MA, Clinical Psychology, Specialization in Marital and Family Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis Track
Los Angeles, Irvine, & San Diego
Licensure and Certification
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does my MA in Clinical Psychology, Specialization in Marital and Family Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis track from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, Irvine, and San Diego meet the degree and coursework requirements for me to be eligible to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) in California?
A: Yes. The MA in Clinical Psychology, Specialization in Marital and Family Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis track program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, Irvine, and San Diego aligns with the degree and coursework requirements to be eligible for licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) in California.

Q. Is there anything else I need to do after I graduate in order to obtain my license as an LMFT?
A. Yes. California requires the passage of the California LMFT Law and Ethics Exam (LMLE), and the California LMFT Clinical Exam (LMCE), and additional supervised experience in order to qualify for licensure. All candidates are also required to complete the application process, which may include fees and/or a background check.

Q. I have more questions about the LMFT license and registering as an MFT intern. Where can I get more information?
A. More information can be found at the California Board of Behavioral Sciences http://www.bbs.ca.gov/
And the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists http://www.camft.org/

Q. What if I want to obtain a license as a marriage and family therapist in a state outside of California?
A: Licensure laws and regulations vary among states. As discussed above, the MA in Clinical Psychology, Specialization in Marital and Family Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis track program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, Irvine, and San Diego is aligned with the degree and coursework requirements for licensure as an LMFT in California. Students who wish to obtain licensure in other jurisdictions should consult their local licensing board's requirements. For information about marriage and family licensure requirements in other states and licensing board contact information, visit the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Boards webpage: http://www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/Directories/MFT_Licensing_Boards/Content/Directories/MFT_Licensing_Boards.aspx?hkey=b1033df3-6882-491e-87fd-a75c2f7be070
Q: Does my MA in Clinical Psychology, Specialization in Marital and Family Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis track from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, Irvine, and San Diego meet the degree, and coursework for me to be eligible to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA®)?
A. Yes. The Clinical Psychology, Specialization in Marital and Family Therapy, Behavior Analysis track at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, Irvine, and San Diego aligns with the degree and coursework requirements to be eligible for Certification as a BCBA®.

Q. Is there anything else I need to do after I graduate in order to become a BCBA®?
A. Yes. All individuals pursuing BCBA® certification are required to complete the application process, which may include fees and/or a background check as well as documentation of completed coursework, supervised experience, and passing the Board Certified Behavior Analyst ® Examination.

Q. I have more questions about BCBA® certification. Where can I get more information?
A. More information can be found at the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®) website: http://www.bacb.com/

Q. Do I need a license to work as a behavior analyst in California?
A. At this time, a license is not needed to practice behavior analysis in the state of California. Further information can be found at the California Association of Behavior Analysis website: http://www.calaba.org
And the California Department of Developmental Services website: http://www.dds.ca.gov/

Q. What is the difference between state licensure and certification?
A. A state license is authorization from a particular state to practice behavior analysis and/or to call oneself a licensed behavior analyst in that state. International certification from the BACB® demonstrates to the public and employers that the behavior analyst has met the international standards set by the behavior analyst profession. It is not a license to practice. In some states, holding BACB® certification can assist the behavior analyst in obtaining licensure. International certification travels with the behavior analyst no matter the state or country of residence.

Q. What if I want to practice behavior analysis in a state outside of California?
A: Because California does not currently regulate the practice of applied behavior analysis through licensure laws, this program is aligned with the BACB® requirements for certification. However, other states may regulate licensure and the practice of applied behavior analysis differently. These licensure laws and regulations vary across states. The Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) publishes information regarding what states require licensure; however, the laws are rapidly changing so it is highly recommended that you contact your state board directly for information regarding licensure. The information from the APBA can be found here: http://www.apbahome.net/general/recommended_links.asp
The Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) website also provides links to all state chapters that are involved in legislation related to the licensing of behavior analysts, as well as international chapter information: https://www.abainternational.org/constituents/chapters/usa-affiliated-chapters.aspx