

21 NCAC 68 .0205 CERTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR CERTIFICATION

Requirements for certification as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor shall be as follows:

- (1) Successful completion of paid or volunteer supervised experience earned in not less than three years, as set out in G.S. 90-113.40(a). If the work setting is not exclusively substance abuse focused, the applicant may accumulate experience proportional to the substance abuse services performed;
- (2) Board approved education and training of at least 270 clock hours as follows:
 - (a) Substance Abuse Specific (SAS) education and training in the amount of at least 190 hours;
 - (b) Up to 80 hours may be directed toward general professional skill building to enhance counselor development;
 - (c) No more than 25% of the 270 hours (67.5) hours may be inservice education received within the applicant's organization by staff of the same organization;
 - (d) The 190 Substance Abuse Specific clock hours needed for initial certification must be in the core competencies. Core competencies are listed as follow:
 - (i) Basic alcoholism and drug addiction knowledge;
 - (ii) Screening, intake, orientation and assessment;
 - (iii) Individual, group and family counseling and intervention techniques;
 - (iv) Case management, treatment planning, reporting and record keeping;
 - (v) Crisis intervention skills;
 - (vi) Prevention and education;
 - (vii) Consultation, referral and networking that utilizes community resources;
 - (viii) Ethics, legal issues, and confidentiality;
 - (ix) Special populations which include but are not limited to individuals or groups with specific ethnic, cultural, sexual orientation, and gender characteristics as well as persons dealing with HIV, co-occurring disabilities, persons with criminal justice related issues and perinatal issues;
 - (x) Physiology and pharmacology of alcohol and other drugs that include the licit and illicit drugs, inhalants and nicotine;
 - (xi) Psychological, emotional, personality and developmental issues; and
 - (xii) Traditions and philosophies of 12-step and other recovery support groups;
 - (e) Of the 270 clock hours, applicants for certification as a Substance Abuse Professional must document six hours of HIV/AIDS/STDS/TB/Bloodborne pathogens training and education, six hours professional ethics education, and six hours of education to be selected from the following:
 - (i) Nicotine Dependence;
 - (ii) Psychopathology;
 - (iii) Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches;
 - (iv) Substance Abuse Issues In Older Adults; and
 - (v) Substance Abuse Issues Affecting Veterans;
- (3) A one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125.00) written exam fee and a one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125.00) non-refundable registration fee, unless previously paid. The applicant may request a reexamination and pay a non-refundable reexamination fee as set out in G.S. 90-113.38(c) for the written exam if a passing score is not achieved and at least three months have passed from the date of failed test;
- (4) Successful completion of the IC&RC/AODA, Inc. or its successor organization written exam;
- (5) Completed evaluation forms and contracts for supervision. These forms must be mailed directly to the Board by three references: a supervisor, co-worker, and colleague;
- (6) A signed form attesting to the applicant's adherence to the Ethical Standards of the Board;
- (7) Documentation of high school graduation, completion of GED, baccalaureate or advanced degree;
- (8) Completed registration forms;
- (9) Resume; and
- (10) Job description that verifies job function.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-113.30; 90-113.31; 90-113.33; 90-113.36; 90-113.39; 90-113.40; Eff. August 1, 1996; Amended Eff. January 1, 2010; August 1, 2002; August 1, 2000.

