



Alcohol & Drug Counseling Certification 101

The core requirements/components for initial application as a Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Level I (CADC-I), Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Level II (CADC-II), or Certified Advanced Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CAADC) are listed below.

If you are ready to open an application for one of these core credentials, please contact the Board by emailing info@adacbga.org and include [Credential Level + Application Request] in the subject line of the email. Board staff can answer any additional questions you may have and ensure the appropriate application is assigned to you, based on your prerequisite level of education, in Certemy: the ADACBGA's online credential management platform.

The core requirements of obtaining initial certification that grants a legal scope of practice as an Alcohol & Drug Counselor (also known as an "Addiction 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 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** of the alcohol & drug counselor,
 - A minimum of **6 hours of e-counseling/telehealth** education,
 - A minimum of **6 hours of HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C** education, and
 - A minimum of **6 hours of trauma-informed care** in the treatment of substance use disorders.
- **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) and/or a professional with Non-CCS Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) recognition
- **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 an ADACBGA CCS or a professional with Non-CCS Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) recognition.

Individuals who have obtained at least 300 Direct Work Experience hours, completed 100 hours of education in the 12 Core Functions (with not less than 6.0 hours of professional ethics), and 30 hours of Clinical Supervision (not less than 2 in each of the 12 Core Functions) may apply for CADC-T recognition.

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 as determined by the credentialing board (ADACBGA), and must become fully certified **within three (3) years** of beginning to work as a counselor trainee.