Creating College/University Standards in Substance Use Disorder Education

Facilitators

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History of NASAC

- NASAC accreditation began in 2011 after NAADAC and INCASE joined their higher education approval programs to provide a single standard for higher education addiction studies-focused programs. Thus, the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC) was created.
- NASAC is specific to accrediting addiction studies focused education programs.
- Based on competencies, knowledge and evidence-based practices, as laid out by SAMHSA.
- NASAC is one of only two organizations that accredits addiction studies focused programs.
- NASAC is the only accrediting body that accredits all academic degree levels for addiction studies focused education (associates, bachelors, masters, and doctorates).
- NASAC accredits institutions of higher learning to provide addiction and prevention programmatic education to students.
- 29 programs are currently accredited nationwide, with several more expressing interest in achieving NASAC accreditation.
  - [https://nasacaccreditation.org/accreditation/nasac-accredited-programs/](https://nasacaccreditation.org/accreditation/nasac-accredited-programs/)

NASAC Recommendations for Creating National Standards

When developing the national standards great effort was put forth in making global recommendations for all key stakeholders to consider as a means of determining who the "key implementers" of these would be. In developing these national standards, NASAC drew from INCASE’s pre-existing accreditation process and standards. Following are those recommendations:

- The creation of more addiction-specific degree programs in colleges and universities across America.
- The implementation of standardized academic standards that comply with national best practices.
- The establishment of a national registry of addiction specific college and university programs, including regionally accredited standard and online courses, as well as certificate and degree programs.
- The creation of an organization for addiction education accreditation with INCASE and NAADAC’s higher education assessment processes merged into one national accreditation standard for addiction studies.
- The creation of a national code of ethics for addiction educators.
NASAC Recommendations for Creating National Standards

• The funding of higher education scholarships covering educational opportunities from the introductory to doctorate level for students interested in the addiction profession. This diversified system would help create a multi-skilled network of trained and competent professionals.

• Assessment on a state-by-state basis of state credentials, clinical supervision, intern and practice requirements in order to create a transparent, national resource that explains each state’s regulations.

• The implementation of standardized state requirements for addiction counselors that comply with national best practices.

• The implementation of standardized state credentials from the beginning to advanced levels of training, education and experience that comply with national best practices.

• The creation of a national model career ladder attached to a national scope of practice. An example model is included in this report.

• The standardization of intake and diagnostic impression formats that comply with national best practices.

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<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>SAMHSA Career Ladder Level</th>
<th>Career Opportunities</th>
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| High School or GED              | Entry Level SUD Technician OR Peer Specialist | • Peer Recovery Support Specialist  
• Court Diversion Support Specialist  
• Peer Navigator  
• Recovery Coach |
| Certificate Program, Training Series, Some College | Entry Level SUD Technician | • SUD Counselor in Training  
• Outreach Worker  
• Detox Tech  
• Intern  
• Residential Support Staff |

Presented by: Vicki Michels, PhD; Edward Reading, PhD, LCADC; Diane Sevening, EdD, LAC, MAC; and Roy Kammer, EdD, LADC, LPC, CPPR
SAMHSA/NAADAC/INCASE Scope of Practice & Career Ladder

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<tr>
<th>Education</th>
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| Associate's Degree | Associate SUD Counselor     | • SUD Counselor in Training  
• Outreach  
• Recovery House  
• Detox Tech  
• Intern  
• Community Educator  
• Group, Individual, & Assessment support |
| Bachelor's Degree  | SUD Counselor               | • SUD Counselor  
• Clinical Supervisor  
• Manager  
• Administrator  
• Trainer |

SAMHSA/NAADAC/INCASE Scope of Practice & Career Ladder

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</table>
| Master's Degree    | Clinical SUD Counselor OR Independent Clinical SUD Counselor/Supervisor | • SUD Counselor  
• Clinical Supervisor  
• Manager  
• Administrator  
• Educator  
• Private Practitioner |
| Doctorate Degree   | Clinical SUD Counselor OR Independent Clinical SUD Counselor/Supervisor | • SUD Counselor  
• Clinical Supervisor  
• Manager  
• Administrator  
• Educator  
• Private Practitioner  
• Researcher |
Why NASAC: Benefits to Colleges/Universities

- Quality through clear communication of program standards
- Portable and transferable matriculated certificates, degrees, and networks
- Resource for the creation, expansion and advancement of addiction curricula
- Bridge from classroom methodology to professional practice
- Self-governance of addiction studies curricula within higher education
- Continuous evaluation of workforce issues and trends, and ensuring curricula serve the needs of the addictions field

Accrediting Colleges/Universities

- Guidance in program development
- Self-assessment to evaluate program goals, curriculum, and strengths and weaknesses
- Peer evaluation creates an opportunity to receive feedback from educators of similar programs
- Demonstration to key stakeholders (students, legislators, future employers, and others) that program meets national standards
- Increasing the standardization of academic requirements for the addiction professional

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NASAC Accreditation Approval Procedures Step by Step

1. Obtain application packet and instructions from the NASAC website: www.nasacaccreditation.org

2. Complete application and return to NASAC with application fees.

3. The institution will prepare an application with a Self-Study and a Tap 21 crosswalk to college/university courses.

4. NASAC will select a Review Team to review your application.

Self Study Instructions:

5. The Self-Study needs to be completed. The purpose of the self-study is for the institution to reflect upon the program's mission, goals, and whether the program is meeting the national standards, as well as to demonstrate that the institution meets the NASAC standards.
   a. Programs need to provide the outlined information and supporting documents when appropriate.
   b. All information must be organized as indicated in the application packet.
   c. Create an electronic document containing the organized information.
   d. Send the Self-Study to the NASAC office electronically.

6. NASAC office staff will send the Review Team the application and self-study within four weeks of the office receiving the self-study portfolio.
Review of the College/University Program

The Review Team will consist of 3 people who meet the following criteria:

a. Must be a full-time, part-time, or retired faculty in an NASAC accredited addiction studies academic program. Exceptions may be made by Board of Commissioners.

b. Must have completed the NASAC evaluators training.

c. Will review the application and self-study to determine if the institution has provided sufficient information to be evaluated.

Evaluation Team

d. Will inform the institution if the information is not sufficient and what information needed.

e. The institution will have one month to respond with additional information or will need to begin the application process again.

f. Will review the application and self-study, for those with sufficient information, and assess whether the institution meets the NASAC standards.
Outcomes

- Tabling of the application to allow for further development of the program or submission of further documentation where indicated.
- Conditional Accreditation, with the condition that a plan for specific program modifications, additional information to be submitted, additional policies/procedures to be developed, or other relevant information. The Conditional Accreditation will be limited to a period of three years, before applying for Full Accreditation.
- Full Accreditation, with a renewal of the program approval process after a period of seven years. At the time of renewal, the program will fulfill the requirements of the current accreditation standards.
- Denial of Accreditation

Qualifications for SUD Program

- Accreditation recognized by Department of Education (DOE)
- Faculty Licensure/ Certification in Addictions (State, NAADAC, or IC&RC)
- Ethical Practices in Good Standing (NAADAC)
- Teaching within Scope of Practice
- Holds Appropriate Degree for Level of Instruction
- Faculty membership with NAADAC/INCASE
- Demonstration of Clinical Practice and Research Methods as Appropriate to Academic Level
Becoming Accredited through National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC)

Fees

- Accreditation Application Fee: $1,500
  - Applies to each program seeking accreditation within a college or university.
- Annual Maintenance Fee: $300 per program
  - Applies for the following six years with reaccreditation occurring on the seventh year.
  - The NASAC Administrator will send renewal letter and invoice.
- Reaccreditation Fee: $1,500 per program
  - Occurs at the seventh year of accreditation
  - The NASAC Administrator will send renewal letter and invoice.

Reaccreditation

When applying for reaccreditation, programs must follow the renewal protocol stated in the accreditation manual.

Requested information includes:
- Significant changes in the administrative status
- Addition or elimination of program components
- Changes in the curriculum
- Changes in staffing patterns
- Alignment of coursework to TAP 21 competencies for any coursework not previously submitted
- Any significant events that affected program not addressed elsewhere (e.g., changes in regional accreditation status)
Thank You!

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