



# **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 currently a regulated health profession in BC but one must be a member of the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors to use the Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) designation.

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.

## **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS**

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

### ***BC Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC)***

BCACC [Eligibility for membership](#) requires that the international educated clinical counsellor (IECC) applicant 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.

The IECC's academic credentials must be evaluated by an international credential evaluation service and be found equivalent to a master's degree in Canada. BCACC recognizes an evaluation by an affiliate with the [Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada](#) (ACESC). In BC, assessment by ICES is preferable as it is the one most commonly recognized by other regulatory colleges and associations in the province. Requesting a *Comprehensive Report* that includes a list of completed coursework is recommended.

To be eligible 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. If eligible, complete the [application](#) for membership.



### ***Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada (ACCT)***

The [Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada](#) (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)***

The [Canadian Professional Counselling Association](#) (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.

### ***Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA)***

The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) offers both membership and a [national certification program](#) for professional counsellors – use of the title Certified Clinical Counsellor (CCC). (Note: certification is very different from membership in the association). Certification acknowledges professional preparation, continuing education and a formal code of ethics. The CCPA is a self-regulating, non-statutory body, that provides advice and discipline to members about professional conduct.

Professional membership is available to those holding a university degree, post-baccalaureate degree, university of college diploma in counselling or a related field in combination with equivalent experience and training that aligns with CCPA's professional standards and ethics.

### ***Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (CAMFT) – BC Branch***

The [Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy \(CAMFT\) – BC Branch](#) is a professional association of clinical and relational therapists working with couples, individuals and families. CAMFT offers a variety of [membership categories](#) and is required for membership in the [BC Branch](#).



## POST-GRADUATE COUNSELLING EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CANADA

The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) provides a list of acceptable [graduate level academic programs](#), not all of which are accredited.

CCPA has established the Council on Accreditation of Counsellor Education Programs (CACEP). Graduates from [CACEP accredited programs](#) are fast tracked through the certification process as they are not required to remit copies of course outlines in their application. The program curriculum at these universities has been evaluated and approved by the Association's Registrar and Certification Committee.

### 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](https://acctcounsellor.com/content.php?page=ACCT_Application_Process)

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

British Columbia Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) (membership eligibility) - <https://bc-counsellors.org/members/member-info/eligibility/> and for International educated applicants - <https://bcacc.ca/members/member-info/international-applicants/>

British Columbia Association of Clinical Counsellors (BCACC) – membership application - <https://bcacc.ca/members/member-info/apply-now/>

Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (CAMFT) – BC Branch <https://camft.ca/BC-Branch-Home-Page>

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

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

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

<https://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-h9FwjLIItOxEZQ\\_uUo1Lzk9MSSvJu2J375VVgM6-3PkA4Dc6\\_w](https://www.wowjobs.ca/careers-clinical+counsellor-jobs-in-Vancouver+BC?job= hhS-h9FwjLIItOxEZQ_uUo1Lzk9MSSvJu2J375VVgM6-3PkA4Dc6_w)

SimplyHired - [https://www.simplyhired.ca/search?q=clinical+counsellor&l=British+Columbia&job=7Tv00b\\_dL1s9KL7AzpTGEPAC3YV9UxCGVCFpmP4Ja7bZZjyX0uvhw](https://www.simplyhired.ca/search?q=clinical+counsellor&l=British+Columbia&job=7Tv00b_dL1s9KL7AzpTGEPAC3YV9UxCGVCFpmP4Ja7bZZjyX0uvhw)