

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS NEWSLETTER



Mission Statement: Our mission is to protect the public by setting standards of qualifications, training and experience to those who seek to represent themselves to the public as alcohol and drug abuse counselors and by promoting high standards of professional performance of those engaged in the practice of alcohol and drug abuse counseling



ALERT! ALERT!

From the Chairman of the Board

THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The Department of Transportation (DOT) regulation --49 CFR Part 40 --defines the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) as a person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare. In order to be a SAP, you need to have certain credentials, possess specific knowledge, receive training, and achieve a passing score on an examination. There is also a continuing education requirement.

Credentials: You cannot be a SAP unless you are a licensed physician (Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy); or a licensed or certified social worker; or a licensed or certified psychologist; or a licensed or certified employee assistance professional; or an alcohol and drug abuse counselor certified by the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Certification Commission (NAADAC) or by the International Certification Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (ICRC).

Knowledge: You cannot be a SAP unless you have knowledge of and clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of substance abuse-related disorders. You cannot be a SAP without understanding how the SAP role relates to the special responsibilities employers have for ensuring the safety of the traveling public. Nor can you be a SAP unless you are well informed about Part 40, pertinent DOT agency regulations, these SAP guidelines, and any significant changes to them. It is important to note that your degrees and certificates alone do not confer to you these knowledge requirements.

Training: You cannot be a SAP unless you receive qualification training. The qualification training must include the nine required components laid out in Section 281(c) of Part 40. You must have completed this training requirement by December 31, 2003, if you become a SAP on or before December 31, 2003. If you become a SAP after December 31, 2003, you must meet this training requirement before you perform any SAP functions.

Examination: Following completion of your training, you must satisfactorily complete an examination. This examination must be given by a nationally recognized professional or training organization and must comprehensively cover all the elements required for the qualification training. Please be aware that DOT requires these training or professional organizations to have their SAP examination validated by a test evaluation organization.

Continuing Education: During each three-year period following satisfactory completion of your training and examination, you must complete 12 professional development hours (e.g., Continuing Education Units) relevant to your performing SAP duties.

Sincerely,
Dorothy B. North

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

“Governor Guinn signed into law SB351 placing certification of gambling counselors under NRS 641C and the jurisdiction of the Board of Examiners for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors. The passage of SB 351 is truly a landmark event for the State of Nevada as we join the ranks of a growing number of states who recognize problem gambling as an important community health issue. Establishing a professional certification for gambling counselors is a vital step toward the growth of much-needed treatment services for problem gamblers and their families. The Board’s name will be changed on January 1, 2004 to the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors to reflect this change.

The following details the requirements established under SB351.

Certified Problem Gambling Counselor

- Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degree in an approved social science field
- 2000 hours employment under clinical supervision in problem gambling counseling
- Proof of the completion of (not set yet) hours of training specific to problem gambling approved by the Board
- Submittal of fees of (have not been set yet)
- Written exam covers:
 - Basic Knowledge of Problem and pathological Gambling
 - Gambling Counseling Practice
 - Special Issues in Gambling Treatment
 - Professional Issues
- An individual must receive 70% or better overall on the written examination to proceed to the oral boards
- Presents himself when scheduled for an interview at the meeting of the Board
- Is not less than 21 years of age
- Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States

Certified Problem Gambling Counselor Intern:

- High school diploma or GED and verification of graduation from an accredited college or university in an appropriate social science field and/or submittal of educational affidavit indicating that you are enrolled in college or will enroll at the beginning of the next semester
- Supervision Agreement
- Proof of the completion of 30 hours of training specific to problem gambling approved by the Board
- Complete Application Fees of (have not been set)

Allowance for Licensure by Other Nevada State Boards for Problem Gambling Counselors:

1. Licensed as a clinical social worker pursuant to chapter 641 B of the NRS;
2. Licensed as a nurse pursuant of chapter 632 of NRS and has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree
3. Licensed as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to chapter 641A of the NRS;
4. A psychologist pursuant to chapter 641 of the NRS
5. A licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to this chapter 641C

And has completed at least 6 months or 1,000 hours of supervised counseling of problem gamblers approved by the Board

Problem Gambling Supervisor's Certification:

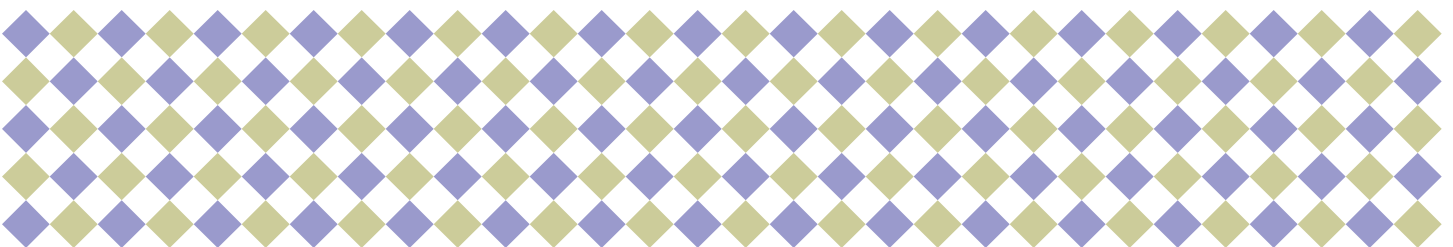
Requirements:

1. Completion of the Clinical Supervision Course for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
2. Certification of a Problem Gambling Counselor in the State of Nevada
3. Two years experience doing problem gambling counseling
4. Submittal of an application approved by the Board. The application is available from the Board or on the Board's website.
5. Submittal of the application and certificate fees (have not been set yet)

During the same legislative session SB248 was passed, the following provides a brief overview of the bill:

1. Grant authority to the Board to require fingerprinting at the time of renewal of a certificate of license
2. The Board may, by regulation provide for the certification of a person as a detoxification technician.
3. The Board may enter into an interlocal agreement with an Indian tribe to provide to members of the tribe training in the practice of counseling alcohol and drug abusers to assist those persons in obtaining licenses and certificates as alcohol and drug abuse counselors.
4. The Board may waive the education requirement set forth in paragraph © subsection 1 if an applicant for a certificate has contracted with or receives grants from the Federal Government to provide services as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor to persons who are authorized to receive those services pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §§ 450 et seq. or 25 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq.
5. An alcohol and drug abuse counselor certified pursuant to this section for whom the educational requirements set forth in paragraph © of subsection 1 is waived may provide services as alcohol and drug abuse counselor only to those persons who are authorized to receive these services pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §§ 450 et seq. or 25 U.S.C. §§1601 et seq.

Please contact Sharon Atkinson at 775-246-2260 or visit the Board's website at, www.alcohol.state.nv.us, for up and coming news regarding the gambling certification and SB248.



Executive Directors Note:

Reminder Per NRS/NAC 641C it is the responsibility of a counselor to notify the Board in writing of a change of address.

Documents & Materials That Are Available on the Board's Website:

1. Supervision Agreements
2. Progress Reports
3. Requests for Application
4. Renewal Application
5. Complaint Form & Information
6. Information Packet on Requirements for Certification & Licensure
7. Board Meeting Minutes After Approved
8. Board Meeting Agendas
9. Frequently Asked Questions & Answers
10. Newsletters

Website address: alcohol.State.nv.us

UPCOMING TESTING DATES for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors and Problem Gambling Counselors:**SPRING 2004**

Application deadline for Spring examination:
December 30, 2003

Test date: March 22, 2004

Estimated date for oral boards: June 13-17, 2004

SUMMER 2004

Application deadline for summer examination: April 30, 2004

Test date: July 25, 2004

Estimated date for oral boards: September 24-30, 2004

FALL 2004

Application deadline for fall examination:
August 30, 2004

Test date: November 21, 2004

Estimated date for oral boards: January 13-17, 2005

The levels of written examination used by the Board for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors:

Level II for those individuals with a Bachelor's degree

Master's or (MAC) is used for those individuals with a Master's Degree.

If an individual needs special accommodations they must notify the Board in writing a minimum of thirty days prior to the examination.

Testing Tips: The following categories are on the written examination:

1. Pharmacology of Psychoactive Substances
2. Counseling Practices
3. Theoretical Base of Counseling
4. Professional Issues—ethical questions are based on NAADAC's ethical standards; Department of Transportation questions are based on Federal guidelines pertaining to alcohol and drugs.

The supervision agreement and progress report for interns are set up to follow the categories on the written examination.