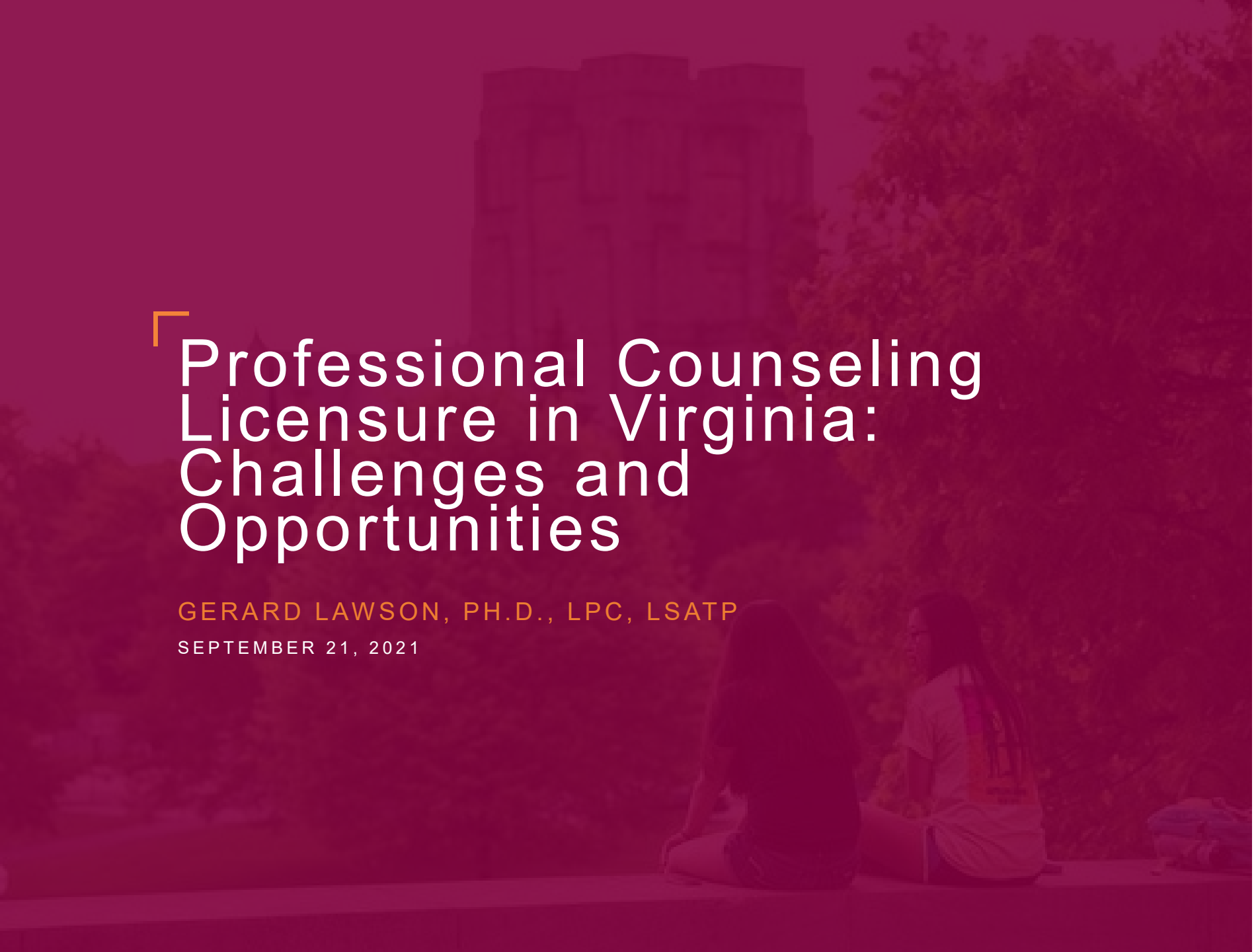

Professional Counseling Licensure in Virginia: Challenges and Opportunities

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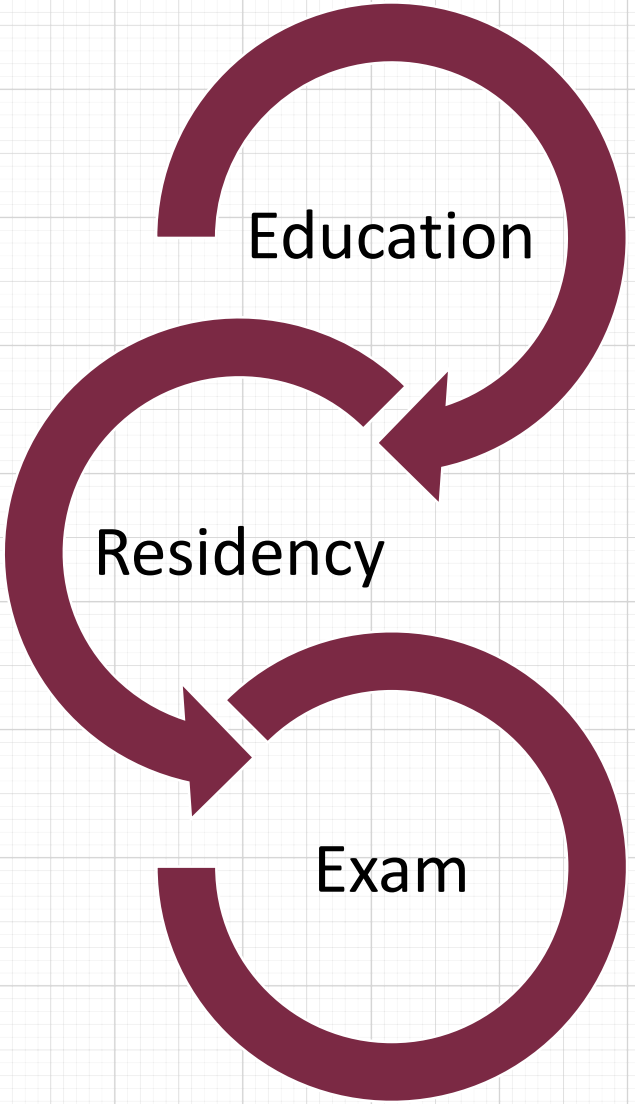
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

VIRGINIA TECH™

The Path to Licensure as a Professional Counselor



Educational Requirements:

Master’s Degree as part of
60 Graduate Credits in Counseling
or a closely related field

Two-years Full-time Study

Internship

Supervised internship of 600 hours to include 240 hours of face-to-face client contact

Up to 900 hours can count towards the licensure requirement

Residency Requirement

3400 hours Post-Graduate
Supervised Experience

First Pinch Points –
Finding a Job
Finding a Supervisor
Getting Registered with the Board

Residency Requirement

a. Counseling and psychotherapy techniques;
b. Appraisal, evaluation and diagnostic procedures;
c. Treatment planning and implementation;

Residency Requirement

d. Case management and recordkeeping;
e. Professional identity and function;
f. Professional ethics and standards of practice.

Residency Requirement

200 Hours of Supervision provided Concurrently with the Counseling Experience

One Hour per 20 Worked

Exam

Clinical Exam

Computer Based

Snapshot of Providers

Masters Level Providers	
Licensed Professional Counselors	7,140
Resident in Counseling	2,652
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist	943
Marriage & Family Therapist Resident	139
Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner	339
Substance Abuse Treatment Residents	12
Total Board of Counseling	**11,198**

Paraprofessional Providers	
Qualified Mental Health Prof-Adult	6,565
Qualified Mental Health Prof-Child	4,783
Trainee for Qualified Mental Health Prof	5,649
QMHP Totals	**16,997**

Some Issues of Concern

- Finding Work
- Finding Supervision
- QMHP Influence

Questions?

Thank you!

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