NCC AP National Credentials: Being the Star of your Own Show

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IMAGINE, BELIEVE, AND ACHIEVE
- Aims at helping individuals with their personal problems
- Often involves ethical issues
- Values influence both the goals of counseling and the methods and techniques used to reach those goals
- The helping professional’s ethical standards and professional techniques are inseparable
A. Counselor must respect the values of client
   - can suggest client change social values (not moral or religious values)

B. Counselor must keep confidential client information
   May not reveal without securing permission
   Exceptions:  Harm to self/others
                 Suspected child/elder abuse
                 Medical Emergency
                 Court Order
                 Crimes on premises*

C. Test results must be interpreted to client in manner likely to be constructive in effort to solve problems
A. Counselor must maintain high standards of work, not just expedience or temporary success
   - Unethical to offer services outside training or Scope of Practice

B. Should try to rectify the malpractice of other counselors
   - should not criticize counselor who uses other methods

C. Counselor should not accept for counseling a person already receiving services from someone else without consulting first with that clinician
- Right to private life, relaxation, boundaries with calls, emails, text, etc.

- Must leave client problems at office

- Should not encourage dependency

- Realize not reasonable to expect yourself to help each and every person
Preparing for the Changing Landscape

- Better information dissemination
- More clarity in public announcements concerning decisions made at the national level
- Equal acceptance of ALL professions
- Equal engagement in the planning for the future
- Use of curricula developed for higher educational programs (NASCC) – SAMHSA sponsored
- Understanding the role certificants can play in Peer Recovery, Peer Coaching
The Importance of Having and Maintaining Your Professional Standing

- Protection of the profession
- Protection of your clients/patients
- Protection of your colleagues
- Protection of your agency
- Protection of your practice
Certified Substance Abuse Counselor: Required Credentials

- Required by all plans surveyed that contract with this type of provider:
  - State licensed as an alcohol and drug counselor at the highest level of independent licensure available in the provider’s state OR certified by the NAADAC as a Master Addiction Counselor (MAC).
  - Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC) with license.
  - Must be licensed to practice independently.
  - Unrestricted license in the state where the practice is located.
  - Possess professional liability coverage at a minimum level of $1,000,000 per episode and $1,000,000 (sometimes $3,000,000) aggregate.
  - Clear OIG report.
  - NPI Number.
Established in 1990 under the auspices of NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals

**Mission of the NCC AP**

The purposes and benefits of the NCC AP’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;
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.
The NCC AP instituted three credentials for alcoholism and drug abuse counselors:

- National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC I)
- National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC II)
- Master Addiction Counselor (MAC)
- Current state certification/licensure as an alcohol and/or drug abuse counselor.

- Three years' full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as an alcohol and/or drug abuse counselor.

- 270 contact hours of education and training in alcoholism and drug abuse or related counseling subjects, including 6 hours of ethics training and 6 hours of HIV/AIDS training.

- Passing score on the NCAC I written examination within 4 years of application.
- A Bachelor's level college degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current state certification/licensure as an alcohol and/or drug abuse counselor.
- Five years full-time or 10,000 hours of supervised experience as an alcohol and/or drug abuse counselor.
- 450 contact hours of education and training in alcoholism and drug abuse or related counseling subjects, including 6 hours of ethics training and 6 hours of HIV/AIDS training.
- Passing score on the NCAC II written examination within 4 years of application.
- Master's Degree in the healing arts or related field with in-depth subjects applicable to the alcohol and drug abuse treatment arena, by a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

- Current state certification/licensure in alcohol and/or drug abuse counseling or a related healing art.

- 500 contact hours of specific alcohol and drug abuse counseling training.

- Three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience, two years or 4,000 hours of which is post master's degree.

- Passing score on the MAC written examination within 4 years of application.
The NCC AP also offers opportunities for specialization credentials and endorsements:

- **Nicotine Dependence Specialist (NDS)**
- **National Certified Adolescent Addiction Counselor (NCAAC)**
- **National Endorsed Student Assistance Professional (NESAP)**
- **National Clinical Supervision Endorsement (NCSE)**
- **National Endorsed Co-Occurring Disorders Professional (NECODP)**
- **National Peer Recovery Support Specialist (NCPRSS)**
Purpose

To promote competency in clinical supervisors of substance use professionals by:

- Promoting the formal recognition of the professionalism of addiction counselors;
- Providing a national standard of requisite knowledge of clinical supervision in addiction counseling;
- Encouraging continued professional growth of clinical supervisors for the purpose of improving the quality of treatment of addicted persons;
- Recognizing formally those individuals who meet the standards for clinical supervision established by the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP);
- Establishing, measuring, and monitoring the level of knowledge required for clinical supervision of addiction professionals; and
- Assisting employers, labor unions, government entities, health care providers, educators, and other practitioners, as well as the public, in identifying qualified clinical supervisors in the profession of addiction counseling.
Qualifications

The NCSE recognizes a national standard of competencies and effective clinical supervision in the addiction treatment process. Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor’s Degree or higher in a helping profession (i.e., substance use disorder, nursing, respiratory therapy, or pharmacology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Five years full-time or 10,000 hours of employment as a substance use disorder counselor.
- Two years or 4,000 hours of the five years of experience must be in substance use disorder treatment.
- 200 hours of face-to-face clinical supervision (can be during five years of experience).
- 30 hours of education specific to substance use disorder clinical supervision.
- Passing score on the NCSE written examination within four years of application.
- **Purpose**

  - Standardize on a national level, the competency of peer support to individuals with substance use - and co-occurring mental health - disorders.

  - Standardized testing and portfolio review

  - Monitor the skills and abilities of those providing peer recovery support.

  - Experiential-based credential focuses on the individual providing a formal indicator of the current knowledge and competence at the national level.

  - Encourages continued learning for the welfare of clients and establishes, measures and monitors requirements for knowledge in the position.

  - Provides assistance to employers, health care providers, government entities, other practitioners and the public in the identification of quality individuals who have met national competency standards.
Qualifications

Candidates for the Peer Recovery Support Specialist Credential must meet the following criteria:

- High school diploma or GED or higher;
- Minimum of one year of direct practice (paid or volunteer);
- 125 hours education and training in addiction with a minimum of six hours training in addiction-specific ethics and three hours training in HIV/AIDS/communicable diseases. Training must be within the past five years;
- Minimum one year of recovery from substance use/co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (self-attestation), if applicable;
- Read and sign a statement on the Application affirming adherence to the NAADAC Peer Recovery Support Specialist Code of Ethics;
- Complete the online test Application with the required fee to the Professional Testing Corporation. All section of the application must be completed;
- Take and pass the Peer Recovery Support Specialist examination. Upon passing the exam, contact the NCC AP and submit any additional required fees and documentation required; and
- Receive final approval of the NCC AP to obtain the credential.
- Integration of all services
- TA Center
- Clear career paths in this new landscape for all professions
- Building of a collaborative, collegial workforce
How does the NCC AP Credential assist me in my professional future?

* This is a national credential which signifies everyone who achieves one of these levels has met the standardized national substance use disorders treatment competencies and skills.

* The NCAC I and NCAC II credentials are recognized by the U. S. Department of Transportation as a means to qualify for the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) practice.

* Credential acronyms that are recognizable and associated with the accepted level of clinical skills.

* Acceptance/ portability within states where the NCC AP testing products and credentials are recognized by 21 state boards.

* Demonstrates a high level of competence in the addiction profession.
The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals, NCC AP

One-time Grandfather Credential Offer

Open to all current state certified or licensed addiction counselors who meet the eligibility criteria for the NCAC I or NCAC II

This one-time only offer for a NCAC I or NCAC II national credential will be available for a six (6) month period beginning November 1, 2015 and ending April 30, 2016.
The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals, NCC AP

One-time Grandfather Credential Offer

Open to all current state certified or licensed addiction counselors who meet the eligibility criteria for the MAC

This one-time only offer for the MAC national credential will be available for a six (6) month period beginning December 1, 2015 and ending May 31, 2016
For more information:

NCC AP
Donna Croy, Certification Administrator
donna@naadac.org

www.naadac.org/certification

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Or
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AND
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