



The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP), under the auspices of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, operates as an independent body for all matters involving the Association's substance use disorder counselor certification and specialty endorsement opportunities at the national and international level. National Certifications and Endorsements improve the overall quality of services provided by addiction professionals.

NCC AP's national credentials and endorsements:

- Focus on the counselor and provide a formal indicator of current knowledge and competence at the national level;
- Provide a national standard that is generally higher than the states' requirements and encourage professionals to continue learning for the sake of their clients;
- Afford a means of establishing, measuring, and monitoring the requirements for knowledge in the profession; and
- Provide assistance to employers, health care providers, educators, government entities, labor unions, other practitioners, and the public in identifying the quality of counselors who have met the national competency standards.

Certification and Endorsement Opportunities



National Certified Addiction Counselor Level I

Designed for counselors who are beginning in the profession.
Candidate requirements:

- GED, High School Diploma, or higher.
- Current credential or license as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction Counselor or Professional Counselor (social worker, mental health, marriage & family therapist or LAP-C) issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction Counselor.
- At least 270 contact hours of education and training in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction or related counseling subjects. Must include at least six hours of ethics education and training and at least six hours of HIV/other pathogens education and training within the last six years.
- Passing score on NCC AP's NCAC Level I exam or International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium's (IC & RC) ADC exam.



National Certified Addiction Counselor Level II

Designed for counselors who have accrued additional education and training and are prepared to practice with minimal supervision.
Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, marriage & family, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction Counselor or Professional Counselor (social worker, mental health, marriage & family or LAP-C) issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction counselor.
- At least 450 contact hours of education and training in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction. Must include at least six hours of ethics education and training within the last six years.
- Passing score on NCC AP's NCAC Level II exam, National Board of Certified Counselors' (NBCC) eMAC exam or IC & RC's AADC exam.



National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Designed for those who support others in obtaining and maintaining recovery.
Candidate requirements:

- Must have a High School diploma, GED or higher. Candidate must submit copy of GED, high school or higher diploma or transcript.
- Must have a minimum two years of recovery from lived-experience in substance use and/or co-occurring mental health disorders (self-attested).
- Must have a minimum of 200 hours of direct practice (volunteer or paid) in a peer recovery support environment (supervisor-attested).
- Must provide evidence of earning 60 contact and training hours (CEs) of peer recovery-focused education and training. Must include at least 48 hours of peer recovery-focused education/training, including education in documentation, community/family education, case management, crisis management, Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC), screening and intake, identification of indicators of substance use and/or co-occurring disorders for referral, service coordination, service planning, cultural awareness and/or humility, and basic pharmacology. Must include at least six hours of ethics education and training and at least six hours of HIV/other pathogens education and training within the last six years.
- Candidate must submit a signed statement that they have read and adhere to the NAADAC/NCC AP Peer Recovery Support Specialist Code of Ethics.
- Two references, at least one of which must be professional. References must accompany NCPRSS application in a sealed envelope.
- Passing score on NCC AP's NCPRSS exam.



Master Addiction Counselor

Designed for counselors who have obtained a higher-level degree and experience the opportunity to practice independently and offer supervision to NCAC Is and NCAC IIs.

Candidate requirements:

- Master's degree or higher in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, marriage & family, psychology, medical doctor) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction counselor or Professional Counselor (social worker, mental health, marriage & family therapist, psychologist, medical doctor, LAP-C) issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction counselor.
- At least 500 contact hours of education and training in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction. Must include at least six hours of ethics training and at least six hours of HIV/other pathogens training within the last six years.
- Passing score on NCC AP's MAC exam, NBCC's eMAC exam, or IC & RC's AADC exam.



Nicotine Dependence Specialist

Designed for those working to reduce or cease use of nicotine in private counseling or hospital settings.

Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in a healing art (i.e., substance use or mental health disorders, nursing, respiratory therapy, or pharmacology etc.) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license in a healing art (i.e., substance use or mental health disorders, nursing, respiratory therapy, or pharmacology, etc.) issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of employment in a health care profession (i.e., substance use or mental health disorders, nursing, respiratory therapy, or pharmacology, etc.).
- At least 270 contact hours of education and training in healing art. Must include at least 40 hours of Nicotine-specific education. Must include at least six hours of ethics training and at least six hours of HIV/other pathogens training within the last six years.
- Passing score on NCC AP's NDS examination.



National Certified Adolescent Addiction Counselor

Designed for counselors whose practice is specific to child and adolescent care.

Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction counselor or Professional Counselor (social worker, mental health counselor, marriage family therapist or psychologist) issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least five years full-time or 10,000 hours of supervised experience working in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects. Must include two and a half years full-time or 5,000 hours of supervised experience working with adolescents.
- At least 270 contact hours of education and training in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects. Must include at least 70 contact hours of training related to adolescent treatment within the last six years. Must include at least six hours of ethics education and training and at least six hours of HIV/other pathogens education and training within the last six years.
- Passing score on NCC AP's NCAAC exam.



National Clinical Supervision Endorsement

Designed to recognize a national standard of competencies and effective clinical supervision in the addiction treatment process.

Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license in Substance Use Disorders/Addiction and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) issued by a state or credentialing authority for the past five years.
- At least five years full-time or 10,000 hours overall of employment as a Substance Use Disorders/Addiction counselor. This must include a minimum of two years full-time or 4,000 hours performing direct clinical supervision, and 200 hours of received supervision as a clinical supervisor.
- At least of 30 contact hours of education/training specific to Substance Use Disorders/Addiction clinical supervision. Must include at least six hours of ethics education and training and at least six hours of HIV/other pathogens education and training within the last six years.
- Passing score on NCC AP's NCSE or both the AADC and CS exams through IC & RC.

Take Your NCC AP Exam from Home!



The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) is pleased to be able to offer

distance proctoring for all of its national credential and endorsement exams and for state licensure on behalf of many state licensing/certification boards!

Distance proctoring is a method that allows the test taker to test from his or her own home or office with a computer that has a camera and audio capability. A testing date and time is scheduled with a test proctor who is on the other side of the camera and able to remotely proctor the examination.

Learn more about distance proctoring and if your state licensing/certification board accepts NCC AP exams at www.naadac.org/ncc-ap-distance-proctoring.



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