



Alcohol & Drug Counseling Certification 101

The various requirements/components of obtaining a CADC-I, CADC-II, or CAADC credential are detailed in the application packet, which may be found here: <https://www.adacbga.org/apps-manuals/apps/CADC-Requirements-Application.pdf>

The key components of obtaining initial certification that grants a legal scope of practice as an alcohol & drug abuse counselor include:

- **Direct Work Experience** at a licensed or state-sponsored agency *with an appropriate Job Supervisor* (not less than 6000 hours of direct work experience for the CADC-I or 4000 hours of direct work experience for the CADC-II or CAADC)
- **Education** in the 12 Core Functions of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselor
 - **300 total hours of Education that span the 12 Core Functions** are required for initial certification and must include...
 - A minimum of **6 hours of professional ethics**,
 - A minimum of **6 hours of e-counseling/telehealth education**,
 - A minimum of **6 hours of HIV/AIDS education**, and
 - A minimum of **6 hour of trauma-informed care**.
- **Clinical Supervision** (a total of 300 hours for the CADC-I or 200 hours for the CADC-II or CAADC; at least 25% of which must be one-on-one) from a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) or other ADACBGA-Approved Clinical Supervisor
- **Attestation of understanding** an Alcohol & Drug Counselor's responsibility to uphold the ADACBGA Code of Ethics
- **Successful passing** of the [International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium \(IC&RC\)](#)'s **ADC** or **AADC** exam (depending on level of certification applied and eligible for)

The knowledge, skills, and attitudes of professional addiction counseling can be found in total by reviewing *TAP 21: Addiction Counseling Competencies* from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#). You may obtain a free copy via digital download [HERE](#).

Any education or training certificates received should not be confused with Clinical Supervision. The application packet linked to above provide more details and explanation of these various components and further define and explain what Clinical Supervision is. For a better understanding of Clinical Supervision in particular we would commend to you *TIP 52: Clinical Supervision and Professional Development of the Substance Abuse Counselor* from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#). You may obtain a free copy via digital download [HERE](#).

The **CADC-Trainee (CADC-T)** is a *transitional certificate program* that grants no independent scope of practice but indicates that an individual is under appropriate clinical supervision and is actively working toward their CADC-I, CADC-II, or CAADC. The CADC-T does not allow an individual to practice as an alcohol & drug abuse counselor outside a licensed or state-sponsored agency or without being under clinical supervision by a CCS or other Approved Clinical Supervisor.

Under Georgia law (GA Code [§ 43-10A-7-15.1](#)), individuals working toward certification must be, "*employed by an agency or facility that is licensed to provide addiction counseling,*" be under appropriate supervision, and must become fully certified **within three (3) years** of beginning to work as a counselor trainee.