



Alcohol & Drug Counseling Certification 101

The various requirements/components of obtaining a CADC-I, CADC-II, or CAADC credential are detailed in each credential's application, which may be accessed under the "Applications" section of the [ADACBGA website](#) after creating an account through [Certemy](#), the ADACBGA credential application and management system.

The key components of obtaining initial certification that grants a legal scope of practice as an alcohol & drug abuse counselor in the State of Georgia 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 face-to-face hours for the CADC-I or 200 face-to-face hours for the CADC-II or CAADC; at least 25% of which must be one-on-one) from an ADACBGA Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) or other ADACBGA-Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS)
- **Attestation of understanding** an Alcohol & Drug Counselor's responsibility to uphold the [ADACBGA Code of Ethics](#) and other ethical and professional norms of the field
- **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 will 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 (ACS). *An individual who holds the CADC-T is considered a "certified counselor" who does not have a legal scope of practice independent of their work under supervision.*

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.