



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATED CLINICAL COUNSELLOR (IECC) BECOMING A REGISTERED CLINICAL COUNSELLOR (RCC) in BC

OVERVIEW

Clinical counselling is a branch of clinical psychology that helps people as they navigate emotional or mental health difficulties and can also be considered part of professional counselling and social work fields. Clinical counselling is not a regulated health profession in BC however psychology is regulated by the College of Allied Health and Care Professionals of BC.

A Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) is a professional who has completed Masters-level counselling education / training and has met the necessary standard requirements to receive the classification as a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) from the B.C. Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC). Many employers require this designation.

In BC, as of September 1, 2020, health professions currently served by seven Colleges, have been amalgamated under one new regulatory college - the College of Allied Health and Care Professionals (interim name). Members in diagnostic and therapeutic professions will also be amalgamated into this College. With the formation of the new College licensure process and requirements may change. As the new College, bylaws and website are in development at this time, the applicant should refer to the College of Psychologists of BC (CPBC) website in the interim

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Counsellors usually become specialized in a specific area through training and experience but as a minimum require the following:

- A master's degree in counselling, mental health or related social service discipline
- Membership with the provincial association for marriage and family therapists or clinical counsellors is required to use the title 'Registered Marriage and family Therapist' or 'Registered Clinical Counsellor' and may be required by some employers

Prepared November 2019 by BCPLAN Navigator - updated Sept 2020 re new regulatory college. Registration process may change

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- To become registered, therapists/counsellors must meet strict criteria involving post-graduate education and a period of supervised clinical work with clients.

ASSOCIATIONS

There are several associations for whom membership provides a professional designation. Membership with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors provides for the Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) designation that most employers require.

BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC)

To apply for membership with BCACC the applicant must hold a master's degree from an accredited institution in a field of study prescribed by the Board – counselling, clinical or educational psychology, pastoral counselling, child and youth care, marital and family counselling, clinical social work, psychiatric nursing, applied behavioural sciences.

An internationally educated clinical counsellor (IECC) must have their degree evaluated by an international credential evaluation service and it be found equivalent to a master's degree in Canada. BCACC recognizes an evaluation by ICES which is affiliated with the Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC).

Applicants must have completed one course in each of six areas and four of the six must be at the graduate level. Courses include:

- Normal development and/or abnormal psychology
- Counselling and personality theories
- Group therapy theory and practice
- Family therapy theory and practice
- Basic research design
- Ethics

Proof of 100 hours of clinical practice during or after master's degree completion must be provided through a minimum of two clinical references. (The BCACC website specifies the credentials required of these references to be deemed acceptable).

A criminal record check may be required.



Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada (ACCT)

ACCT is a community service cooperative for competency-based counsellors. To become a member of ACCT the applicant must hold a certificate or diploma; bachelor's degree; postgraduate certificate; master's degree or Ph.D. in counselling or a related field from an accredited school; or have equivalent experience and training; and meet their education/training and direct client hours criteria.

Membership categories stipulate clinical practice must have been completed in the last five years and in some cases that half the required practice hours must have been completed in Canada.

Canadian Professional Counselling Association (CPCA)

CPCA is an independent, self-regulated, non-profit, national organization whose members are Registered Professional Counsellors (RPC) and Master Practitioners in Clinical Counselling (MPCC). Membership entails meeting competency-based criteria.

APPROVED EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN BC

The following academic programs are accepted by the British Columbia Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) and the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA):

- **Adler University** (2 master's degrees)-
<http://vancouver.adler.edu/programs/counseling/master-counselling-psychology>
- **City University** – Master's of Counselling (3-options - mixed mode; classroom; part time (Saturday classes) - <http://www.cityuniversity.ca/programs/master-of-counselling/master-of-counselling-bc/>
- **York University** (online program, recognized by BCACC) – www.yorkvilleu.ca
- **SFU** (MA and MEd) -
<https://www.sfu.ca/education/gs/degrediploma/masters/counspych.html>



- **UBC** (MA in Community Agency Counselling) - <http://ecps.educ.ubc.ca/counselling-psychology/graduate-programs/ma-program-prerequisites/community-agency-counselling/>

RESOURCES

Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC) - <https://canalliance.org/en/>

Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada (ACCT)- <https://acctcounsellor.com/>

Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada (ACCT) application process - https://acctcounsellor.com/content.php?page=ACCT_Application_Process

British Columbia Registered Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) - <https://bc-counsellors.org/>

British Columbia Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) (membership eligibility) - <https://bc-counsellors.org/members/member-info/eligibility/>

British Columbia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (BCAMFT) - <http://www.bcamft.bc.ca/ohana/website/index.cfm?p=95575656796>

Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA)- <https://www.ccpa-accp.ca>

Canadian Professional Counselling Association (CPCA) - <https://www.cPCA-rpc.ca/>

Canadian Professional Counselling Association (CPCA) - <https://www.cPCA-rpc.ca>

Federation of Associations for Counselling Therapists in BC (FACTBC) works to advance the case for regulation under the Health Professions Act (HPA). www.factbc.org



JOB BOARDS

Indeed - <https://ca.indeed.com/Clinical-Counsellor-jobs-in-British-Columbia?vjk=0823ee5cda29c857>

Indeed - <https://ca.indeed.com/Clinical-Counsellor-jobs>

WowJobs - https://www.wowjobs.ca/careers-clinical+counsellor-jobs-in-Vancouver+BC?job= hhS-h9FwjLItOxEZQ_uUo1Lzk9MSSvJu2J375VVgM6-3PKA4Dc6_w

SimplyHired - https://www.simplyhired.ca/search?q=clinical+counsellor&l=British+Columbia&job=7Tv00b_dL1s9KL7AzpTGEPAC3YV9UxCGVCFpmP4Ja7bZZjyX0uvhw

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

British Columbia Registered Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) - <https://bc-counsellors.org/classifieds/volunteer-opportunities/>