

# Palm Beach Atlantic University

## M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CACREP-Accredited)

### *Professional Counselor Licensure Requirements — 50-State Analysis*

## Program Overview

The Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA) is a CACREP-accredited, 60-credit-hour graduate program. The program includes a 100-hour supervised practicum (minimum 40 direct service hours) and a two-semester internship totaling 600+ clock hours (minimum 240 direct service hours). The curriculum is designed to meet CACREP 2016 Standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Florida LMHC licensure requirements.

## Key Program Characteristics

- CACREP Accreditation: Yes — Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty
- Total Credit Hours: 60 semester hours
- Practicum: 100+ clock hours (40+ direct service)
- Internship: 600+ clock hours over two semesters (240+ direct service)
- Curriculum includes: human sexuality, substance abuse, psychopathology/diagnosis, group counseling, multicultural counseling, ethics, assessment, research, human development, and career counseling
- Faith-integrated Christian perspective

## Important Disclaimers

1. State licensure requirements change frequently. This analysis reflects requirements as of February 2026. Students should verify all requirements directly with the relevant state licensing board prior to applying for licensure.
2. All states require post-degree supervised practice hours (typically 2,000–4,000 hours over 2–4 years) and examination passage for full licensure. These post-degree requirements are not deficiencies of the program but are universal requirements graduates must fulfill independently.
3. State boards make final determinations regarding educational equivalency. This analysis represents a best estimate based on publicly available information.
4. The Counseling Compact (39 states + DC as of early 2026) allows compact members to practice across participating states via a Privilege to Practice. PBA graduates from the CACREP-accredited program are well-positioned to benefit from this compact.

## Color Key for Table

✓ Yes (Green) = PBA's program fully meets educational requirements for licensure eligibility in this state

⚠ Conditional (Yellow) = PBA's program largely meets requirements but one or more specific elements require verification or supplementation

⚠ Additional Req. (Red) = Additional coursework or program elements beyond standard CACREP requirements are needed before applying in this state

## 50-State Licensure Requirements Analysis Table

State / License Title	Regulatory Board Website	PBA Program Meets Requirements	CACREP Basis for Licensure	Additional Requirements Not Addressed in Program / Notes
<b>Alabama</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://abec.alabama.gov">https://abec.alabama.gov</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 supervised hours, 2,250 direct contact; NCE exam required.
<b>Alaska</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/ProfessionalCounselors.aspx">https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/ProfessionalCounselors.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hours, 1,000 direct contact, 100 supervision hours; NCE or NCMHCE exam.
<b>Arizona</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://azbbhe.us">https://azbbhe.us</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,200 hours, 1,600 direct contact; NCE exam required.
<b>Arkansas</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://healthy.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/boards/examiners-in-counseling-arkansas-state-board/">https://healthy.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/boards/examiners-in-counseling-arkansas-state-board/</a>	⚠ Conditional	Equivalent Accepted	Requires coursework in specific content areas — 1 Credit in Use of Technology in Counseling. Post-degree: 3,000 hours over 3 years and 175 supervision hours; NCE and oral exam required.
<b>California</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.bbs.ca.gov">https://www.bbs.ca.gov</a>	⚠ Additional Req.	Equivalent Accepted	Additional required courses beyond standard CACREP: Psychopharmacology (3 units), Crisis/Trauma counseling (3 units), Advanced theories (3 units), specialized training (15 units); suicide risk training (6 hrs); aging/elder abuse content; CA Law & Ethics Exam and NCMHCE required post-degree.
<b>Colorado</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://dpo.colorado.gov/ProfessionalCounselor">https://dpo.colorado.gov/ProfessionalCounselor</a>	✓ Yes	Required	CACREP accreditation required or CCE evaluation. Post-degree: 2,000 hours, 100 supervision hrs; NCE + CO Jurisprudence Exam required.
<b>Connecticut</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing--Investigations/Professional-Counselor">https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Practitioner-Licensing--Investigations/Professional-Counselor</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hours; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Delaware</b> <i>LPCMH</i>	<a href="https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/profcounselors">https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/profcounselors</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,200 hours, 1,600 direct contact; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Florida</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov">https://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov</a>	✓ Yes	Required	PBA's CACREP program meets core FL requirements. Program includes: (1) dedicated Human Sexuality course (3 sem hrs), (2) dedicated Substance Abuse course (3 sem hrs).

**Palm Beach Atlantic University — M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Licensure Eligibility Analysis by State**

State / License Title	Regulatory Board Website	PBA Program Meets Requirements	CACREP Basis for Licensure	Additional Requirements Not Addressed in Program / Notes
				Post-degree: 2,000 hours, 1,500 direct client hrs, 100 supervision hrs; 8-hr FL laws & rules CE course; 3-hr HIV/AIDS course; 2-hr domestic violence CE (within 6 months of licensure); NCMHCE required.
<b>Georgia</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43">https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43</a>	⚠ <b>Conditional</b>	Equivalent Accepted	Practicum/internship site supervisors must be licensed with 3 years of experience (master's level). PBA site supervisors must have 2 years experience. Post-degree: 2,000 hours, 1,500 direct contact; NCE exam.
<b>Hawaii</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/programs/mental">https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/programs/mental</a>	⚠ <b>Conditional</b>	Equivalent Accepted	Requires 300-hour supervised client contact in practicum/internship. PBA requires 280 client contact clock hours. Post-degree: 3,000 hours, 100 supervision hrs; NCE.
<b>Idaho</b> <i>LPC/LCPC</i>	<a href="https://dopl.idaho.gov">https://dopl.idaho.gov</a>	✓ <b>Yes</b>	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: LPC requires 1,000 hrs (400 direct); LCPC requires additional 2,000 hrs after LPC licensure plus diagnostic evaluation course; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Illinois</b> <i>LPC/LCPC</i>	<a href="https://www.idfpr.com/profs/profcounselor.asp">https://www.idfpr.com/profs/profcounselor.asp</a>	✓ <b>Yes</b>	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP programs approved. Illinois laws knowledge may need verification. Post-degree: LPC = 2,000 hrs, 1,000 direct; LCPC = additional 2,000 hrs; NCE for LPC, NCE + NCMHCE for LCPC.
<b>Indiana</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/behavioral-health-and-human-services/behavioral-health-and-human-services/licensing-information/#Mental_Health_Counselor_Associate_LMHCA_Master_Level">https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/behavioral-health-and-human-services/behavioral-health-and-human-services/licensing-information/#Mental_Health_Counselor_Associate_LMHCA_Master_Level</a>	✓ <b>Yes</b>	Equivalent Accepted	Internship must document at least 66 hours of <b>face-to-face supervision</b> . Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact; NCE.
<b>Iowa</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Behavioral-Science">https://idph.iowa.gov/Licensure/Iowa-Board-of-Behavioral-Science</a>	✓ <b>Yes</b>	<b>Required</b>	60 semester hours + CACREP accreditation required (PBA meets). Post-degree: 3,000 hours, 1,500 direct contact, 200 supervision hrs (100 individual); NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Kansas</b> <i>LPC/LCPC</i>	<a href="https://ksbsrb.ks.gov">https://ksbsrb.ks.gov</a>	✓ <b>Yes</b>	Equivalent Accepted	For LCPC, additional 15 credit hours in diagnostics/DSM required beyond LPC. Post-degree: 4,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact; NCE or NCMHCE.

**Palm Beach Atlantic University — M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Licensure Eligibility Analysis by State**

State / License Title	Regulatory Board Website	PBA Program Meets Requirements	CACREP Basis for Licensure	Additional Requirements Not Addressed in Program / Notes
<b>Kentucky</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://ipc.ky.gov">https://ipc.ky.gov</a>	✓ Yes	Required	CACREP accreditation now required (PBA meets). 60 semester hours + 600-hr practicum/internship with 240 direct hrs required (PBA meets). Post-degree: 4,000 hrs, 1,600 direct contact; NCE or NCMHCE; annual CE includes suicide prevention (6 hrs/6 years) and counseling law (3 hrs/3 years).
<b>Louisiana</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.lpcboard.org">https://www.lpcboard.org</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE.
<b>Maine</b> <i>LPC/LCPC</i>	<a href="https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing">https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing</a>	✓ Yes	Required	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Maryland</b> <i>LGPC/LCPC</i>	<a href="https://health.maryland.gov/bopc/Pages/index.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/bopc/Pages/index.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE + Maryland Jurisprudence Exam required.
<b>Massachusetts</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/mh">https://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/mh</a>	⚠ Additional Req.	Equivalent Accepted	Strict practicum/internship supervision requirements: at least 75 of 200 total supervision hours must be from an LMHC or equivalent; site supervisors must have 3 years post-licensure experience. Verify PBA supervisors meet MA standards. Post-degree: 3,360 hrs, 960 direct contact, 130 supervision hrs (75 individual); NCMHCE required.
<b>Michigan</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/lara">https://www.michigan.gov/lara</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP preferred; Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCMHCE required (not NCE); implicit bias + human trafficking training required for renewal.
<b>Minnesota</b> <i>LPC/LPCC</i>	<a href="https://mn.gov/boards/behavioral-health">https://mn.gov/boards/behavioral-health</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	For LPCC, confirm course plan meets clinical education requirements. Post-degree: LPC = 2,000 hrs; LPCC = 4,000 hrs with 1,800 direct contact; NCE for LPC, NCMHCE for LPCC.
<b>Mississippi</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.lpc.ms.gov">https://www.lpc.ms.gov</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,500 hrs, 1,750 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Missouri</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://pr.mo.gov/counselors.asp">https://pr.mo.gov/counselors.asp</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Requires CACREP or CORE curriculum + 6 hours of practice. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,200 direct contact; NCE + Missouri Jurisprudence Exam required.

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State / License Title	Regulatory Board Website	PBA Program Meets Requirements	CACREP Basis for Licensure	Additional Requirements Not Addressed in Program / Notes
<b>Montana</b> <i>LCPC</i>	<a href="https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/bbh">https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/bbh</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP preferred. Post-degree: 2,000 hrs, 1,000 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Nebraska</b> <i>LMHP/LIMHP</i>	<a href="https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Mental-Health-and-Social-Work-Practice.aspx">https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Mental-Health-and-Social-Work-Practice.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	<b>Required</b>	CACREP accreditation preferred. Post-degree: LMHP = 3,000 hrs; LIMHP (independent/diagnostic) = additional requirements; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Nevada</b> <i>CPC/LCPC</i>	<a href="https://marriage.nv.gov">https://marriage.nv.gov</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP preferred. Post-degree: 2,000 hrs for CPC; NCE or NCMHCE; state law exam required.
<b>New Hampshire</b> <i>LCMHC</i>	<a href="https://www.oplc.nh.gov/mental-health-practice">https://www.oplc.nh.gov/mental-health-practice</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Master's in counseling or psychology from regionally accredited institution required. 60 semester hours; CACREP or equivalent. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>New Jersey</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.niconsumeraffairs.gov/pc/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.niconsumeraffairs.gov/pc/Pages/default.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE + NJ Jurisprudence Exam required.
<b>New Mexico</b> <i>LPCC</i>	<a href="https://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Counseling_and_Therapy_Practice.aspx">https://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Counseling_and_Therapy_Practice.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>New York</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://www.op.nysed.gov/mental-health-counselors">https://www.op.nysed.gov/mental-health-counselors</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Curriculum must include specific content areas per NY Ed Law. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact; NCMHCE required; NY state exam (NYLAT).
<b>North Carolina</b> <i>LCMHC</i>	<a href="https://www.ncblpc.org">https://www.ncblpc.org</a>	✓ Yes	<b>Required</b>	CACREP accreditation now required (PBA meets). 60 semester hours required. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 2,000 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>North Dakota</b> <i>LPCC/LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.ndbce.org">https://www.ndbce.org</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 2,000 hrs for LPC; 4,000 hrs for LPCC; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Ohio</b> <i>LPCC</i>	<a href="https://cswmft.ohio.gov">https://cswmft.ohio.gov</a>	✓ Yes	<b>Required</b>	CACREP accreditation required effective 2026 (PBA meets). 60 semester hours required. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 150 supervision hrs; NCE + NCMHCE; Ohio Jurisprudence Exam required.
<b>Oklahoma</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://ok.gov/behavioralhealth/counselors">https://ok.gov/behavioralhealth/counselors</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP preferred. Post-degree: 3 years/6,000 hrs, 3,000 direct contact, 150 supervision hrs (50 individual); NCE.

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<b>Oregon</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.oregon.gov/obl/pct/Pages/index.aspx">https://www.oregon.gov/obl/pct/Pages/index.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent. Post-degree: 2,000 hrs, 1,000 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE; Oregon Law & Rules Exam required.
<b>Pennsylvania</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions">https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent accepted. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE; new Licensed Associate Professional Counselor (LAPC) provisional license pathway available (2024).
<b>Rhode Island</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=228">https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=228</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 2,000 hrs, 100 direct supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>South Carolina</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://lir.sc.gov/plr/counselors.aspx">https://lir.sc.gov/plr/counselors.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 1,500 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE; SC Law & Ethics Exam required.
<b>South Dakota</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://doh.sd.gov/professional-licensing/counselors">https://doh.sd.gov/professional-licensing/counselors</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent. Post-degree: 2,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Tennessee</b> <i>LPC/LMHSP</i>	<a href="https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/pcmft-board/pcmft-board/statutes-and-rules.html">https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/pcmft-board/pcmft-board/statutes-and-rules.html</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: LPC = 2,000 hrs; LMHSP (mental health service provider) = 3,000 hrs; NCE + NCMHCE + TN Jurisprudence Exam required.
<b>Texas</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.bhec.texas.gov/texas-state-board-of-examiners-of-professional-counselors">https://www.bhec.texas.gov/texas-state-board-of-examiners-of-professional-counselors</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent accepted. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE; Texas Jurisprudence Exam required.
<b>Utah</b> <i>CMHC</i>	<a href="https://commerce.utah.gov/dopl/clinical-mental-health-counseling/additional-forms/">https://commerce.utah.gov/dopl/clinical-mental-health-counseling/additional-forms/</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP preferred. Post-degree: 4,000 hrs, 2,000 direct contact, 200 supervision hrs; NCMHCE. Note: new alternative pathway (SB26, 2024) allows licensure via 500 additional direct care hours without national exam (effective Jan 2027).
<b>Vermont</b> <i>LCMHC</i>	<a href="https://sos.vermont.gov/allied-mental-health">https://sos.vermont.gov/allied-mental-health</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.
<b>Virginia</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Counseling/">https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Counseling/</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent. Post-degree: 4,000 hrs, 2,000 direct contact, 200 supervision hrs (100 individual); NCE or NCMHCE.

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State / License Title	Regulatory Board Website	PBA Program Meets Requirements	CACREP Basis for Licensure	Additional Requirements Not Addressed in Program / Notes
<b>Washington</b> <i>LMHC</i>	<a href="https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/mental-health-counselor">https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/mental-health-counselor</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs (with 1,500 direct client contact and 100 supervision hrs); NCE or NCMHCE; WA state jurisprudence exam.
<b>West Virginia</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://wvbec.org/becoming-a-licensed-counselor/">https://wvbec.org/becoming-a-licensed-counselor/</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE.
<b>Wisconsin</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/LPC/Default.aspx">https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/LPC/Default.aspx</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 1,500 direct contact, 100 supervision hrs; NCE + NCMHCE.
<b>Wyoming</b> <i>LPC</i>	<a href="https://mental-health.wy.gov/licensing">https://mental-health.wy.gov/licensing</a>	✓ Yes	Equivalent Accepted	CACREP or equivalent. Post-degree: 3,000 hrs, 100 supervision hrs; NCE or NCMHCE.

## Summary Findings

Out of 50 states analyzed:

- 44 states: PBA's CACREP-accredited program fully meets educational requirements (✓ Yes)
- 3 states: Conditional — program largely meets requirements, but specific elements require verification or supplementation (Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii)
- 2 states: Additional coursework required beyond standard CACREP curriculum (California, Massachusetts)

## States Requiring Special Attention

California (LPCC): California requires the most significant additional coursework beyond standard CACREP training: psychopharmacology, advanced theories, specialized population training (15 units), suicide risk training, and elder abuse/aging content. Graduates will also need the CA Law & Ethics Exam and NCMHCE. Some of these courses can be completed post-degree.

Massachusetts (LMHC): Massachusetts has strict supervision requirements. Site supervisors must have 3+ years post-licensure experience, and at least 75 of 200 total supervision hours must be provided by an LMHC or equivalent. Students planning to seek licensure in MA should ensure their PBA site supervisors meet these criteria.

Georgia (LPC): On-site practicum supervisors must hold a license and have at least 3 years of post-master's experience.

## Examination Requirements by State

Nearly all states require passage of either the NCE (National Counselor Examination) or NCMHCE (National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination) administered by NBCC. Several states also require state-specific jurisprudence/law exams:

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- States requiring Jurisprudence/Law Exams (in addition to national exam): Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York (NYLAT), Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington
- States requiring NCMHCE specifically (rather than NCE as an option): California, Florida, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, Utah

### **Counseling Compact**

As of early 2026, 39 states plus DC participate in the Counseling Compact, allowing licensed counselors to practice across member states without obtaining a separate license. PBA graduates holding a CACREP-accredited degree and valid FL licensure are eligible to apply for Compact privileges in all participating states. This significantly enhances portability for PBA graduates.

Sources: State licensing board websites, CACREP.org, UVM Clinical Mental Health Counseling Licensure by State (October 2025), NBCC.org, Counseling Compact (counselingcompact.org), PBA Academic Catalog and Program Website.