

# Announcement: One-Time Test Acceptance Offer for National Certification

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The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP), a department of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, is proud to announce that, for a limited time, it is waiving its requirement that all national credential applications be submitted **within four years** of receiving a passing NCC AP test score. The NCC AP invites you to apply for the level of national credential you tested for when you obtained your state-issued credential/license, no matter how old your test score!

This one-time offer to apply for an NCC AP national credential with a test score older than four years will begin April 1 and end September 30, 2014. **No applications will be accepted after September 30, 2014.**

The NCC AP is making this one-time test acceptance offer to acknowledge and honor your hard work and professional dedication, and aid in your professional growth. The upcoming addiction workforce shortage needs people like you who can validate competence and experience with a national level of credentialing to enhance your professional viability.

### To qualify, you must:

1. Have a passing NCC AP test score;
2. Be able to document that score, the date you tested and which NCC AP test (NCAC I, NCAC II, MAC) was taken (NCC AP staff will be able to help find missing information);
3. Hold a current state issued credential/license and be able to verify your active status;
4. Be currently practicing as a Substance Use Disorders Professional or a professional in a related discipline; and
5. File a completed NCC AP Test Acceptance application and submit all required documentation between April 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

### How does the NCC AP Credential assist me in my profession?

- Obtaining a national credential demonstrates a high level of competence in your chosen profession.
- The NCC AP MAC credential will enhance your ability to bill third party payees. The following survey finding was released by SAMSHA and the Association of Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW):

*A survey by Pam Greenberg with SAMHSA and the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) found that SUD counselors were required to be state licensed as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor in the provider's state OR certified by NCC AP as a Master Addiction Counselor (MAC).<sup>1</sup>*

- The U.S. Department of Transportation recognizes all three levels of NCC AP national credentials as means to qualify for the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) qualification.
- Acceptance/portability within states where the NCC AP testing products are recognized.
- Evidences your skills, knowledge and competence at a national credentialing level. This is important to Federal Agencies who promote the use of national credentials to lessen the confusion of who is eligible to treat Substance Use Disorders.

The NCC AP works very closely with your state credentialing/licensing boards to offer a sound testing product that is used in the United States and in many countries. We hope you will take advantage of this one-time offer to apply for a national credential even if your NCC AP test score is more than four years old. Please pass this announcement on to anyone you know who may be eligible for this professional offer.

We thank you for your many years of support of the NCC AP and look forward to your attainment of a highly valued NCC AP national credential as you continue to enhance your professional career.

For more information on this offer, please visit [www.naadac.org/testacceptanceoffer](http://www.naadac.org/testacceptanceoffer).



Kathryn Benson, NCAC II, LADC, QSAP, QSC, serves as Chair of the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP). Contact her at [lightbeing@aol.com](mailto:lightbeing@aol.com) with your thoughts or questions. Every effort will be made to respond to your inquiries in either this publication or a personal reply.

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW). (2011). *Managed Behavioral Health Care Organization: Provider Credential and Information.*