

Certified Gambling Treatment Counselor Requirements

The Iowa Board of Certification is a certifying body representative of individuals and organizations dedicated to the provision of quality service and the enhancement of health in Iowa.

The certification process responds to the needs of the addiction fields by promoting and developing the professionalism, competency and integrity of treatment and prevention professionals.

Residency Requirement: the applicant must live and/or work in Iowa at least 51% of the time at the time of initial application, recertification or reactivation.

GETTING STARTED

Request the Gambling Treatment Counselor handbook by completing the "[Request for Application](#)" form and send it with the \$50.00 application/handbook fee to the IBC office. Or, download the [Gambling Treatment Counselor Handbook](#) and mail the form with the \$40.00 application fee to the IBC office.

Iowa Board of Certification
3850 Merle Hay Road, Suite 303
Des Moines IA 50310

You will have 18 months from the date the handbook is issued until you must be ready to sit for the written exam.

FEES

- Application/Online Handbook \$40.00
- Application/Printed Handbook \$50.00
- Certification (2 years) \$120.00
- Recertification (2 years) \$100.00
- Late Recertification Penalty \$100.00
- Dual Certification \$90.00
- Inactive Certification Enrollment \$25.00
- Inactive Certification Status (1 year) \$60.00
- Reactivation of Certification after Inactive \$100.00
- Returned Check Fee \$35.00
- Replacement Certificate \$30.00

REQUIREMENTS

Education Requirements

Minimum of Associate's degree or 2 years of college in a related human service field (i.e. psychology, sociology, counseling, chemical dependency, social work, criminal justice, human resources, etc.). A minimum grade of "C" must be earned or the course will be ineligible. Documentation of the degree will be according to instructions on Form 03, "Education Resume."

In addition, a minimum of 72 clock hours of education on gambling-related issues is required. These 72 clock hours may be a combination of college courses, trainings, and workshops. Some special conditions apply; namely,

* Specifically, hours must be earned as:

- 12 hours in basic pathological/problem gambling knowledge (including co-occurring problems)
- 12 hours in intake, assessment and crisis

- 12 hours in significant other treatment
- 12 hours in individual and group counseling skills
- 6 clock hours in problem gambling-related case management
- 6 hours in special populations areas
- 6 hours in ethics
- 6 hours in legal/financial aspects

These hours may not include in-service training. An in-service training is the education and training which occurs within the counselor's agency, only for agency staff and conducted only by agency staff.

If using college classes, the formula for converting college credit to clock hours is: one semester hour equals 15 clock hours and one quarter hour equals 10 clock hours. A minimum grade of "C" must be earned or the course will be ineligible.

Documentation of these hours will be according to instructions on Form 04, "Workshop Documentation."

Experience Requirements

- 2000 hours (one year full-time) counseling experience, with at least 1000 hours gambling treatment specific
- 200 hours supervised gambling treatment experience in the following areas:
 - 40 hours of intake, assessment and crisis
 - 40 hours of case management
 - 80 hours of counseling
 - 20 hours of client, family and community education
 - 20 hours in professional responsibility
- One satisfactory practicum supervisor reference/evaluation

Documentation of this will be according to instructions on Form 05, "Experience Resume."

When the application packet is complete, the applicant will sit for the written exam and must pass the exam before becoming certified. Applicants are allowed 18 months from the time the application packet is requested until the applicant must sit for the written exam. The written exam consists of 150 multiple-choice questions, and is an overview of five Performance Domains (see page 5 - Performance Domains).

Special Considerations

Special consideration for professionals in the gambling field will be allowed for either of the following two conditions:

1. Professionals already IBC certified must have at least six (6) months or 1000 hours gambling-specific treatment experience, 40 hours of gambling specific education, a supervisor reference/evaluation, and a passing score on the written exam
2. Gambling professionals who are not currently IBC certified must have accrued at least two (2) years or 4000 hours of gambling-specific treatment experience, 30 hours of gambling specific education and a passing score on the written exam.

Grandfathering

Grandfathering will be permitted between 12/1/05 and 1/1/07 for gambling treatment professionals who are nationally certified through the National Council or the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders, verification of a passing score on the written exam and completion of IBC's CGTC application.