

Information on the Application and Examination for the LAC

To become a Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC) in the State of Kansas, students need to complete the educational requirements established by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) and have a Bachelor's degree in a major acceptable to the BSRB from an accredited university.

After finishing the required addictions coursework and the Bachelor's degree (or up to four months before finishing if you need to get licensed quickly), students should apply to the BSRB for licensure and sit for the licensure exam.

The BSRB website is <http://www.ksbsrb.org>. The application forms are available on this website. If you have questions about the application process, please contact the BSRB directly. The licensing specialist for addiction counseling at the BSRB is Jennifer Peerenboom. She may be reached at jennifer.peereboom@bsrb.state.ks.us or (785) 291-3712.

There are two forms in the LAC application that you will need to send to the Human Services Department for completion. They are the "*Verification of Academic Requirements*" and the "*Practicum Review Form*." Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, as we need to return these forms to you in a sealed envelope with the signature of the person signing the form across the seal of the envelope. You will then include the sealed envelope in your application to the BSRB.

Please note that we will not process the "*Verification of Academic Requirements*" and the "*Practicum Review Form*" from May 15th to August 15th and December 15th to January 15th. Please plan ahead so that you can meet the application deadline for the date that you would like to take the licensing exam.

Also, please note that the "*Practicum Review Form*" will not be signed until the Department has received the student's signed log of hours and log of supervision hours showing that the internship requirement for the BSRB has been completed (a minimum of 400 clock hours across two internships, with one in ten hours supervised by agency and university faculty, one of whom must be licensed at the clinical level).

The LAC licensing exam is offered during the first full week of each month. Please see the BSRB website for the each dates. After the applicant has applied for licensure, the BSRB will notify the testing company if the applicant is eligible to take the exam. The testing company will then contact the applicant to make arrangements to take the exam. Please note that you must submit your completed application *at least* one month in advance of the exam you wish to take. Again, please plan ahead because the Human Services Department will not process the "*Verification of Academic Requirements*" and the "*Practicum Review Form*" from May 15th to August 15th and December 15th to January 15th.

NOTE: You may apply for licensure up to four months in advance of finishing your degree requirements. For example, if you plan to graduate on May 15th, you could apply as early as January 15th. However, we cannot process the practicum review form until all your internship

hours are completed and your log of hours and log of supervision hours have been signed and submitted to us.

It is possible to apply to the BSRB for a temporary license in the event that you need it to obtain/keep a job before you are able to take the licensing exam. However, the temporary license is only good for one year and will not be extended. Please plan to take the licensing exam soon after you apply for the temporary license. Then, if you fail the exam, you will still have time to retake it before your temporary license expires.

For the LAC licensing exam, the Kansas BSRB uses the National Certification Examination for Addiction Counselors (NCAC, Level II). This exam consists of four principal domains and has 250 items allocated as follows:

- a. Pharmacology of Addictive Substances - Level II: 25%
- b. Counseling Practice - Level II: 25%
- c. Theoretical base of Counseling – Level II: 25%
- d. Professional Issues - Level II: 25%

You may obtain study guides (for a fee) from the NAADAC bookstore. The following link takes you to the “Basics of Addiction Counseling” study guides that NAADAC recommends as helpful exam preparation. The NAADAC bookstore also sells study exams to accompany these study guides.

http://naadac.impakadvice.com/members_online/members/createorder.asp?action=catalog&catalog=PREP&af=NAAD

The Internet offers commercial websites that provide practice exams for a fee, such as the following sites, but please realize that you are using these sites at your own risk. We have not reviewed these sites and cannot vouch for their effectiveness in preparing students for the exam.

<http://addictionsexam.com/>

http://www.ptcny.com/clients/NCC/#Online_Practice_Test_for_Addiction_Counselors

Note: The above site is not a site to apply for the exam but rather to find a practice test.