









The Path to Licensed Behavioral Health Careers

CAREER	EDUCATION						PROGRAMS	REQUIRED LICENSE
	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	MEDICAL/GRADUATE SCHOOL	POST-GRADUATE TRAINING	SPECIALIZATIONS		
 PSYCHIATRIST			4 years	4 years of medical school	• Residency: 4 years • Fellowship: 1 to 2 years (optional)	• Addiction • Child & adolescent • Forensic • Geriatric • Psychosomatic	• UNMC ¹ (M.D., D.O.) • Creighton University (residency)	Medical License
 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT			4 years	2-3 years (Includes clerkship/rotation)	• Fellowship: 1 year (optional)		• UNMC (Omaha & Kearney) • Union College • College of Saint Mary	Physician Assistant License
 PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER			4-year bachelor's degree (BSN, RN) OR 12-month accelerated BSN if already hold bachelor's degree	2- to 3-year master's degree (MSN) OR 3- to 4-year doctorate (DNP) (Both include practicum)		• Child & adolescent mental health nursing • Gerontological-psychiatric nursing • Substance use disorders	• UNMC (MSN, DNP) • Creighton University (DNP)	Nurse Practitioner License
 LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST			4 years	• 5-6 years (Ph.D. or Psy.D. professional school) • School psychologists can also complete a 3-year Ed.S. (Both include internship)	• Fellowship: 1 year	• Clinical • Counseling • School	• UNL ² (Ph.D. in clinical, counseling, school, and Ed.S.) • UNO ³ (psych MA, school psych Ed.S.) • UNK ⁴ (school psych Ed.S.)	• Psychology License (required for practice of psychology) • Certification with State Department of Education (required for school psychology, Ed.S.)
 PROFESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR			4 years	2-3 years (Includes practicum and internship)		• Individuals • Families • Children • Couples • Group	Master's programs: • UNK • UNO • UNL • Wayne State ⁵ • Chadron State ⁶ • Bellevue University • Doane University • Grace University	• LMHP*/LIMHP* • Optional: LADC*, CPC*
 MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST			4 years	2 years (Includes practicum)		• Rural mental health • Tele-mental health	• UNL	Available licenses: CMFT*, LMHP, LIMHP
 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER			4 years	2-3 years (Includes practicum)		• Micro – individuals, families, children, couples, group, etc. • Macro – policy, administration	• UNO (MSW) • UNK (off-campus program)	• LMHP • Optional: LCSW*, LADC, LIMHP
 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COUNSELOR	All of the following: • High school diploma • 270 hrs. substance disorder education • 6,000 hrs. supervised practice	OR all of the following: • Associate's degree • 270 hrs. substance disorder education • 5,000 hrs. supervised practice	OR all of the following: • Bachelor's degree • 270 hrs. substance disorder education • 4,000 hrs. supervised practice	OR all of the following: • Master's degree • 270 hrs. substance disorder education • 2,000 hrs. supervised practice		• Dual disorder (if also hold LMHP/LIMHP)	Substance disorder education programs: • Bellevue University • CCC ⁷ • MCC ⁸ • NCC ⁹ • PSC ¹⁰ • SCC ¹¹ • UNO • UNK • Training for Addiction Professionals (TAP), Lincoln, NE	LADC

1 University of Nebraska Medical Center
2 University of Nebraska–Lincoln
3 University of Nebraska–Omaha
4 University of Nebraska–Kearney
5 Wayne State College
6 Chadron State College
7 Central Community College
8 Metropolitan Community College
9 Northeast Community College
10 Peru State College
11 Southeast Community College

* LMHP: Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
* LIMHP: Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner
* LADC: Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor
* CPC: Certified Professional Counselor
* CMFT: Certified Marriage & Family Therapist
* LCSW: Licensed Clinical Social Worker