

## NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS

NBCC's certification program recognizes counselors who have met predetermined standards in their training, experience, and performance on the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE), the most portable credentialing examination in counseling.

Distinctions for Individuals not involved in CACREP Counseling Masters Programs

- Are you a practicing counselor with two or more years of experience and counseling supervision after the date your advanced degree (master's or higher) with a major study in counseling was conferred?
- Do you hold an **advanced degree** (master's or higher) **in a mental health field** from a regionally accredited college or university? Administration and education are not considered mental health fields. Do you hold an **advanced degree** (master's or higher) **in a mental health field** from a regionally accredited college or university? Administration and education are not considered mental health fields.

There is no mention of an option related to individuals applying with a masters degree in ANY discipline.

Reference: <http://www.nbcc.org/depts/certmain.htm>

## CERTIFIED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

CCMHCs have been recognized by Tricare (formerly OCHAMPUS) as authorized providers of mental health services to beneficiaries. Other insurance carriers have extended similar recognition to CCMHCs. Contact specific insurance companies to determine their coverage.

In addition to holding the NCC credential, requirements for the CCMHC credential include:

- Sixty semester hours of graduate coursework including Theories of Counseling, Psychotherapy, and Personality; Abnormal Psychology and Psychopathology; Human Growth & Development Theory; Career Development; Professional Orientation and Ethics for Counselors; Research; Appraisal; and Social/Cultural Foundations.
- The academic course of study must have included 9 to 15 semester hours of clinical training in supervised practica/internship relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.
- A minimum of two years of supervised post-master's clinical practice which includes 3,000 hours of direct client contact in a clinical setting with 100 hours of face-to-face clinical counseling supervision over two years.
- A passing score on the Examination of Clinical Counseling Practice (ECCP). (If you passed the NCMHCE for state credentialing, you will not be required to taken the ECCP).
- Candidates for the CCMHC credential are required to submit an audio or video tape of a clinical counseling session for review following receipt of a passing score on the ECCP.

### Equivalent Entry Option

Applicants who have fewer than 60 graduate semester hours (90 quarter hours) in counseling, but a minimum of 48 semester hours (72 quarter hours) may substitute documented training and/or supervised clinical experience for the additional 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours).

To be considered for equivalent entry, the applicant may submit:

[Documentation of completion of clinically relevant workshops](#). One hour of semester credit will be granted for every 15 clock hours of workshop participation.

[Documentation of additional supervised client contact above the required 3,000 hours](#). Forty hours of client contact may be substituted for one hour of semester credit.

NOTE: All coursework must have been completed for graduate credit at regionally accredited colleges or universities.

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

NASW is committed to assisting in the process of certifying and credentialing social workers and working to emphasize the importance of employing social workers that have specialized training and experience. The Credentialing Center will help NASW members attain:

- Professional and public recognition
- Increased visibility as a credentialed or specialized social worker
- Association with a group of specialized or credentialed social workers who have attained national distinction.

## **CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS (ACSW)**

The criteria for ACSW membership state that the applicant meet the following requirements:

- Hold regular membership in NASW;
- Hold a master's degree from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE);
- Have accumulated at least two full-time years or 3,000 hours of post-MSW social work experience in an agency or organizational setting under the supervision of a masters-level social worker;
- Submit two professional reference ratings, one from the applicant's immediate social work supervisor and one from a colleague in the social work profession familiar with his/her work;
- Completion of the written application and fee payment;
- Completion of the ACSW written examination.

## **CERTIFIED ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK CASE MANAGER (C-ASWCM)**

Social workers who hold the C-ASWCM have:

- A current NASW membership.
- Earned a MSW degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited institution.
- Documented one (1) year and (1,500 hours) post MSW paid supervised work experience.
- Provided an evaluation from an approved supervisor.
- Provided a reference from a MSW colleague.
- One of the following: current ACSW, DCSW, and/or a current state exam-based social work license or a passing score on the ASWB exam.
- Agreed to adhere to the *NASW Code of Ethics*, the *NASW Standards for Social Work Case Management* and the *NASW Standards for Continuing Professional Education* and are subject to the NASW adjudication process.

## **CERTIFIED CLINICAL ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUGS SOCIAL WORKER (C-CATODSW)**

Social workers who hold the C-CATODSW have:

- A current NASW membership.
- Earned a MSW degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited institution.
- 180 contact hours of ATOD specific education.
- Documented two (2) years and (3,000 hours) post-MSW paid supervised clinical social work experience.
- Documented 3,000 hours post-MSW paid, supervised ATOD-specific counseling experience.
- Provided an evaluation from an approved supervisor.
- Provided a reference from an MSW colleague.
- One of the following: current ACSW, DCSW, and/or current highest level state clinical social work license.
- Agreed to adhere to the *NASW Code of Ethics*, the *NASW Standards for Continuing Professional Education* and are subject to the NASW adjudication process.