

# NCC AP Welcomes New National Professionals

By Kathryn Benson, NCAC II, LADC, SAP, NCC AP Chair

The National Certification Commission for Addictions Professionals (NCC AP) recognized its 24th year by offering a “Test Acceptance Offer” for all persons who had ever taken and passed an NCC AP test. This applied to individuals who had never applied for a national credential after having passed the exam, as well as those who previously held a NCC AP credential and allowed it to expire. The offer was open from April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014.

This offering achieved a wide positive response with many meeting the criteria set. The NCC AP wishes to thank all who expressed a desire to hold our national credential. A special thanks to those who met the criteria and were able to gain or re-instate their NCC AP credential.

This Test Acceptance opportunity was designed to focus on the value of a national credential in the changing landscape of health care today. It is so important to meet requisites set by both states and insurance carriers whose standards for review and acceptance of addiction professional providers have become more demanding. A national credential not only meets state standards, but often has requirements that are more stringent than many state credentials.

All of the NCC AP’s credentials are accepted by the U.S. Department of Transportation for those who meet qualifications to practice as a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) under the DOT regulations. Many recognize this as a value to their professional practice and through the National Credential, have obtained the DOT/SAP Qualification.

The NCC AP’s national credentials provide major benefits to individuals and the addiction profession as a whole. National credentials:

- Focus on the individual clinician and their specific expertise;
- Focus on the individual clinician professional development;
- Provide a formal indicator of current knowledge and competence nationally;
- Provide a national standard that is generally higher than state requirements;

- Encourage professionals to continue enhancing their knowledge to better serve their clients;
- Afford a means to establish, measure, and monitor the requirements for knowledge in the profession;
- Provide assistance to employers, healthcare providers, educators, government entities, labor unions, other practitioners, and the public in the identification of quality counselors who have met the national competency;
- Promote professionalism of the treatment profession for substance use disorders;
- Maintain proven methods by which addiction professionals are recognized;
- Offer constant actualization of skills and knowledge of addiction professionals; and
- Enable client verification that persons offering treatment services are competent, skilled and knowledgeable.

In 2015, the NCC AP will strive to:

- Improve quality control of test sites for its test candidates;
- Devise an easier method for renewing applicants to submit renewal applications;
- Reduce the time for new applicants to attain the national credential (already improved through the implementation of monthly testing in October 2013); and
- Continue to offer assistance with test preparation to our national candidates and “state test candidates” through e-mail and oral communications, and the NAADAC website.

Many states utilize the NCC AP test products for their state test. If you have taken an NCC AP test through the Professional Testing Cooperation (PTC) within the past four years, we strongly encourage you to apply for the national credential as your test score is applicable for the credential at the level you tested.

Thank you for your continued interest and use of the NCC AP credentials, testing products and services. We are honored to continue to serve you and the addictions profession.



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