COUN503 Intro to Counseling

Colleen Gleason, Ed. M.

Brief Review of Labor Market Information

I encountered many interesting challenges in my search for labor market information. As I worked through different sites, I found inputting “LPC” to result in *therapist* jobs. I found salary estimates that seemed astronomical, needing more research. I also found that there is a difference between an LPC and an LPCC, something also requiring more research. The particular employer in one case sought someone with an LPCC licensure, and, under “qualifications”, listed it as a “Licensed Clinical Social Worker”. To confuse things further, the job description sought a “LPC”! I can see that understanding the labor market with an LPC licensure will be tricky!

Information from [www.salaryexpert.com](http://www.salaryexpert.com)lists $45,327 as entry level salary for our area, while a search for LPC jobs in Lynchburg on Indeed.com listed the average salary as $98,000: <https://www.indeed.com/career/licensed-professional-counselor/salaries/Lynchburg--VA?from=top_sb>. This I found incredible. I can see from a cursory search of the labor market that one must be dogged and focused, willing to investigate information fully.

As I completed my assignment requiring me to interview a licensed professional counselor, Beth Cook, an LPC in Farmville, reported a shortage of local counselors to handle demand. My expertise is working with families of children with autism. I am hoping that I can translate this experience into the counseling profession, and see clients I typically see, as well as counseling focused on older children, with and without disabilities. I am also open to working with adults; I hope this flexibility makes my entry into the labor market easier.

I intend to choose training in trauma, grief, and loss as an elective in my Mental Health course sequence. Trauma counseling is a personal interest, particularly as it effects children; it may also make me more employable. It would appear that I will need more direct experience working with individuals with trauma. I have reached out to Beth Cook regarding supervision following my course sequence. I wonder if this opportunity will offer me experience working with clients with trauma? This is a work in progress. In any event, it behooves me to orient myself to more training (conferences, volunteering, etc.). I am a member of ACA and have begun to look into their 2021 conferences: <https://www.counseling.org/conference/conference-2021>.

**Counseling Beyond U.S. Borders**

My husband and I are open to the possibility of living and working abroad if it seemed mutually beneficial. This site is from “Counseling Today”, a publication of the American Counseling Association: <https://ct.counseling.org/2009/12/counseling-beyond-u-s-borders/>. It describes counselors’ experiences working in Ireland, Uzbekistan, Czech Republic, Kuwait, and Tanzania. There is no information given about the path to work permit sponsorship. From my experience, the work permit process can be challenging, with sponsorship by an agency or company being the clearest path. In any case, one must have a skill that is deemed important and in demand within the country. The stories on this site do bear significant witness to the need for multicultural sensitivity, which is important and fascinating.

If I was called, I would be open to disaster crisis management. The Red Cross, I have heard, provides training for LPC’s who are interested in this work. This would provide an interesting dimension to my work as a counselor.