



The National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP), under the banner 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 an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor.
- At least 270 contact hours of education and training in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders or related counseling subjects. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Passing score on the NCAC I examination within four years of the application.



### 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 Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least five years full-time or 10,000 hours of supervised experience as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor.
- At least 450 contact hours of education and training in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Passing score on the NCAC II examination within four years of the application.



### National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist

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

- GED, High School Diploma, or higher.
- Minimum of one year full-time of direct practice (volunteer or paid) in a peer recovery support environment.
- At least 125 contact hours of peer recovery focused education and training in a healing art to include education in documentation, community/family education, case management, crisis management, Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC), screening and intake, identification of indicators of co-occurring disorders for referral, service coordination, service planning, cultural awareness and/or humility, and basic pharmacology. Must include a minimum of six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Minimum one year of recovery from Substance Use/Co-Occurring Mental Health Disorders (self-attestation).
- Passing score on the NCPRSS examination within four years of the application.



### Master Addiction Counselor with Co-Occurring Disorders Component

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 Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor or Professional Counselor (social work, mental health, marriage & family, professional counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist, medical doctor) issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least three years full-time or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor.
- At least 500 contact hours of education and training in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Passing score on the MAC examination within four years of the application.

Visit [www.naadac.org/certification](http://www.naadac.org/certification) or call 800-548-0497 to learn more!



### 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 a healing art. Must include at least 40 hours of nicotine-specific education, six hours of ethics training, and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Passing score on NDS examination within four years of the application.



### 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 Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor issued by a state or credentialing authority.
- At least five years full-time or 10,000 hours of supervised experience working in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects. Must include two and a half years or 5,000 hours of supervised experience working with adolescents.
- At least 270 contact hours of education and training in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects. Must include at least 70 contact hours of training related to adolescent treatment, six hours of ethics training, and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Passing score on the NCAAC examination within four years of the application.



### Nationally Endorsed Student Assistance Professional

Designed for those who treat adolescent substance use disorders. Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license as an Addiction/Substance Use Disorder counselor issued by a state or credentialing authority
- At least 4,500 hours of supervised experience (volunteer or paid) in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders, to include at least 3,000 hours of direct service delivering student assistance services.
- At least 100 contact hours of education and training in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology), including six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 70 hours must be related to student assistance services. At least 50% of the 70 hours must be face-to-face training.
- Passing score on the NESAP examination within four years of the application.



### 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 Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders 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 Addiction/Substance Use Disorders 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 and training specific to Addiction/Substance Use Disorders clinical supervision. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- A passing score on the NCSE examination within four years of the application.



### National Endorsed Co-Occurring Disorders Professional

Designed for those treating persons with co-occurring substance use and mental disorders. Candidate requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders and/or related counseling subjects (social work, mental health counseling, psychology) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Current credential or license in Addiction/Substance Use Disorders 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 of supervised experience (volunteer or paid) in Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders treatment, to include two and a half years full-time or 5,000 hours of supervised experience working with co-occurring persons.
- At least 70 contact hours of education and training in co-occurring disorders. Must include six hours of ethics training and six hours of HIV/AIDS-specific training within the last six years. At least 50% of training hours must be face-to-face.
- Passing score on the NECODP examination within four years of the application.



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