

# CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST (CAS) CERTIFICATION

## WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

The [American Academy of Healthcare Providers in the Addictive Disorders](#) (the Academy).

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

The [CAS](#) is a comprehensive certification for the provision of treatment in the addictive disorders, which includes specialty areas in alcoholism, drug addiction, eating disorders, gambling addiction, and sexual addiction.

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## WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

This is an advanced-level certification geared to current psychologists, medical doctors, nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, and counselors who wish to specialize in addictive disorders.

## WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

To obtain the CAS, an individual must have at least a bachelor's degree, three to five years of related professional experience, 60 hours of education in at least one of the five specialty areas (alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual addiction, eating disorders, and/or gambling addiction), and 30 hours of education in some combination of serving special populations, ethics, communicable diseases, and sexual harassment.

## WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The CAS exam is a web-based, proctored, multiple-choice exam encompassing five domains in counseling, treatment planning, professional and ethical responsibilities, transdisciplinary foundations, and client/family/community education. The exam application fee is \$175, the exam fee is \$295, and there is an additional \$100 if a retest is needed. There may be additional fees charged by the approved exam proctor, which are the responsibility of the applicant.

## WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

International.

## IS THE CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

No, CAS was accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) against the *NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*, but it has since not been renewed.

## HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

The CAS is valid for one year.

### **IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?**

Yes, the CAS has an annual renewal process that requires obtaining 20 hours of continuing education coursework in the areas of addictive disorders each year.

### **CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?**

Yes, the Academy may reprimand, suspend, or revoke certification for violations of the ethics code, conviction of a felony in a crime related to addictions counseling, gross negligence, willful misconduct, or fraud in the certification application.

### **IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?**

Yes, but some states only recognize certain addiction-related certifications.

### **HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER ACADEMY CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?**

This is the only certification the Academy issues.

### **WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?**

The U.S. Armed Forces. Also, the state of Ohio requires all opioid medical directors to be certified as an addiction specialist.

### **ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?**

The Academy is one of four organizations that is currently recognized by the state of Ohio's regulations.

### **WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?**

Psychologists, psychiatrists, medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, social workers, military counselors, nurses, private practice counselors, correction officers, and substance abuse counselors are among the occupations that use the CAS.

### **DOES THE ACADEMY OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?**

The Academy offers an optional 89-page CAS study guide for purchase to aid in preparing for the exam.