

NAADAC-National Certification Commission (NCC)

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Keeping It Real Conference



THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION (NCC)

National Certification Commission (NCC)

Under the banner of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, the International Certification Commission (NCC) operates as an independent body for all matters involving the Association's alcohol and drug abuse counselor certification and specialty endorsement opportunities at the national/international level.

What is Certification?

A certification program is an organized system of baseline requirements that must be met in order for a professional to practice within a given field.

What is Certification? Cont'd

- The structured and systematic process through which people intending or performing clinical practice **acquire** the necessary skills to optimally perform their duties within an addictions treatment setting.
- **The validation of skills, knowledge and competence through application and testing of addiction professionals.**
- **Training and education** are the basis for certification.

National Certification Commission (NCC)

The NAADAC/iNCC is building the profession by ensuring high standards of excellence for certification/licensure and by providing quality continuing education.

History of the NCC

- Established in 1990
- The iNCC has independent autonomy in the development and promulgation of our standards for testing, including:
 - who qualifies for the exams
 - content
 - administration
 - scoring
 - appeals

Mission of the NCC

The purposes and benefits of the NCC's national certifications are:

- to focus on the individual counselor and to provide a formal indicator of the current knowledge and competence at the national level;
- to provide a national standard that is generally higher than the state requirements and encourages professionals to continue to learn for the sake of their clients;

Mission (cont.)

- to afford a means of establishing, measuring, and monitoring the requirements for knowledge in the profession; and
- to provide assistance to employers, health care providers, educators, government entities, labor unions, other practitioners, and the public in the identification of quality counselors who have met the national competency standards.

Benefits of Certification

- Professionalization of the field of substance use disorders
- Proven method by which addiction professionals are recognized
- Constant actualization of skills and knowledge of addiction professionals
- Clients verification that persons offering treatment services are competent, skilled and knowledgeable
- **It improves overall quality of services**

HISTORY OF THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES

History of Certification

- People working in the addiction counseling profession wanted their skills and knowledge to be acknowledged and obtain professional recognition for their work.
- A voluntary certification process began in the early 1970s.
- Certification procedures and eligibility were established by independent professional boards.

History of Certification

- The US government began in the late 1970s to include requirements for persons to demonstrate that they held and had obtained credentials to practice within the facilities receiving Federal funds.
- Until the 1980s, this was a voluntary process, and presently in 5 states, the voluntary status remains. Nevertheless, treatment facilities within those states require their personnel to be licensed.
- Different states establish different eligibility requirements for certification or licensing.

Certification Opportunities

The NCC instituted four credentials for alcoholism and drug abuse counselors:

- National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC I)
- National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC II)
- Master Addiction Counselor (MAC)
- Nicotine Dependent Specialist Credential
- Basic Level Credential

Finally

A
Great Opportunity!

Basic Level Credential

- ❑ This Basic entry level credential requires 125 hours of specific addictive disorders education. All 125 hours must be specific to providing addiction services.

Recommended practice areas

- ☑ -Screening or intake
- ☑ -Crisis intervention
- ☑ -Referral
- ☑ -Case management
- ☑ -Continuing care
- ☑ -Community education (preparation & delivery under direct supervision)

Addiction Studies Education Requirements

- ☑ -ethics – 6 hours
- ☑ -documentation 6 hours
- ☑ -community/family education - 6 hours
- ☑ -counseling hours - 20 hours
- ☑ -screening and intake – 6 hours
- ☑ -identification of co-occurring disorders - 10 hours

Cont'd

- ☐ -Service coordination – 6 hours
- ☐ -Referral – 6 hours
- ☐ -Treatment planning – 6 hours
- ☐ -Clinical evaluation – 10 hours
- ☐ -HIV/Aides training – 6 hours
- ☐ -Cultural training – 6 hours
- ☐ -Pharmacology – 10 hours
- ☐ Total of 105 hours

Recommendation

- ☐ It is recommended that the remaining 20 hours include specific addiction studies, topics.

Supervision Requirement

- ❑ 1000 hours of supervision of which includes 100 hours of direct face to face supervision.
- ❑ Approved clinical supervisors shall be defined according to the state regulatory body.

Domains of the Exam

- ❑ Pharmacology
- ❑ Counseling practice
- ❑ Theoretical base of counseling
- ❑ Professional issues

Code of Ethics

- ❑ It is recommended that each state apply its own Code of Ethics.
- ❑ Many states use the NAADAC Code of Ethics, which is also used by the National Certification Commission.

Renewal of Credential

- ❑ Recommended 10 hours for renewal or per the state regulation established

Cost of Credential

- State will set it own fees.
- Not offered by the NCC
- Exam fee and credential fees will apply

Thank You!!!

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