**Credentials Needed**

Christian Finkbeiner

Longwood University

Department of Education and Counseling, Counselor Education Program

COUN 503

Dr. Justin Jordan

December 1, 2022

**Credentials Needed**

To become a licensed professional counselor in Virginia, I will need to complete a 60-credit graduate program in counseling with a 600-hour internship, including at least 240 hours of direct client contact. I plan to meet those requirements here at Longwood.

Once I have my master’s degree, I will need to begin my 3,400-hour counseling residency, which must include at least 2,000 hours of direct client contact and 200 hours of face-to-face supervision with my residency supervisor. No more than half of those 200 hours may come from group supervision. My residency must last at least 21 months and include quarterly evaluations submitted to the Virginia Board of Counseling.

I plan to complete my residency at an outpatient counseling practice or while providing mental health counseling at an office-based addiction treatment program. If no one is available onsite to provide my residency supervision, I will find someone offsite. I’m already aware of several people who provide such supervision. After completing my residency, I will apply to take the LPC exam.

As for professional affiliations, I plan to join the American Counseling Association and its division for substance use counselors (the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors); NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals; the Virginia Counselors Association; the Virginia Association of Addiction Professionals; and the Virginia Association of Addiction Counselors. Advocacy definitely will be a part of my story.