

NCE Website

National Counselor Exam (NCE)

Overview

The National Counselor Exam for Licensure and Certification is a multiple-choice exam administered electronically at Pearson VUE sites. The National Counselor Exam leads to the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification, and in New Jersey is the assessment for Licensed Professional Counselor.

Only students in the Addictions, Clinical Mental Health, and School Counseling Master's Programs, and students in the 48-credit hour Student Affairs/Higher Education Counseling Program are able to sit for the NCE at the end of their Master's program.

Examination Schedule

There are two examination windows during the year: Fall and Spring. Note that the initial sign-up for the NCE occurs early in the semester previous to when the exam is taken.

Timeline for Fall Semester Administration

Timeline	End of January/Early February	March/April	By Early October	At Testing Site
Communication	Information email from Department sent through the Listserv	Student Receives Email from NBCC	Student Receives Email from Pearson VUE	Immediate Results
Action from Student	Complete Google Form – linked in information email	Complete Form Pay for Exam Higher Ed (48 credit) - upload unofficial transcript	Immediately schedule a testing time - must sit for NCE within 60 days of this email.	

Timeline for Spring Semester Administration

Timeline	End of September/ Early October	October/ November	January	At Testing Site
Communication	Information email from Department sent through the Listserv	Student Receives Email from NBCC	Student Receives Email from Pearson VUE	Immediate Results
Action from Student	Complete Google Form – linked in information email	Complete Form Pay for Exam Higher Ed (48 credit) - upload unofficial transcript	Immediately schedule a testing time - must sit for NCE within 60 days of this email.	

Eligibility/How to Register

Master's students must be enrolled in or have completed Internship I the semester they intend to sit for the National Counseling Exam. Doctoral Students must have approval from their advisor.

A listerv Announcement will be sent in the Fall semester for Spring administration, and in the Spring semester for Fall administration (see above for timelines).

Step 1:

- Students complete the Google Form that is linked in the information email sent to the listserv. The due date for completing this form will also be included in the email. Students who want to sit for the NCE must complete the form by the due date. No late forms will be accepted. See above for the timelines.
- Montclair State University verifies the qualification to sit for the exam for all students, and then sends a completed list to the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Step 2:

- NBCC sends the student an email that includes an individualized link to register and pay for the exam. Students must use this specific link to register and pay for the exam. Students in the 48-credit Master's program must also upload an unofficial transcript.

Step 3:

- Pearson VUE sends each student an email with specific information on how to register for a time to sit for the exam. You must sit for the exam within 60 days of the email. Thus, it is recommended that upon receipt of the email, students register immediately.

Step 4:

- Students sit for the exam during their schedule test time. Results are given to students immediately following the administration of the exam.

National Counseling Exam Information

The NCE consists of 200 multiple choice questions in the following 8 Content Areas, and the following 5 Work Behavior Domains.

8 CACREP Core Areas

- Human Growth and Development (COUN 531),
- Social and Cultural Foundations (COUN 595; also infused into all courses),
- Helping Relationships (COUN 577; COUN 588),
- Group Work (COUN 584),
- Career and Lifestyle Development (COUN 582),
- Appraisal (COUN 579),
- Research and Program Evaluation (EDFD 503; also infused into all courses), and
- Professional Orientation & Ethics (COUN 552; also infused into all courses)

Within each of these areas, the 5 Work Behavior Domains are also included:

- Fundamental Counseling Issues (infused into all courses)
- Counseling Process (infused into all courses)
- Diagnostic and Assessment Services (COUN 604)
- Professional Practice (COUN 552, COUN 605, also infused into all courses)
- Professional Development, Supervision and Consultation (COUN 668)

More information can be found on the NBCC Website: <https://www.nbcc.org/exams/nce>