

Professional Practice Board Substance Abuse Professionals Credentialing Requirements

Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists (LCAS): There are four ways to become licensed as a clinical addiction specialist: 1) The person must have a master's degree in a human services field with a clinical application, two years of post-graduate supervised substance abuse counseling experience, three letters of reference from appropriately trained substance abuse professionals, 180 hours of substance abuse specific training, and successful completion of a written exam from the Board. 2) The person must have a master's degree in a human services field with a clinical application, current certification as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, three letters of reference from appropriately trained substance abuse professionals, and successful completion of a written exam. 3) The person must have a master's degree in a human services field with a substance abuse specialty that includes 180 hours of substance abuse training and education, one year of post-graduate supervised substance abuse counseling experience, three letters of reference from appropriately trained substance abuse professionals, and successful completion of a written exam. 4) The person is a member of a professional discipline granted deemed status by the Board and is recognized by that discipline as having met the standards of a substance abuse specialist.

Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists-Provisional (LCAS-Provisional): LCAS-Provisionals are individuals who have successfully registered with the Board and have completed the 300 hour supervised practicum. However, LCAS-Provisionals are still in the process of obtaining the supervised counseling experience. Individuals who are recognized as LCAS-Provisional can provide counseling services under the supervision of a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) or Clinical Supervisor Intern (CSI) physician.

Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS): To be recognized as a Certified Clinical Supervisor, the person must be credentialed as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist, have 8,000 hours experience in the field, a master's degree in a human services field with a clinical application, 4,000 hours of experience as a substance abuse clinical supervisor, 30 hours of substance abuse clinical supervision specific education/training for initial certification, one letter of reference from the applicant's current supervisor, three letters of reference (one from a professional who can attest to supervisory competence and two from counselors who have been supervised or professionals who can attest to the applicant's competence), and successful completion of a written exam.

Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC): A Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC) must have 6,000 hours of supervised experience of practice in a setting or program that provides treatment for alcohol or drug abuse and have completed 270 hours of Board-approved education and training. In addition, the individual must also have successfully passed a competency-based examination administered by the Board. In addition to CCS, the Board also recognizes Clinical Supervisor Interns who are LCASs who have completed a master's degree in a human services field with a clinical application and completed at least 50% of the clinical supervision specific training.

Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant (CSAPC): CSAPCs must have three years full-time experience in the field or two years if the person has a bachelor's degree or higher in a human services field, 270 hours of approved academic/didactic training (170 hours in primary prevention and 100 hours in substance abuse specific material), a minimum of 300 board-approved practicum hours documented by a qualified alcohol, drug, or substance abuse professional, evaluations from a supervisor and two colleagues, and successful completion of a written exam.

Certified Substance Abuse Residential Facility Director (CSARFD): To be recognized as a CSARFD, the person must be a CSAC and have 50 hours of NCSAPCB-approved academic/didactic management specific training, a positive recommendation from a supervisor, and a positive recommendation from a colleague or coworker.

Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional Credential (CCJP): The CCJP credential is provided to addiction professionals who work in law enforcement, judiciary, or corrections and who have received education/training of 270 hours or 180 hours if the applicant has a master's degree or higher in a human services field. Education/training must be related to the knowledge and skills needed to perform the tasks within one of six domains: dynamics of addiction and criminal behavior; legal, ethical, and professional responsibility; criminal justice system and processes; screening, intake and assessment; case management, monitoring and client supervision; and counseling. In addition, the person seeking the CCJP credential must have 300 hours supervised practicum with at least 10 hours supervision in each domain and 6,000 of supervised work experience for people with a high school/GED or fewer hours for people with higher education. The person must be supervised by a CCS or CSI and must be supervised providing direct services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system.