly to the BHHS Board.
- Seven (7) to ten (10) business days after scores are received, the BHHS Board will issue the LMHC license (or notify applicants of next steps required)

**STEP 6****Explore Incentive Opportunities**

- Check out what policies and programs exist to support your practice in Indiana.
- Explore behavioral health workforce programs and incentives at <https://bowenportal.org/portfolio/the-playbook/existing-initiatives/> to learn more about current opportunities.

**Moving to Indiana, or looking to begin practicing in Indiana?**

Indiana is part of the Counseling Compact. If you are licensed in one of the participating states, you can apply for privilege to practice in Indiana. More information on the Counseling Compact [here](#). Also, individuals who hold a valid license or certificate to practice from another state or jurisdiction and meet other certain criteria may be eligible to apply for a license by reciprocity. Information on how to apply for licensure by reciprocity is available [here](#) on the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency's (PLA's) website.