



SUPERVISEE REFERENCE

Georgia Licensure, Board Rules and ACA Ethics (NOTE – Georgia Board Has Pending Changes)S

A one-page-per-topic summary for practicum students, interns, and associates

This is a summary, not the law. It is written to orient you quickly. Rules change, and a summary cannot carry every exception. Check the current text of the Board rule, or ask your supervisor, before you rely on anything here in a real decision.

1. The two-step path in Georgia

Stage	What it is	What it lets you do
Practicum / internship	A supervised placement inside your graduate degree	Practise only as a student, under the university and a site supervisor. You are not licensed.
Associate Professional Counselor (APC)	Entry-level licence held after the degree	Practise only under Board-approved direction and supervision while accruing experience. Maximum five years in APC status.
Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)	Independent licence	Practise independently, and supervise others once additionally qualified.

2. Practicum and internship

What the Board requires of your degree

- A master's degree or higher, primarily counseling in content, or in applied psychology. Rule 135-5-.01.
- A supervised practicum or internship of at least 300 hours within the degree — rising to 600 hours for degrees completed after 30 September 2018.
- For the post-2018 standard, programmes must be CACREP, CORE, or CHEA accredited.

What your university requires

The Board sets a floor for the degree. Your university sets the actual requirements you work to — total hours, direct client contact hours, supervision frequency, evaluations, and documentation. Where the two differ, you meet both.

- CACREP-accredited programmes commonly require 100 total practicum hours with 40 in direct client contact, and 600 total internship hours with 240 direct. Confirm your own programme's numbers; many exceed the minimum.
- Orchard tracks your direct, indirect, and supervision hours separately. Keep your own log as well, and reconcile the two monthly rather than at the end.

Hours you cannot get back. An hour worked but not documented is an hour you did not work, as far as a licensing board is concerned. Log the same week, not the same term.

3. Directed experience for the LPC

After the degree and the APC, you accrue what the Board calls directed experience under supervision. Two routes, under Rule 135-5-.02:

Route	Directed experience	Plus
A	Four years	—
B	Three years	A graduate practicum or internship of at least 300 hours (600 after 30 Sept 2018)

What a "year" means

- One year of directed experience = 1,000 hours across at least 12 months. Three years is therefore 3,000 hours; four years is 4,000.
- One year of supervision = 35 hours within a 12-month period (30 hours before 30 September 2018). Three years requires 105 supervision hours; four years requires 140.
- At least two of the supervision years must be provided by a Licensed Professional Counselor.
- Directed experience must have been completed within the last 60 months.

Examination

- The NCE or the NCMHCE, through NBCC — usually taken while holding the APC.
- Georgia requires no separate state jurisprudence examination for the LPC.

A note on terminology that catches people out. The Board speaks of directed experience and years of supervision. It does not use the direct / indirect split your university uses. Do not assume your programme's split maps onto the Board's requirement, and do not discard your university records once you graduate — Route B depends on them.

4. The Georgia Board rules you should know

Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., Chapter 135. These are the chapters that touch your placement.

Chapter	What it covers	Why it matters to you
135-5	Requirements for Licensure — including 135-5-.01 (APC) and 135-5-.02 (LPC)	Defines directed experience, supervision years, and who may supervise
135-7	Code of Ethics	The enforceable ethics standard in Georgia. Distinct from the ACA code, and it governs
135-9	Continuing Education	35 hours per two-year renewal cycle; maximum 10 asynchronous hours; 5 ethics hours must be synchronous
135-10	Advertising	How you may describe yourself and your services
135-11	TeleMental Health — Rule 135-11-.01	Six CE hours before delivering clinical TMH; nine for supervising by TMH; verbal and written consent required

Scope while you are unlicensed

- You practise under your supervisor's licence and within the scope your supervisor and the university authorise. A placement agreement does not by itself authorise an activity.
- Diagnosis in Georgia is restricted. Do not enter or change a diagnosis without your supervisor's direction.

- You must tell clients you are a student or intern, name your supervisor and their credentials, and say that your supervisor has access to the record.
- Self-harm, suicidality, and homicidality are never your independent determination. Nor is a mandated report.

Failure to comply with a Board rule is unprofessional conduct. That is the rule's own language. It applies to your supervisor for services you deliver, which is why supervision is not optional and not a formality.

5. Mandated reporting and crisis

Situation	Authority	What you do
Suspected child abuse or neglect	O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5	Reasonable cause to suspect is the threshold — not proof, and not a disclosure. Consult your supervisor the same day.
Suspected abuse of a disabled adult or elder	O.C.G.A. § 30-5-1 et seq.	As above.
Acute risk to self or others	Duty to protect; agency policy	Confirm location, keep the client engaged, contact your supervisor during the session if risk is acute.
Crisis numbers	—	911 in the client's jurisdiction · 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline · Georgia Crisis & Access Line 1-800-715-4225

6. ACA Code of Ethics — the shape of it

The 2014 ACA Code of Ethics is the current enforceable version. A revision has completed public comment and is expected to be adopted in autumn 2026, moving to a shorter core document with supplemental guidelines. Section numbering will change — verify before citing.

The five moral principles underneath everything

Principle	What it asks of you
Autonomy	Respect the client's right to make their own choices and direct their own life
Nonmaleficence	Do no harm — including harm caused by working beyond your competence
Beneficence	Work for the good of the client and of the public
Justice	Treat people fairly and equitably; stay alert to your own bias
Fidelity	Keep your commitments and hold trust

The nine sections

Section	Covers	The part supervisees most often need
A	The Counseling Relationship	Client welfare first. Informed consent is ongoing, not a signature. No harmful dual relationships. Do not abandon — plan endings and refer properly.
B	Confidentiality and Privacy	Protected by default. Limits are serious and foreseeable harm, legal requirements, and mandated reporting — explained at the start of care. Share only what is necessary in consultation.
C	Professional Responsibility	Practise only within your education, training, supervised experience, and credentials. Represent your qualifications accurately. Monitor yourself for impairment.

Section	Covers	The part supervisees most often need
D	Relationships With Other Professionals	Respect differing approaches, work cooperatively, do not undermine colleagues.
E	Evaluation, Assessment, Interpretation	Use only instruments you are qualified to administer and interpret. Take care with diagnosis and its historical misuse.
F	Supervision, Training, Teaching	Supervisors monitor client welfare and hold responsibility. You disclose trainee status and bring risk, errors, and concerns promptly.
G	Research and Publication	Consent, confidentiality, accurate reporting, proper credit.
H	Distance Counseling, Technology, Social Media	Be competent in the technology as well as the clinical work. Distance-specific consent. Verify identity and location. Keep personal and professional presences separate.
I	Resolving Ethical Issues	Where ethics and law conflict, make it known and seek resolution. Address suspected violations. Consult — and document that you did.

7. Where the codes sit relative to each other

- Georgia law and Board rules govern. Chapter 135-7 is the enforceable ethics standard in this state.
- The ACA Code applies to ACA members and supports ethics complaints. The NBCC Code binds NCC certificants and candidates. APA telepsychology guidelines are aspirational rather than enforceable.
- Your university adds its own requirements, and accreditation standards such as CACREP may add more.
- Orchard policy sits on top of all of it and is sometimes stricter. Where it is stricter, follow Orchard.

Where they differ, use the most protective lawful standard. And take the question to supervision rather than resolving it alone. A conflict between two authorities is exactly the situation that needs a second opinion on the record.

Where to verify

- Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists — sos.ga.gov
- Board rules — rules.sos.ga.gov, Chapter 135
- ACA Code of Ethics — [counseling.org](https://www.counseling.org)
- NBCC Code of Ethics — [nbcc.org](https://www.nbcc.org)
- CACREP Standards — [cacrep.org](https://www.cacrep.org)
- Counseling Compact live state roster — counselingcompact.gov

Questions about how any of this applies to a client belong in supervision, not in a search engine.