

## Examinations KEY For Missouri State University Counseling Students

Each student pursuing a master's degree in Counseling at Missouri State University will take and successfully pass comprehensive examinations as specified by the Counseling faculty.

	What/Why	Who	When	Where
<b>CECE</b>	Comprehensive Exam to Graduate	SC and CMHC	The final or penultimate semester of the program	Missouri State University Testing center
<b>NCE</b>	Licensure exam for LPC	CMHC and SC eligible	The final or penultimate semester of the program or after graduation	Varies by student's location. Check the Pearson VUE website to find a testing center.
<b>MoCA</b>	Certification exam for School Counselors	SC is eligible	The final semester of the program or after graduation	Varies by student's location. Check the Missouri Education Gateway Assessment Website to find a testing center.

## Counseling Exit Comprehensive Exam (CECE)

The Counseling Exit Comprehensive Exam (CECE) is required for both School Counseling and Mental Health students to meet **graduation** guidelines.

### What test to take?

You will take the Missouri State Counselor Education Comprehensive Exam.

### When to take it?

The CECE is administered on campus by the department once each semester, including the summer term. Students are encouraged to take this examination in their penultimate or final semester of study, late enough in their program to allow them to complete as much of their course content as possible.

### Where to take it?

You will take the CECE at the Missouri State University Testing Center. See link below for contact information, location, and hours of operation.

<https://www.missouristate.edu/testingcenter/>

### How to register?

1. Go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/testingcenter>
2. Click on **Schedule an Exam** found on the left side of the page
3. Scroll to the bottom of the page and choose **Exam registration for MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** (it's important you choose this because any student with accommodations will only get them automatically assigned to the appointment if using the single-sign-on link, which is what that is).
  1. Select *Missouri State Counselor Education Comprehensive Exam* as your exam "group" - this is to differentiate it from the CPCE, so you will need to make sure you are picking THIS particular group.
  2. Select **CECE** as your "exam"
  3. Choose your testing date
  4. Choose a time
  5. Enter your information
  6. You **MUST** enter a phone number
4. Select Add to Cart!
5. Select 'Complete Registration'

### What is the cost?

FREE

## How to prepare?

There is no official guide for the CECE®. Since the CECE and the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE®) are based on the same eight knowledge areas, any study materials developed for the NCE® should be useful for the CECE®. You may want to check the [NBCC website](#) for NCE preparation materials. The NBCC website includes sample online tests, workshops, study guides, etc. Also, please refer back to the textbooks used in the program courses. See below for more information about the NCE. It can be useful to prepare for both tests at the same time so you take them when the content is fresh in your memory.

## The National Counselor Examination (NCE)

The National Counselor Examination (NCE) is required for certification as a National Certified Counselor (NCC) as well as licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC); along with 3,000 supervised hours. Mental Health and School Counseling students are eligible to take this examination.

### What test to take?

You will take the National Counselor Examination (NCE). See link to view the NCE Candidate Handbook: <https://nbcc.org/Assets/StateLicensure/NCE.pdf>

### When to take it?

Since our counseling program is CACREP-accredited, students can choose to take the NCE before or after graduation. If you decide to take the NCE before graduation, you will apply to become a National Certified Counselor (NCC) for the penultimate or final semester. Through this certification application, you will be eligible to take the NCE. If you decide to take the NCE after graduation, you will apply to take the NCE through the LPC Board and it will *not* include application for the NCC.

Students *do not* have to take the NCE prior to graduation. The NCE is not the Comprehensive Exam (CECE), which is a requirement/exit examination for graduation from the Professional Counseling Program (as noted above).

**Please note**, although taking the NCE prior to graduation *isn't required*, taking the test pre-graduation speeds up your ability to obtain your PLPC and get employment in the counseling field upon graduation. If you wait to take the test until after graduation, you will be unable to apply for the PLPC (or obtain employment as a PLPC) until you have completed the test, obtained the passing score, secured a clinical supervisor, sent the fully completed applications to the LPC board, waited for the LPC board's monthly meeting, and finally waited again for the response from the board to hear if they have received the PLPC. It also facilitates becoming a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC).

See chart below to compare and contrast taking the NCE during or after your graduate program:

Taking the NCE During Graduate School	Taking the NCE After Graduate School
Cost: \$335	Cost: \$275
The NCE is offered twice each year, in both April and October.	The NCE is available to take each month.
The NCE is administered as a computer-based exam.	The NCE is administered as a computer-based exam.
Scores may take up to eight weeks to process, after graduation.	Scores are available immediately after you take the NCE.
You apply to become a <i>Nationally Certified Counselor</i> (NCC) and take the National Counselor Exam. You may use an obtained passing score for your LPC licensure application upon graduation.	You are applying with the <i>LBC Board</i> to take the National Counselor Exam for licensure.
You will be studying for the CECE at the same approximate time as the NCE using the same materials, which may facilitate passing the NCE.	You may need to re-study further from the time you took classes or studied for the CECE using the same materials.
The NCC is a credential, not a clinical license. Being an NCC offers several benefits such as having a professional credential and access to professional resources, products, and discounts.	You may be able to choose if you want to pursue becoming a NCC.
There may be a delay in working toward your LPC due to wait time for NBCC to send official NCE scores after you verify graduation through an official transcript. This is particularly possible if you test for the NCE just before graduation.	There may be a delay in working toward your LPC, because you have to graduate and then take the NCE. You can register for the NCE as soon as you graduate and then apply for the license after you pass the exam.

\*The chart above was adapted from Texas State Dept of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education & School Psychology <https://www.txstate.edu/clas/Professional-Counseling/current-students/NCE.html>\*

### Where to take it?

Candidates can check for testing locations going to the Pearson VUE website and typing NBCC into the Select Your Program box. Select the National Board for Certified Counselors then click on “Find a Test Center” to determine which centers are administering the NCE and when. Consult the Exam Registration Instructions for step-by-step instructions on how to register correctly. See link:

<https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/registration/SelectTestCenterProximity/CCE?conversationId=437105>

## **How to register?**

Registration for the National Counselor's Exam is conducted through the instructions provided in an email candidates receive from NCE. Candidates are referred to Pearson VUE for registration and payment; candidates with a previous account through Pearson VUE for another exam (such as the CPCE) will need to create a NEW account. It is important that the candidate's first and last name in the Pro-Counselor account is identical to the name on the two forms of identification they will be using when they report for the exam. If changes need to be made, please contact the Certification Department BEFORE the registration deadline. Once the candidate's information has been sent to Pearson VUE, no changes can be made to the candidate's mailing address, email address, or phone number in their Pro-Counselor account.

See link to login to your account:

<https://onlineservices.nbcc.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=LoginRequired&expires=yess&Site=NBCCLic>

## **How to prepare?**

See link for examination study materials including the NBCC's own preparation materials as well as other study programs: <https://www.nbcc.org/exams/examprep>

## **Missouri Content Assessment (MoCA #056)**

The Missouri Content Assessment (MoCA #056) is required for School Counseling students to certify in the state of Missouri as a School Counselor.

### **What test to take?**

You can find the correct test by certification area (Student Services - Counselor) by viewing the [list of assessments by program](#) posted on the Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA) website.

### **When to take it?**

School Counseling students are eligible to take this examination during the last semester of their program. It may take more than one attempt to pass the Missouri Content Assessment, so don't wait until the last minute and risk delaying your certification. If you are unsure about when to take it, please check with your Academic Advisor.

### **Where to take it?**

To determine where you will take your test, go to the [Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments website](#) and then click on "Tests". Select the test you need to take (**MoCA #056**). You will then be able to view test dates, locations, fees, etc.

### **How to register?**

You can register by going to the [Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments website](#) and clicking "Register" on the top. The first time, you will need to create an account. Once logged in, you can register for any of the available tests. When registering, please be sure to indicate that you received your training at Missouri State. This way, they will send us your score report. You will also want them to email you a PDF of your score report. You should save this for your records.

### **What is the cost?**

\$73

### **How to prepare?**

Study Guides, sample tests and testing frameworks for the Missouri Content Assessments can be found by going to the [Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments website](#) and clicking on "prepare". Currently Study Guides and Test Frameworks can be downloaded from the MEGA website for free. Practice Tests can be purchased for an additional fee.

## References

<https://www.txstate.edu/clas/Professional-Counseling/current-students/NCE.html>

<http://www.mo.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>

<https://nbcc.org/home>

<https://www.cce-global.org/assessmentsandexaminations/cpce>