

My Road to (Temporary) Licensure

By: Anna Claire Bowen, Student/Associate Member Representative

Graduate school seemed like such a breeze to me compared to the unstructured chaos that is the licensing process. After graduation in August I took one look at the list of things that I would need to have for even submitting the licensure application and froze. It took a couple months of mustering up the courage to tackle what seemed an endless list of to-dos before I could even send my application in. However, once I got started on the process and made my checklist of what I needed to get done it seemed to help the process go much more smoothly and I even got my temporary license before the end of the year.

I was able to get my temporary license in the mail much more quickly and painlessly than I have heard others experience. However, this was just the start of the process. I immediately had to sign up for the licensing exam, one of the original reasons I halted the licensing experience in the first place. At this point I had been studying on and off for this exam for almost a year and I began working on my notecards, listening to the cd's, and reading the "Giant Green Book" with such a gusto that I beat my study schedule that I had set up which gave me a few more weeks to go over the things that I needed to re-review. After a sleepless, anxiety filled night I arrived at the testing site and begin what was supposed to be a four-hour test. I finished much more quickly than I expected and looked at the screen longingly wishing I could know my score at that exact moment. I waited an excruciatingly long six weeks (two more weeks than I was originally told) and received my score. I had passed! Now what? The job hunt continues as I have gone on a few interviews and am continually sending my resume to companies that I think would have some interest in hiring me, let me help their clients, and get hours for my license.

Since this experience, it has become my mission to help others in my same situation, which is why I am so passionate about the Student/Associate Member Representative role that I have taken on. I got lost in a black hole after my graduation date and I desperately want to help others avoid this desperation. I have been actively posting on our Facebook page hoping to get more involvement and questions about what type of resources our members would like to see. You can search for our page under "Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy" and get more information pertinent to your career like my checklist for temporary license that I used to help me with the process.