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.

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.