

Substance Abuse Licensure Requirements

Note -- Accreditation information can be obtained by calling the institution from which you received your degree.

1. An applicant for licensure shall meet **one** of the following:

A. Licensed Substance Abuse Technician Curriculum

An applicant for licensure as a substance abuse technician shall present evidence acceptable to the substance abuse credentialing committee that the applicant has either:

- a) An associate of applied science degree from a regionally accredited college or university in chemical dependency with a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of counseling related coursework as determined by the substance abuse credentialing committee.
 - i) Undergraduate or graduate coursework completed outside of the associate of applied science degree and submitted to meet curriculum requirements shall constitute no more than six semester credit hours.
 - ii) The required degree must contain a minimum of eighteen semester hours of coursework specifically related to chemical dependency; or
- b) A bachelor degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health service with a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of counseling related coursework as determined by the substance abuse credentialing committee.
 - i) Undergraduate or graduate coursework completed outside of the bachelor degree and submitted to meet curriculum requirements shall constitute no more than six semester credit hours.

B. Licensed Associate Substance Abuse Counselor Curriculum

An applicant for licensure as an associate substance abuse counselor shall present evidence acceptable to the substance abuse credentialing committee that the applicant has either:

- a. A bachelor degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health service with a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of counseling related coursework as determined by the substance abuse credentialing committee. Undergraduate or graduate coursework completed outside of the bachelor degree and submitted to meet curriculum requirements shall constitute no more than six semester credit hours ; or
- b. A master or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health service with a minimum of 24 semester credit hours of counseling related coursework as determined by the substance abuse credentialing committee. Graduate coursework completed outside of the master of higher degree and submitted to meet curriculum requirements shall constitute no more than three semester hours.

C. Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor Curriculum

An applicant for licensure as an independent substance abuse counselor shall have a master or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university in a behavioral health service with a minimum of 24 semester credit hours of counseling related coursework as determined by the substance abuse credentialing committee. Graduate coursework completed outside of the master of higher degree and submitted to meet curriculum requirements shall constitute no more than three semester hours.

2. The Substance Abuse Credentialing Committee approves the licensure examinations of the following organizations:

- A. International Certification Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (ICRC/AODA)
- B. Level II or higher examinations offered by the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC)
- C. An applicant for substance abuse technician, associate substance abuse counselor and independent substance abuse counselor shall receive a passing score on an approved licensure examination.

3. Work Experience Requirements

- A. An applicant applying for associate substance abuse counselor licensure with a bachelor degree described in (1)(B)(1)(a), shall complete a minimum of 3200 hours of supervised work experience in substance abuse counseling in no less than 24 months.
- B. After completing the master or higher degree described in (1)(C)(1), an applicant for independent substance abuse counselor licensure shall complete a minimum of 3200 hours of supervised work experience in substance abuse counseling in no less than 24 months.
- C. The supervised work experience in the practice of substance abuse counseling required in this section is limited to the use of psychotherapy for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of individuals, families and groups as they relate to substance abuse and chemical dependency issues.
 - 1. The 3200 hours of supervised work experience in substance abuse counseling shall include a minimum of 1600 hours of direct client contact.

4. Clinical Supervision for Associate and Independent Substance Abuse Counselor Licensure

- A. During the supervised work experience required in (3), an applicant for associate substance abuse counselor and independent substance abuse counselor licensure shall receive a minimum of 100 hours of clinical supervision in no less than 24 months.
- B. During the supervised work experience required in (3), an applicant for associate substance abuse counselor and independent substance abuse counselor licensure shall demonstrate satisfactory performance in the following areas as they relate to substance abuse counseling: intake, assessment, triage, crisis intervention, treatment planning, family, group and individual counseling, outreach and consultation with other professionals by having the applicant's clinical supervisor submit a performance evaluation on forms available from the Agency.
- C. The time span covered by the performance evaluations shall be the same as that for the supervised work experience required in (3).
- D. Clinical supervision for an applicant for associate substance abuse counselor and independent substance abuse counselor licensure shall be provided by an independent substance abuse counselor licensed in Arizona.
- E. An applicant may submit a written request to the substance abuse credentialing committee for an exemption from the requirement of subsection (D). The substance abuse credentialing committee shall review the supervision exemption request to determine whether the proposed supervisor has the necessary education, training and experience to provide supervision acceptable for associate substance abuse counselor and independent substance abuse counselor licensure. If the proposed supervisor has the necessary education, training and experience, the substance abuse credentialing committee shall grant the supervision exemption request.