

	Helpful Information: CLICK HERE tboyer@cccc.edu 1. Time: most of these pathways take 8 years to complete (going full-time) 2. Money: these pathways can be expensive with less financial aid options. 3. Academic: competitive entry, rigorous academic standards, required internships				
Profession	What They Do	Who Do They Work With	Education & Licensure Pathway	Licensing State of NC Only***	Important Thoughts to Consider
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors (CADC)	Intakes, assessments and screenings. Some counseling with supervision, case management, administrative tasks (answering phones, filing, etc.)	Clients, Supervisors, & Community	AAS and/or Addiction & Recovery Certificate (CCCC) >> CADC certification	Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)	Certification: 260 educational hours, board exam, 5,000 hours of counseling. This certification allows individuals to do counseling in Addiction and Recovery settings. This is an option for students who are not able to pursue further education . Licensure for Addictions: <i>Earned with a Master's Degree</i>
CCCC Social and Human Services	Intakes, assessments and screenings. Some counseling with supervision, case management, administrative tasks (answering phones, filing, etc.)	Clients, Supervisors, & Community	AAS in Social and Human Services (CCCC)	None CCCC Social & Human Services	Option for students who are not able to pursue further education , but are passionate about helping people . Has less rigor an the options listed below and is a " get to work " degree. Future higher ed can be pursued at a <i>private</i> 4-year school and is online education. Possible teaching for a community college, <i>upon earning a Master's degree</i> and more administrative duties, than counseling duties with higher education. Not eligible to become a licensed counselor with the state.
Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC) <i>(Therapist/Counselor)</i>	Individual and group counseling, clinical treatment plans, private counseling, administrative duties, case management, not-for-profit agency work, but can also work in for-profit agencies.	Clients, Supervisors, Community, & Families Supervise/Clinical Supervisor or College-Level Teaching	AA >> BA >> MA 2-3 years of residential work & supervision by a state board supervisor and then a State Licensure Exam.	NC Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors CACREP is a national standard and these schools are challenging to be accepted to.	Lengthy education and can be expensive to pursue. Education has multiple internships, while in school, and residency work after a Master's Degree is earned (2-4 years). Hybrid learning, competitive entry. With this licensure, one can own a private practice and/or be be a clinical supervisor. - Counselors/Therapists tend to focus on the individual, couples or family counseling.
Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) <i>(same as a LMHC)</i>	Individual and group counseling, clinical treatment plans, private counseling, case management, administrative duties, not-for-profit agency work, but can also work in for-profit agencies.	Clients, Supervisors, Community, & Families Supervise/Clinical Supervisor or College-Level Teaching	AA >> BA >> MA 2-3 years of residential work & supervision by a state board supervisor and then a State Licensure Exam.	NC Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors CACREP is a national standard and these schools are challenging to be accepted to.	<i>Same as Licensed Mental Health Counselors above.</i> Students can earn multiple additional certifications in specific therapies and additional credentials. NBCC is an example. However, state licensure is required before earning additional certifications. There are hundreds of additional certifications.
Psychiatrists	Minimal counseling, creates referrals to get on-going counseling with a licensed counselor, prescribe medications, supervise licensed counselors, carry a heavy caseload.	Clients, Hospitals, Insurance, Community, Families, & Supervise/Clinical Supervisor	AS/AA >> BS/BA >> MD 5 years of residential work & supervision by a state board supervisor, and State Licensure Exam.	NC Psychiatric Association	Very lengthy education and can be very expensive to pursue. Requires a Medical Degree and <i>not</i> a Counseling degree. Tend to work with co-occurring disorders , personality disorders, and/or other medical issues. Precribe medication, counsel patients, private-pay with a private practice, or work for a hospital or residential center. 10+ years, face-2-face education and competitive entry. The highest paying job on the list, but also the most expensive to pursue .
Psychologists - Licensed	Individual and group counseling, but tend to focus more on academics, research, & teaching	Clients, but often more Research or Teaching Focused	AA >> BA >> MA 2-3 years of residential work & supervision by a state board supervisor, and then a State Licensure Exam.	NC Psychology Board	Very lengthy education and can be expensive to pursue. Education has multiple internships, while in school, and residency work after a Masters Degree is earned (2-4 years). Competitive entry. Research and teaching focused candidates usually earn a Ph.D. With this licensure, one can own a private practice and/or be be a clinical supervisor.

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Profession	What They Do	Who Do They Work With	Education & Licensure Pathway	Licensing State of NC Only***	Important Thoughts to Consider
Social Work - BSW (Bachelor in Social Work)	Counsel with supervision, case management, & administrative duties	Clients, Supervisors, & Community	AA >> BSW	NC Social Work Certification & Licensure Board Certified Social Workers (CSW); Certified Social Work Managers (CSWM)	BSW graduates can become case managers for child protective services, substance abuse treatment, hospitals, youth and children services, criminal justice, adoptions/foster care and long-term care. A BSW is not an "end" in terms of counseling and is instead a pathway to a Master's degree . A student could possibly be better served with an AAS degree and CADC credential than a BSW. But it depends on their long term goals.
Licensed Social Worker (LSW)	Individual and group counseling, clinical treatment plans, private counseling, case management, administrative duties, not-for-profit agency work, but can also work in for-profit agencies.	Clients, Supervisors, Community, Families, Supervise/Clinical Supervisor, Teaching at College-Level	AA >> BA >> MA 2-3 years of residential work & supervision by a state board supervisor, and then a State Licensure Exam.	NC Social Work Certification & Licensure Board Certified Master Social Worker (CMSW); Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW); Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate (LCSWA); Certified Social Work Case Managers (CSWM);	Lengthy education and can be expensive to pursue. With this licensure, one can own a private practice and/or be a clinical supervisor. Education has multiple internships, while in school, and residency work after a Masters Degree is earned (2-4 years). Hybrid learning, competitive entry. This degree/licensure has the highest amount of options , as well as possible teaching , but a license must be earned. Very similar to the LMHC and LPC, but Social Workers focus more on the whole situation, not only the counseling (education, probation, family, housing, employment, medication, etc.). professionals can work with any mental health issue, but usually don't since this requires additional training and certifications.
School Psychologist	Work in schools, Case Management, & Testing	Students, Parents, Teachers, & Special Needs	AA >> BA >> MA 2-3 years of residential work & supervision by a state board supervisor, and then a State Licensure Exam.	NC DPI - School Psychologist	Work in the K-12 school system only. Testing children and bringing services to families. Work in the school system and have similar duties as teachers and educators. They cannot open a private practice , do counseling , or teach at the college-level .
Important Notes to Review	Decisions are usually based on: 1. Time : most of these pathways take 8 years to complete (going full-time) 2. Money : these pathways are expensive and financial aid can be less accessible. 3. Academic : competitive entry and require consistent grades.			*** State licensure is State Regulated and varies per state. - Every state has different licensing standards (internship hours, class required, and length of post-masters requirements).	