

# Additional Requirements Beyond Earning a Degree for Professional Practice in Some Fields

While a college or university degree is an essential step on a path to employment in a range of occupations, in a number of fields further graduate education is required.

Beyond this general statement, some professions also require specific additional certifications or licensures to practice in that field, typically by the governing bodies in the state in which that practice would take place. Ministerial certification requirements are set by particular churches or church governing bodies.

## Teachers

In many states, including California, to teach in any K-12 public school (and in many private schools), requires earning a **teaching credential** above and beyond earning an appropriate Bachelor's degree. Teaching credential programs in California, such as HIU's, are at minimum a 1-year program of further education focused on teaching methods and satisfactorily completing student teaching in a school placement under the supervision of an experienced master teacher.

HIU offers an online Teacher Preparation credential program for Multiple (K-6th) and Single Subjects (English, Math, Music, Health, PE, Spanish, Science and Social Science) The Student Teaching portion of the program must be completed in CA. (The only exception is a Department of Defense approved school site on a military base for military personnel/spouses.)

For aspiring school administrators, there is also an Administrative Services Credential (for California). Once a candidate has completed the Preliminary Administrative Credential program, they can apply for an administrative position.

Each state has a defined reciprocity agreement for California depending on each state's own credentialing requirements.

## Counselors/Therapists

In addition to completing a qualifying graduate degree, applicants must complete 3000 hours of Supervised Experience, complete a Live Scan and Criminal Background Check, and Pass the LMFT California Law and Ethics Exam and LMFT Clinical Exam. For reference, here is the web site for the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

<https://bbs.ca.gov/applicants/lmft.html>

HIU's M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy provides a well-designed sequence of courses and supervised clinical training intended to assist professionals in meeting the educational requirements for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) in California. **LMFT requirements vary by state.** Through individualized advising, students will work with the program to plan their curriculum in order to meet the criteria for the specific state(s) where they intend to practice. Although the program is COAMFTE (Commission on Accreditation for

Marriage Family Therapy Education) accredited, portability of the degree for licensure is determined by each state. Therefore, if one plans to move to another state and practice there, working closely with the program is imperative. Graduation from this program, does not automatically guarantee licensure in other states.

For more information on Portability of Degree and to see what each state requires go to:

[AAMFT Professional License Portability](#)

### **Ministers/Clergy**

In order to enter into most ministerial roles, different Christian denominational bodies and fellowships of churches require ordination specific to their churches beyond the essential education embodied in undergraduate and graduate university degrees.