

# LAW REVISIONS

O.C.G.A. 43-10A

1981 -2022

# CHANGES in the LAW July 1, 2022

***THE LAW DOES NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL JULY 1, 2022***

- Background checks/finger printing
- Combine all masters and EdS degrees together
- Require at least 60 hour degree
- Two years of DWE vs three (3) years BUT THE SAME NUMBER of HOURS REQUIRED (3,000 DWE / 105 Clinical Supervision)
- APC is an LAPC
- Increase fines for using terms PC, SW, MFT if not licensed by Composite Board.

DWE = Directed Work Experience

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes

ADDED

LINE 283 - 285

(7) Persons who are undergoing an internship or practicum under supervision or under the direction of a person certified as a rehabilitation counselor by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification;

***Why? To ensure that Masters of Rehabilitation may apply for licensure***

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes

REMOVED: LINE 413 - 414

(4) Having furnished at least two personal references from supervisors, teachers, or any combination thereof

***Why? The specificity (teachers, etc.) in the law has been hard to meet due to the highly mobile landscape of our society today. (This section based on lack of licensure at the time, forcing the need for personal references). This just slows down the licensure process and is no longer necessary.***

# 43-10A-8. Eligibility for licensure

FROM PC COMPACT (5) (4) Having satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the board. Application for the issuance of a license under this Code section shall constitute express consent and authorization for the board to perform a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board for licensure agrees to provide the board with any and all information necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of fingerprints. Any such applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of such background check.

***(Lines 418-426)***

***(This section is the language from the PC Compact, HB 395 passed in 2021).***

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes

ADDED: LINE 414 - 417

(4) combination thereof All persons licensed under this article who were licensed after April 26, 2006, are required to have completed a graduate level course or equivalent related to diagnosing and shall complete such curriculum in order to renew the license or apply for licensure; and

***Why? To ensure that all have diagnose training.***

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes

UPDATED: LINE 440 - 444

- (1) For licensure as an associate professional counselor: (A) A minimum of an earned **master's degree or higher** from a regionally accredited program in clinical counseling or counseling psychology that consists of at **least 60 semester hours** or 80 quarter hours **with an approved supervised internship or practicum that is primarily counseling in content as a part of the degree program**; and

*Why? To match the PC Compact Licensure Law.*

*Meet State/Federal requirements. A master's degree is a master's degree.*

*CACREP & CORE have merged.*

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes

UPDATED: LINE 445 - 447

(1) For licensure as an associate professional counselor:

(B) Registration with the board of an acceptable contract for obtaining the post-degree experience under direction and supervision that is required for licensure as a professional counselor.

***Why? Already in the law.***



# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes

UPDATED: LINE 448 – 453

(2) For licensure as a professional counselor: (A)(i) A minimum of an earned **master's degree or higher** from a regionally accredited program in clinical counseling or counseling psychology that consists of at **least 60 semester hours** or 80 quarter hours **with an approved supervised internship or practicum that is primarily counseling in content as a part of the degree program**; and

*Why? To match the PC Compact Licensure Law.*

*Meet Federal requirements*

*A master's degree is a master's degree.*

*CACREP & CORE have merged.*

# HB 972 Line by Line Changes

## O.C.G.A. :43-10A-11. Requirements For Licensure

### LINES 454-455

(ii) Two years of post-degree's direction under supervision in a work setting acceptable to the board; or

***Why? When the law was created, master degree programs were 32 to 48 hours and the EdS programs were 60 hours and required 24 months. NOW masters programs are 60 months. To equal out - move to 24 months. Require all persons applying for licensure to have practice the profession of counseling outside of the practicum/internship This would include all degrees – All Masters and EdS***

# HB 972 Line by Line Changes

## O.C.G.A. :43-10A-11. Requirements For Licensure

### LINES 454-455

(ii) Two years of post-degree's direction under supervision in a work setting acceptable to the board; or

***THIS DOES NOT CHANGE THE RULES: 135-5-.02 continues to require the 3,000 DWE and 105 Clinical Supervision***

***<https://sos.ga.gov/page/counseling-board-rules>***

LINE 473-477 REMOVED

~~(C) (i) A master's degree in rehabilitation counseling or in a program that is primarily counseling in content from a recognized educational institution;~~  
~~(ii) An internship or practicum supervised either by a supervisor, as defined in paragraph (16) of Code Section 43-10A-3, or by a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor certified as such by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification;~~

***CACREP & CORE (Rehab) merged (CACREP, 2015). All of these special circumstances are confusing and do not serve to protect the public. Regardless of education level, DWE is required to acquire and implement the knowledge gained in school. Having one requirement is crucial to clarity and consistency with the IC (CSG, 2021).  
(Lines 458-462)***

~~(iii) The Certified Rehabilitation Counselor designation from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification; and~~

~~(iv) Three years of post-master's directed experience providing rehabilitation services in a rehabilitation setting under supervision provided either by a supervisor, as defined in paragraph (16) of Code Section 43-10A-3, or by a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor certified as such by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum or internship placement as part of the degree program; or~~

***Having one educational requirement is crucial to clarity.  
CACREP & CORE are now one. (Lines 473-485)***

# HB 972 REMOVE

Or

~~(D) A master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content with supervised internship or practicum and four years of post-master's directed experience under supervision in a setting acceptable to the board. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum placement as part of the degree program; or~~

***All of these special circumstances are confusing and do not serve to protect the public. Regardless of education level, DWE (DIRECTED WORK EXPERIENCE) is required to acquire and implement the knowledge gained in the degree program. Having one requirement is crucial to clarity and consistency with the IC-Interstate Compact (The Council of State Governments [CSG], 2021).***

***(Lines 486-490)***

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# REMOVE

~~(E) A master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program of applied psychology with supervised internship or practicum and four years of post-master's directed experience under supervision in a setting acceptable to the board. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum placement as part of the degree program. Supervision of the practicum or internship and the post-master's directed experience shall be provided by a supervisor, as defined in paragraph (16) of Code Section 43-10A-3, except that such supervision may be provided all or in part by a psychologist or, before January 1, 2004, by a person with a master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program of applied psychology.~~

*Outdated: GA does not have any “APPLIED psychology” degree programs that listed exactly the words “masters in applied psychology” on their transcript. In the late 80’s, this was placed into the laws as the programs developed in GA.*

*How many Master’s degrees are there? Master in Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Rehab, and the list goes on.. A master’s degree is a master’s degree is a master’s degree. Keep the generic language for a master’s degree as national standards (Lines 491-499)*

# HB 972

# Line by Line

# Changes DWE

## LINE 500-502

(b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this Code section, work settings acceptable to the board may include, but are not limited to, educational, rehabilitation, career development, mental health, or community, ~~or industrial~~ organizations.

***Why? Remove industrial organizations as an acceptable DWE (Directed Work Experience) site.***



(c) Only a person licensed as an associate professional counselor may use the title "associate professional counselor or 'licensed associate professional counselors' .

Associate professional counselors shall practice professional counseling only under direction and supervision and only for a period not to exceed five years while obtaining the post-degree's experience required for licensure as a professional counselor.

*Why? Updated to allow APCs to use LAPC. Needed to change as it was costing (\$\$) the State excessive work due to ethic complaints that APC were using LAPC. If a person is licensed as an APC, legally a person may say "LAPC". The only path to APC is thru licensure. (lines 503-508)*

*HB 972 Changes: section 43-10A-19 and 43-10A-20*

*Obtaining license by fraudulent representation*

Any person violating Code Section 43-10A-19 or Code Section 43-10A-7 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than ~~\$100.00~~ **\$500.00** nor more than \$1,000.00 for each offense and, ~~in addition, may be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 12 months~~ **or by imprisonment from two to five years, or both.**

*This section updated for the penalty for gaining licensure under false documentation. (Lines 838-840)*

## 43-10A-21. Restrictions on use of terms in corporate, partnership, association, or business names

**(b) Any corporation, partnership, association, or other business** entity which violates subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each offense **or by imprisonment from two to five years, or both.**

*Why? This section updated to match the dentistry law as to the penalty for gaining licensure under false documentation.*

*(Lines 851-854)*

# LAW REVISIONS: O.C.G.A. 43-10A

**LPCA, THE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION**  
**3091 GOVERNORS LAKE DR NW**  
**STE 570**  
**NORCROSS, GA 30071 – 1143**

**PHONE: 770-449-4547**  
**WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.LPCAGA.ORG](http://www.lpcaga.org)**

**Counselors Promote Quality of Life!**  
**LPCA promotes Counselors and the Counseling Profession!**

**Celebrating 36 Years of Service in Georgia as the only non-profit  
association for counselors.**