

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - CAS



American Academy
of Health Care Providers
IN THE
Addictive Disorders



CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST (CAS)

The American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders offers the Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) certification to health care professionals in the field of addictive disorders with specializations in five areas: alcohol addiction, drug addiction, eating disorders, sex addiction and gambling addiction.

FOR CALIFORNIA AOD COUNSELORS ONLY

- The American Academy is recognized by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to certify alcohol and other drug counselors in California. Compliance with CCR Title 9, Chapter 8 requires that counselors in California are subject to certain requirements regarding registration, eligibility, renewal, and complaints investigations that differ somewhat from the American Academy's standard requirements. Additional requirements for California counselors are noted in the application packet and in the Academy's policy and procedure manual.
- **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT** - Before seeking certification, individuals in California must complete the California AOD Certification Registration form on the American Academy's website at: www.americanacademy.org/certification/cas-ca/.

Professionals with Masters or Doctorate degrees in Mental Health:

1. Three years (6,000 hrs) of supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder. Pre-doctoral or pre-masters internships at an approved site may be considered by the Academy towards one year of clinical supervision;
2. Requirements include numbers four, five and six below.

Professionals with other degrees or without a degree must have:

3. Five years (10,000 hrs) of full-time supervised experience providing direct health care services to those identified with an addictive disorder;
4. A portfolio of clinical education with documentation of a minimum of 270 hours of formal education that must include:
 - The curriculum contained in TAP 21: "Addiction Counseling Competencies" and the knowledge, skills and attitudes associated with the practice of those competencies. (120 hours minimum).
 - Alcohol specific education, applicable to AOD counselors, (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
 - Other Drugs specific education, applicable to AOD counselors, (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
 - Sexual Addiction, if applicable, specific education (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
 - Eating Disorders, if applicable, specific education (60 hours minimum within the last five years).
 - A total of 30 hours minimum to include education in each of the following:
 - Provision of services to special populations, such as aging individuals; individuals with co-occurring disorders (e.g., alcoholism and mental illness); post traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD); disabilities; diverse populations; cultural differences; individuals on probation/parole.

- Ethics (includes law & ethics, confidentiality [per 42 Code of Federal Regulations, part2], and HIPAA).
 - Communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, HIV disease, and Hepatitis C.
 - Prevention of sexual harassment.
5. Three professional recommendations from those who are personally familiar with the applicant; at least one referent should be from a clinical supervisor who can document applicant's health care experience; and
 6. A completed application with the \$95 non-refundable application fee plus a \$45 background check fee (\$140 total).

PLEASE NOTE: Incomplete applications requiring additional review(s) are subject to a \$25 fee per review.