

Effective 03-09-2018 – Subject to Updates/Changes

1. I'm an Associate Professional Counselor, will I be "grandfathered" in under the current rule?

Associate Professional Counselors who keep their Georgia APC licenses active until the Georgia LPC license is issued will remain under the current rules for the education/coursework requirements and the current internship hour requirement.

- *Any directed experience under supervision that began prior to 09-30-2018 and was reported to the Board by submission of the APC Contract Affidavit by a licensed APC on or before 09-30-2018 and was approved by the Board, will remain under the current hour requirements for directed experience (minimum of 600 hours per year) and supervision (minimum of 30 hours per year.)*
- *Changes or additions to directed experience/direction and/or supervisors/supervision that occurred prior to 09-30-2018 and were not reported by submission of a new APC Contract Affidavit prior to 09-30-2018 for Board review and approval will not be eligible for approval/acceptance under the current requirements.*
- ***ANY and ALL** changes or additions in direction/directed experience and/or supervisors/supervision that begin on or after 10-01-2018 are required to meet the new hour requirements of a minimum of 1000 hours of directed work experience per year and a minimum of 35 hours of supervision per year and must be reported to the Board by submission of the APC Contract Affidavit within 14 days of the change as required by Board Rule 135-5-.01(b)(2).*

2. I have not applied for licensure as an APC or LPC but I graduated before 09-30-2018, will the rule changes apply to me?

If you do not submit a complete application for APC or LPC licensure prior to 09-30-2018 that documents the requirements for licensure have been completed prior to 09-30-2018, then regardless of your graduation date, you would be required to meet the requirements in effect at the time you submit a completed application.

3. If I submit an application on or before 09-30-2018 but I haven't completed the requirements, would I fall under the current requirements since my application was submitted before the rule changes take effect?

If you do not hold an active Georgia APC license, and submit an incomplete application prior to 09-30-2018 and do not document you meet the requirements for licensure were completed prior to 09-30-2018, then you would not fall under the current requirements and would need to document you meet the

requirements in effect after 09-30-2018 before you would be eligible for licensure. For active Georgia APC licensees, please review the other FAQs for information specific to active Georgia licensees.

4. If I submit my application on or before 09-30-2018 and it is complete, and I document meeting the minimum requirements for licensure but the Board will not review the application until after 09-30-2018, will I fall under the current rule or the new rule requirements?

If your application is received on or before 09-30-2018 and the application is complete, and you have documented meeting the licensure requirements currently in effect (prior to 09-30-2018), and your application is not reviewed by the Board until after 09-30-2018, then the Board will review your application based on it being received, complete, on or before 09-30-2018 based on the rules in effect prior to 09-30-2018.

5. My APC license lapsed or expired, would I be “grandfathered” in under the current rules since I previously held an APC license?

No. If you do not hold a current, active Georgia APC license, you would not be “grandfathered” in under the current rules. You would fall under the requirements in effect at the time you provide a completed application.

6. I was previously approved to sit for the exam but was unable to take and pass the exam. Will that prior approval on a previous application “grandfather” me in under the current rules if I submit a new application after 09-30-2018?

No. Any prior approval on a previous application that has expired, withdrawn or pending as of 09-30-2018 would not “grandfather” you in under old rules. New applications are reviewed independently of any prior application and is reviewed based on the information provided as part of the new application and the requirements in effect at the time the new application is received.

7. For supervision entered into after September 30, 2018, do all supervisors have to have the supervisor credential from either LPCA of Georgia or NBCC?

No. Only supervisors who are licensed as Professional Counselors must hold either a NBCC Approved Clinical Supervisor Credential OR a LPCA of GA Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor credential. This supervisor certification requirement does not apply to other eligible licensure types.

However, it would apply if the supervisor is dual-licensed and one of the licenses held is a LPC license. Please see the definition of “supervisor” in Board Rules 135-5-.01(a)(5) and 135-5-.02(a)(5) for additional information regarding the criteria for someone to be an eligible supervisor.

8. I began supervision prior to 09-30-2018 and my supervisor is not certified. Will I have to obtain a new supervisor?

If you hold an active Georgia APC license and submitted an APC Contract Affidavit that was approved by the Board prior to 09-30-2018 documenting you are obtaining supervision with a LPC supervisor who is not a certified supervisor pursuant to the new rules, then you may continue to obtain regular supervision with the LPC supervisor. However if you change supervisors or take a break in your supervision after 09-30-2018, then you will need to ensure that your new supervisor does hold the supervisor credential if that supervisor is a LPC.

ANY and ALL changes or additions in direction/directed experience and/or supervisors/supervision that begin on or after 10-01-2018 are required to meet the new hour requirements of a minimum of 1000 hours of directed work experience per year and a minimum of 35 hours of supervision per year and must be reported to the Board by submission of the APC Contract Affidavit within 14 days of the change as required by Board Rule 135-5-.01(b)(2).

9. I am a LPC currently supervising APC licensees and I do not want to obtain the supervisor credential. Do I need to stop supervising these individuals?

If your Georgia Licensed APC supervisees submitted the APC Contract Affidavit to the Board documenting you as their supervisor and that Contract Affidavit was approved by the Board prior to 09-30-2018, then you may continue to provide regular supervision to those individuals.

If your Georgia licensed APC supervisees did not submit the APC Contract Affidavit documenting you as their supervisor and obtain approval from the Board prior to 09-30-2018, then any supervision you provide that individual after 09-30-2018 will not be eligible for approval.

10. Will my program have to be CACREP accredited?

Per Board Rules 135-5-.01 and 135-5-.02, after 09-30-2018 the degree program must be accredited by CACREP, CORE or a Regionally Accredited Program recognized by CHEA, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The program must be substantially similar in coursework and content to a CACREP or CORE accredited program. You would need to check with your school to see if your program meets this requirement.

Board Rules 135-5-.01 and 135-5-.02 can be found on the Board's website, www.sos.ga.gov/plb/counselors, under the "Laws, Policies & Rules" heading.