

American Psychological Association

Requirements for Certification

The requirements for the Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders include:

- Current state or provincial license in good standing to engage in the independent practice of psychology Provision of health services in psychology
- Engagement as a licensed psychologist in the treatment of alcohol and other psychoactive substance use disorders for at least 1 year during the last 3 years
- Successful completion of the College of Professional Psychology's examination in the treatment of alcohol and other psychoactive substance use disorders

The Examination

The examination consists of 150 multiple-choice items, is administered by computer at more than 200 locations, and can be scheduled at your convenience by appointment. Results are provided immediately upon completion and are transmitted to the College of Professional Psychology. Confirmation of certification is issued within several weeks. The knowledge domain listed below serves as a content outline for the examination. Candidates who are authorized to take the examination will receive a Candidate Guide that contains a detailed content outline, a list of suggested readings, and sample questions.

The knowledge domain is:

- Clinical Pharmacology and Clinical Epidemiology of Psychoactive Substances
- Etiology of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders
- Initiation, Progression, and Maintenance of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders
- Course/Natural History of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders
- Prevention, Early Intervention, and Harm Reduction
- Screening and Assessment of Psychoactive Substance Use
- Diagnosis and Comorbidity
- Treatment I: Models and Approaches
- Treatment II: Planning, Implementing, and Managing Treatment and the Course of Recovery
- Issues in Specific Populations
- Research Knowledge
- Legal and Ethical Issues

Renewal of Certification

The College of Professional Psychology's Certificate of Proficiency provides certification for 3 years. Because of the importance of remaining current with regard to the treatment of alcohol and other psychoactive substance use disorders, certified psychologists will be required to renew

certification every 3 years. This is accomplished through the College of Professional Psychology's recertification program.

The recertification program requires that you obtain a minimum of 18 hours of CE credit (contact hours) over the 3-year period of certification. Only continuing education that is provided by an APA-approved sponsor or a state or provincial psychological association will be accepted. You will also be asked to submit verification that your state or provincial license continues in good standing.

Before You Proceed

You must enclose all forms and letters to be submitted in application for the Certificate of Proficiency in one envelope. A pre-addressed envelope is provided for this purpose. Your application will not be processed without all forms and letters, including the appropriate payment. No staples or paper clips, please.

Work Setting Codes

Human Service Settings

- 31 Public general hospital
- 32 Private general hospital
- 33 City/county/state psychiatric hospital
- 34 Not for profit private psychiatric hospital
- 36 For profit, private psychiatric hospital
- 35 Veterans Administration (VA) hospital
- 37 Military hospital (e.g. Air Force)
- 41 Individual private practice
- 42 Group psychological practice
- 43 Medical/psychological group practice
- 44 Outpatient mental health clinic, freestanding
- 45 Community mental health center or clinic (CMHC)
- 46 Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
- 47 Counseling or guidance center (not school or college)
- 40 Nursing home
- 48 Special health services (e.g. substance abuse or mental retardation)
- 38 Independent Practice Association (IPA)
- 39 Preferred provider organization (PPO)
- 70 Other managed care
- 49 Other human service setting

Other Employment Settings

- 51 Self-employed (not private practice or independent consultant)
- 52 Consulting firm

- 53 Private research organization or lab
- 54 Government research organization or lab
- 55 Business or industry (excluding consulting firm or research organization)
- 56 Independent consultant
- 61 Criminal justice system
- 62 Military service (other than above settings)
- 63 Federal government agency (other than above settings)
- 64 State govt. agency (other than above settings)
- 65 Local govt. agency (other than above settings)
- 66 Other non-profit organization
- 69 Other non-educational or non-service setting not listed above
- 06 Student counseling or services center (university)

Fees

The fees for the Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders are listed in the table below. Use the Application Fee Payment Form (page 9) to pay your application fee.

Documenting Your Engagement in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders

(Letters of Reference)

Using the Reference Letter Cover Form (pages 13 and 15 of the application), submit two (2) letters of reference which specifically address your recent (1 year within the last 3 years) engagement in the treatment of alcohol and other psychoactive substance use disorders. Both the Reference Letter Cover Form and the reference letter itself must be submitted. Letters of reference may be written only by the following licensed professionals: psychologists, physicians, social workers, or nurses. Licensed professionals who write letters of reference are not required to be supervisors or co-workers, but may be colleagues (psychologists, physicians, social workers, or nurses) who have knowledge of your recent practice in this treatment area.

Special Accommodations for Testing

Most special needs for testing can be accommodated. If you require special accommodations, call the College of Professional Psychology at (202) 336-6128 at least 45 days in advance of your desired testing date. Procedures for documenting your need for special accommodations will be provided.

Non-Refundable Application Fee:

APA Member \$325

Non-Member \$395

Examination Fee: \$200
(paid at the time you schedule your examination)

Annual Maintenance Fee \$50

Renewal Fee \$125
(paid at the time of 3-year renewal; includes Maintenance Fee for the renewal year)