

A Guide to

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# ADDICTION COUNSELOR

Credentialing

# Educational Enhancement

## A Guide to Addiction Counselor Credentialing

Hello, and thank you for your interest in the **Educational Enhancement-CASAC Online education and training program.**

Drug and alcohol counseling is one of the fastest-growing careers in the nation—and one of the most rewarding. If you have a passion for helping people, this is the work you were born to do.

**Educational Enhancement** has been training addiction counselors since 2002 in New York State and is currently applying for national accreditation. If you are from another state and would like to introduce you to Educational Enhancement-CASAC Online, please notify your state's certification board of your request so we can start a conversation with the governing board.

Our addiction counselor education and training school have a proven track record of success:

- Our graduates have a 92% pass rate taking the licensure/certification examination within six months of graduation.

- And 95% of graduates are successfully employed within six months after receiving a CASAC-T from OASAS.

## Contents

In this guide, we will provide you with pertinent information to help you along the way to becoming an addiction counseling professional. In NYS, a qualified health professional practicing addiction treatment is referred to as a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).

- I. The Expected Growth in the Addiction Recovery Industry
- II. Addiction Counseling Knowledge, Strengths, and Skills
- III. CASAC Licensure and Certification
- IV. Certification with Educational Enhancement CASAC Online
- V. Conclusion

**Your choice to become an addiction counselor is more than simply a career path.**

# It's your calling.

## **I. The Expected Growth in the Addiction Recovery Industry**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), substance use, behavioral and mental health counselors are among the occupations that will see the newest jobs. The BLS predicts that there will be 79,000 new jobs between 2019 and 2029 at a median annual salary of \$46,240. The number of marriage and family therapists is expected to jump nearly 23% in those 10 years, while employment for substance use, behavioral and mental health counselors will grow 24.7%.

### **Drug & alcohol counselors are in demand.**

Job opportunities for drug and alcohol counselors are predicted to be favorable for the foreseeable future because job openings are expected to exceed the number of students graduating from counseling programs. Some of the growth in job availability may be attributed to the long hours demanded by this occupation, resulting in some counselors transitioning to different careers or retiring.

Statistics suggest that rural areas will offer more opportunities. Changes in health insurance policies, allowing for coverage of counseling services, will also drive growth in the field, especially as a less costly alternative to psychiatrists and psychologists.

Mental health centers and methadone clinics will require more counselors, and treatment programs will expand as drug offenders seek counseling in greater numbers than in the past. In addition, as prisons continue to face overcrowding, judges are ordering drug offenders to complete rehabilitation programs as alternatives to incarceration; these decisions are naturally heightening the demand for substance use counselors.

Despite ongoing budget constraints, some school districts are beginning to hire substance use professionals for high-risk student populations and as a preventative measure to protect their communities. Society is becoming more aware and knowledgeable about addiction, causing more people to seek help and treatment from counselors.

While job security is a great benefit, what calls addiction counselors to their profession is a passion for helping others transform their lives.

You may have a loved one who is struggling/struggled with substance use disorder. Perhaps, you may have experienced the devastating impact of addiction on families and communities. Maybe you are in recovery yourself and know firsthand the power of counseling to transform and heal. If you fall into any of these categories, there isn't a more rewarding and fulfilling career you

can choose—addiction counselors save lives. Whether you are in recovery or not, if you're driven to help, we will educate and train you to be an efficient and effective addiction counselor. With your knowledge and understanding of addiction, you will guide others in finding the strength needed to recover and heal.

## Work settings

Substance use, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors held about 319,400 jobs in 2019.

The largest employers of substance use, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors were as follows:

Outpatient mental health and substance use centers	19%
Individual and family services	16%
Hospitals; state, local, and private	10%
Residential mental health and substance use facilities	10%
Government agencies and facilities	08%

Substance use, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors work in various settings, including mental health centers, prisons, probation or parole agencies, and juvenile detention facilities. They also work in halfway houses, detox centers, or employee-

assistance programs (EAPs). EAPs are mental health programs provided by some employers to help employees deal with personal problems.

Some addiction counselors work in residential treatment centers, where clients live in the facility for a fixed period. Others work with clients in outpatient treatment centers. Some counselors work in private practice, working alone or with a group of counselors or other professionals.

## **II. Addiction Counseling —Knowledge, Strengths, and Skills**

Addiction counselors provide a critical support system for individuals recovering from eating disorders, drug and alcohol issues, gambling addictions, and other behavioral issues. By forming a relationship built on trust with their patients, counselors provide the support, resources, and judgment-free guidance that patients can utilize on their road to addiction recovery. Certified addiction counselors help people struggling with substance use disorders in crises and long-term recovery management. Your work as a CASAC can range from an immediate medical intervention to supporting long-term continuing recovery care.

### **The Client Counselor Relationship**

Deciding to commit to treatment for a substance use disorder(s) (SUD) is not easy. While deciding to attend treatment, people with SUD can face many different barriers. Therefore, you (the counselor) must strive to build a strong bond with your clients. This relationship is often referred to as a therapeutic alliance. The client/counselor relationship is built on trust and rapport. The belief within this bond allows clients to feel vulnerable yet safe while actively working with you ( the addictions counselor) to



sort out and resolve trauma, crises, and other issues related to their SUD.

You will develop relationships with your clients. You may have to go above and beyond to help them. You have to know your boundaries so you don't enable behaviors. It would be best to be non-judgmental and not criticize mistakes in a client's past. You want your clients to be open with you and feel they can approach you even if they relapse. Good addiction counselors build a trusting relationship with clients.

**Your education and training will help you to build strong therapeutic alliances by:**

- Ensuring patients know you are interested in their well being
- Attentiveness during sessions
- Letting patients know you can empathize with their problems
- Understanding and communicating the foundational issues at play in the recovery

The therapeutic alliance is a crucial tenet of addiction recovery counseling. By creating an environment where patients feel comfortable and welcome discussing their hardships, counselors can better help their clients on the road to recovery.

Addictions counselors are typically responsible for substance use history and diagnosing SUD, evaluating client mental health, developing treatment goals, recommending treatment options, helping individuals modify behaviors for recovery, educating

families on how to cope with addiction behaviors, and referring clients to other supportive resources in the community.

Because addiction professionals often deal with clients in crises and have a significant impact on the lives of others, addiction counselors must be highly trained.

**Your addiction counselor education and training at Education Enhancement CASAC Online will prepare you to:**

- Encourage patient recovery
- Help patients create a plan for recurrence (relapse prevention)
- Guide family members
- Understand the importance of peer support groups
- Identifying issues and making goals and treatment plans
- Helping clients find a job or career
- Update reports for the courts
- And more

At **Educational Enhancement-CASAC Online**, you'll receive a number of the following skills and abilities. You'll find that many of the skills learned in classes will relate directly to the personality of a good counselor.

The most pertinent thing you will learn is how to communicate with individuals afflicted by addiction. You will be taught about different addiction stages, withdrawal effects, and how these

issues can influence a person's family life and relationship with friends.

You will also learn how to instill coping mechanisms in people who may experience a relapse. And most importantly, you will learn how to educate individuals on how they can restructure their lives in the wake of SUD.

Culturally sensitive practices are also an essential point of drug and alcohol counseling. Beyond that, many specific counseling issues will be looked at deeply during your coursework.

It would not be easy to summarize the entire course curriculum here, but a wealth of information and training is included in a person's counseling education. Much of that coursework branches out into different areas of study that you didn't even imagine were related to your future profession.

## **Valuable Skills for an Addiction Counselor**

Because you will be dealing with tricky situations, you must have various personality traits to succeed with patients.

### **Here are a few characteristics that make a good substance use counselor:**

- Good listener
- Strong desire to help others
- Confidence
- Motivation
- Inspiration

- Excellent communication skills
- Respect privacy
- Empathy
- Advocacy

Now let's move on to the steps you'll take as you aspire to this rewarding career.

### III. Licensure and Certification

#### Credentialing Process

Each state has its substance use treatment and counseling governing board. There are similarities in the process regardless of whether the state issues the credential directly or entrusts an outside agency. In New State, the governing board is **the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)**. However, the credentialing process often varies. Some states license or certify substance use counselors directly, and some direct them to a third-party certification agency. There may be just one recognized certification board in your jurisdiction or several. The most widely accepted certification boards are members of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) or affiliates of the Association of Substance Use Professionals (NAADAC).

#### NYS CASAC-T

Sometimes, you will hold an entry-level credential while you accrue your experience.

In NYS, the entry-level certification is called a CASAC-T (CASAC Trainee). You will receive a completion certification from Educational Enhancement once you complete 350 hours of education and training. You will then start your CASAC application process and submit the completed application with

your certificate and a transcript from all undergraduate and graduate studies to OASAS.

OASAS will review your application and return their decision in 6 weeks. Your decision will include a certification (CASAC-T) which will allow you to begin to work in the field. At this point, you can start your internship hours.

**\*Note:** In NYS, an individual can be credentialed as a CASAC Trainee when some requirements have been met. The Credentialing Unit notes that in certain OASAS-certified facilities, Trainees may be counted as Qualified Health Professionals (QHPs) for meeting staffing requirements; this is not the case in most settings.

## **Character and Professional Competence Requirements**

Your credentialing agency will also have policies in place to ensure that you meet ethical and legal standards and can practice competently. You may have a fingerprint-based criminal background check as a condition of licensing. You may instead sign a release authorizing the certification board to carry out background screening. Independent certification boards often require several letters of reference and ask you to sign a code of ethics.

If you have ever had a substance use or addiction problem, you may need to attest that you have been drug-free for a specified period.

## **Educational Requirements**

Depending on the specific work setting, state regulations, and level of responsibility in particular counseling roles, the educational requirements for addiction counselors varies greatly. In most cases, a high school diploma or GED is the minimum requirement, though some boards set standards higher. In most states, qualified health professional certifications (addiction counseling credential, i.e., NYS certification CASAC) do not require a college degree. However, they need a set number of related education hours; some will be addiction-related, others counseling-related. You can often complete your hours through formal academic coursework or continuing education.

## **NYS State Education Requirements**

A candidate will need 350 clock hours of education and training that develop addiction counseling competencies.

A minimum of 85 hours will develop substance use and alcohol knowledge. Of these, at least four must address tobacco usage and nicotine dependence.

At least 150 will address alcohol and substance use counseling. Of these, at least 25 will be in cultural competence.

At least 70 must be in the combined areas of assessment, evaluation, case management, treatment planning, and patient/family/ community education.

No fewer than 45 may address professional and ethical responsibilities. At least 15 of these must cover ethics related to addiction professionals. At least two must cover mandatory reporting of child abuse and maltreatment.

New York has recently moved to a standardized curriculum. Candidates may opt for an educational package that offers academic credit or does not. All certified providers cover the same material.

OASAS has recently passed a regulation that schools that follow an asynchronous pathway must include a synchronous study in their platform. This is to say that we now offer hours of virtual instructor-led training per this regulation. You'll learn more about our school's format in Section IV of this document.

**Educational Enhancement CASAC-Online** offers 350 hours of addiction counselor education and training **required and approved** by NYS OASAS in our no-hassle, self-study, self-paced, hybrid training online platform.

**\*Note:** It is still permissible to credit college coursework provided it meets the requirements. Some coursework taken as part of the qualifying degree program may be applied to education and training requirements. Candidates will use the credentialing application to request that their transcripts be evaluated.

## **Experience Requirements**



You will work a specified number of hours (typically 2,000 or more) before you are fully credentialed. You may need to register or pursue an entry-level credential in the interim. However, this is not a universal requirement. Your state agency may mandate that a certain percentage of the counseling staff is ‘qualified’; the rest may be working toward this status. Chances are good that your supervisor will eventually need to provide an evaluation or recommendation to the certification board.

Internship hours vary from state to state. For example, NYS OASAS requires 6000 experience hours, equivalent to 3 years. 6000 hours! I know that seems daunting. But notice “experience” is the keyword here. Treatment programs often hire CASAC-T after an initial 3-6 month internship is completed. Don’t panic; you’ll be paid for your experience before you know it. Remember when I wrote in your application package that you were to include any college transcripts? Many states allow addiction counselor applicants to apply for undergraduate and graduate degrees to their experience hours.

### **Let’s look at how OASAS applies college to study to the experience requirement in the application process.**

- If you have an Associate’s degree in a board-approved Human Services discipline from an accredited institution of higher learning, you may reduce your supervised hours required by 1,000.
- If you have a Bachelor’s degree in a board-approved Human Services discipline from an accredited institution of higher

learning, you may reduce your supervised hours required by 2,000.

- If you have a Master's degree in a board-approved Human Services discipline from an accredited institution of higher learning, you may reduce your supervised hours required by 4,000.

The credentialing agency has provided a list of approved human service fields (<https://oasas.ny.gov/providers>). Among the options are anthropology, audiology, community mental health, criminal justice, dance therapy, divinity, education, gerontology, music therapy, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, psychology, and rehabilitation counseling.

Work must take place in an approved setting. There must be at least 300 hours of supervised practical training. The trainee must have a minimum of ten hours of practical training in each core addiction counseling function, necessitating direct supervision by a Qualified Health Professional (QHP).

Volunteer work is creditable without limit if completed under a formal agreement and otherwise meets Credentialing Unit standards (including supervision requirements). A candidate may credit a legal internship experience as education/ training or supervised experience but cannot count it as both.

## **Examination Requirements**

You will also need to go through an examination process. This typically takes place after you have applied. Most boards require NAADAC or IC&RC examinations; some states will accept either. Sometimes, the only requirement is for a written (computer-based) examination. In others, you must pass an oral test. You may need to prepare case studies and submit them with your application. NYS OASAS has removed the oral examination requirement from the credentialing process.

You may also need to take a jurisprudence examination (a test of your knowledge of counseling-related law and ethics).

CASAC candidates must take a written examination. The IC&RC developed the exam, and the Credentialing Unit has provided the following resources.

Candidates will call the Credentialing Unit at 1-800-482-9564 to request a registration form. A candidate can be approved after educational requirements have been met; applying will be necessary. The exam will cost \$245.

The exam is offered via computer at ISO Quality Testing centers. There are six New York locations: New York City, Syracuse, Buffalo, Albany, Flushing, and Binghamton.

## **Additional Requirements**

The prospective CASAC will need three professionals to evaluate the competency and ethical conduct. One must come from the current or most recent clinical supervisor, and one must come

from a CASAC or an addiction counselor who holds reciprocal-level credentialing through some IC&RC board.

One must come from a professional who is designated as a Qualified Health Professional. The professional must have substance use training and experience. They may hold credentialing as any of the following: counselor, family therapist, master or clinical social worker, registered nurse, occupational therapist, physician, physician's assistant, psychologist, rehabilitation counselor, or therapeutic recreational therapist; a CASAC would also qualify. The Credentialing Unit has provided detailed information about evaluator requirements.

## **Credentialing... and Beyond**

You will be authorized to use a particular title when you have met all requirements. This title will vary from state to state. It may include the word 'licensed' or 'certified.' Third-party boards issue certifications, never license, and state agencies may issue either licenses or certifications. In some states, 'licensed' refers to master's level practitioners, while 'certified' refers to those below this level. In others, all are termed 'licensed.'

How important is the title? Only a little! It can be crucial to what agency grants it. Still, holding a third-party certification doesn't necessarily mean you are disadvantaged if you relocate. Some government licensing agencies are member boards of the IC&RC. Reciprocity is often reasonably straightforward, though some states set requirements above the norm. Reciprocity is the

allowance of using one state credential to work as a qualified addiction (health) professional under a different governing board.

## IV. 350-Hour Certification with Educational Enhancement CASAC Online

Here is a quick preview of what you can expect from our training.

**Each module typically has three sections:**

1. Module Description
2. Resources
3. Assessment

The image below illustrates how each module appears in your course dashboard.

### Module 2: What is Cultural Competence?



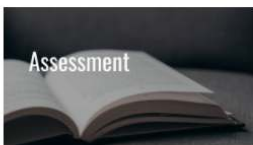
#### Module Description

Module 2 What is Cultural Competence? (PDF of this video is in the Download sect...



#### Resources

Resources for Module 2: Watch Youtube: CULTURAL COMPETENCE CONTINUUM Download and R...



#### Assessment

It would be best if you worked through this section with your course dashboard open to become better acquainted with our training platform.

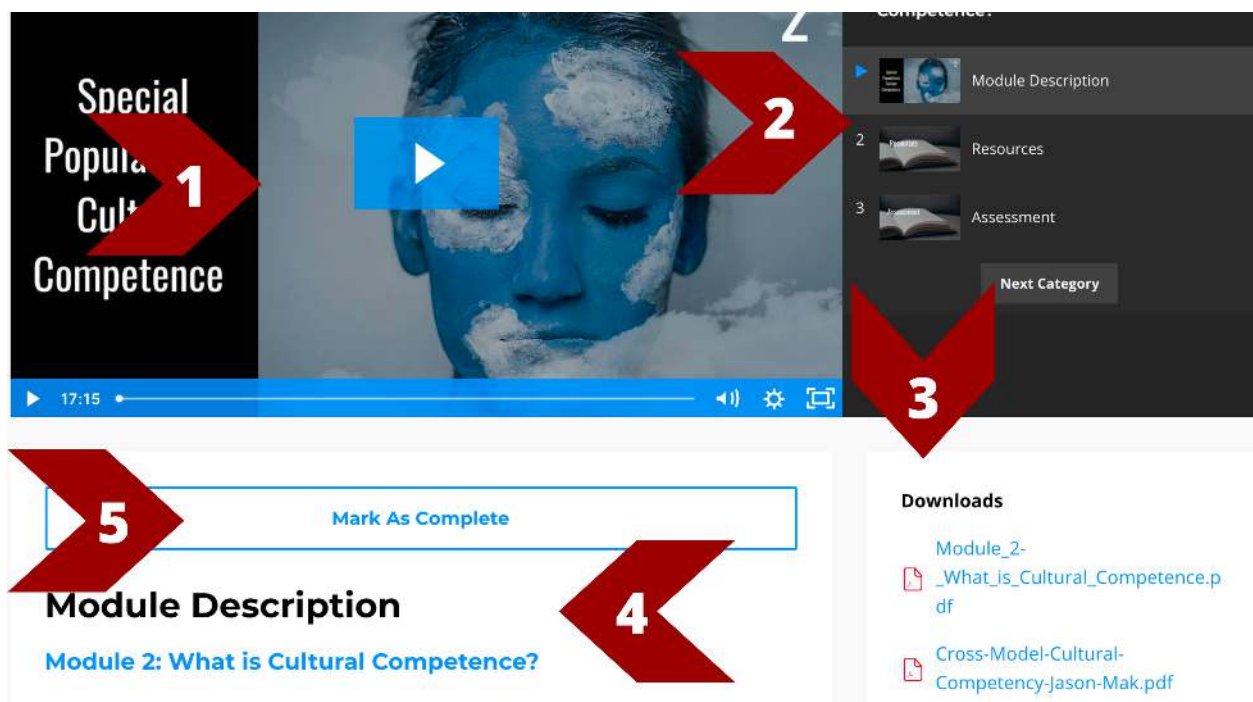
Head to your course dashboard and open the link for OASAS CASAC Section 1.

In the training platform while reading through this section will help you to become oriented to the second link in the introduction to

## 1. The Module Objectives

This section introduces you to the Course Description, Module Description, and Module Objectives.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION



In the Course or Module description sections, you will find the training materials to complete the module.

## **1. The Video**

You will notice a video accompanying the module's workbook in many modules above the actual module description. When there is a video for the training, it will be found in this area. An image with a play button overlay denotes a video to view as part of the course training material.

See the image above. The play button is at the left-hand bottom of the thumbnail image or in the center of the thumbnail.

## **2. The Module Dashboard**

The next part of this section is in the right sidebar. This section typically outlines three areas to complete. However, there will be more than three sections in some instances.

## **3. The Download Section**

This section will find a download of the course workbook and other educational materials used in this module. These materials can include additional PDFs, images of charts or graphs, infographics, or PowerPoint slide shares.

The download section is in the right sidebar of the module.

## **4. The Module Description / Objective**




In this section, you will find a summary of the learning objectives and purpose of the module. The module description is your guide to completing the learning objectives found within the module. We suggest that you start all modules with the module description. You should then download the learning materials, read the workbook, and watch the video. I have also found it handy to copy and paste the resources in the resources section to a document on your computer, so you don't have to keep accessing the resources section of the module. In the future, the resources for the section will be included in the download section for this module.


## **5. Mark As Complete**

You should always click this button once you have completed all work in this module.

**\*Note:** Not all modules have a video presentation. Therefore you will be expected to read the workbook and follow any links to further training and educational material.


**See the Image Below:**






**Module Description**

Treatment Modalities for Addiction Therapy Treatment modalities for addiction therapy refer to h...




**Resources**

Watch Youtube: Non-12-step recovery, the medical model of addiction explained Moral Model The ...



**Assessment**



**0 of 16 Lessons Completed**

**Instructor**

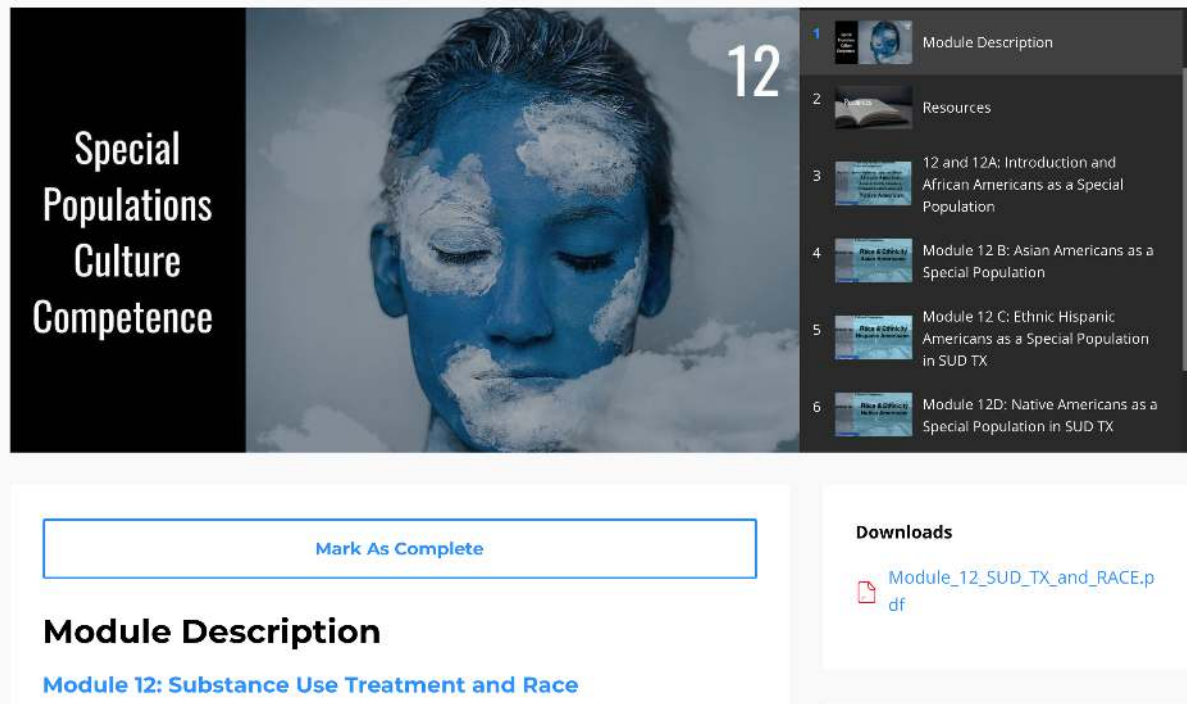
**\*\*Note:** In some modules, you will find several module videos. These videos will be stacked on each other and labeled as new module descriptions.

Because the material in these videos is vital to your training as an addiction professional, you are expected to watch these videos in their entirety.

The module assessment will open once you have watched all the video materials found in this training.

Even though you might watch several videos during one module, these sections will only contain 1 workbook, and all video content will be in the module workbook.

**\*See Image below:** In the Module Dashboard, you will see a listing of several videos you will need to watch before completing the module assessment.



Special Populations Culture Competence

12

1 Module Description

2 Resources

3 12 and 12A: Introduction and African Americans as a Special Population

4 Module 12 B: Asian Americans as a Special Population

5 Module 12 C: Ethnic Hispanic Americans as a Special Population in SUD TX

6 Module 12D: Native Americans as a Special Population in SUD TX

Mark As Complete

Module Description

Module 12: Substance Use Treatment and Race

Downloads

Module\_12\_SUD\_TX\_and\_RACE.pdf

We suggest that you read the module workbook, and the videos closely represent the module workbook. Still, the material provided in the video and workbook is essential to your success in this training as a professional addiction counselor.

Please move on to the second part of this introductory module--

## The Resources Section.

The **Resources Section** is found under the header titled - **RESOURCES**.

In the RESOURCES Section for each module, you will find links to all suggested Youtube Videos, web pages (articles, blog posts,

diagrams, charts, data, alternative/additional training content), and PDFs (additional PDFs which have not been uploaded to the Download Section.)

- It is suggested that you take the time to:
- watch all bonus videos,
- follow links to all web pages for review,
- and download any additional PDFs and read them.

You are responsible for understanding all the material presented to you.

After you have completed the module description in training, you should open up the resources section for the module and copy and paste all the resources to a word document so you can access the resources without having to leave the training video continually. These resources will also be found in the course workbook, so you can access the resources while reading.

This concludes the orientation to the resources section.

Please mark this training as complete and move on to the next part of the orientation.

## **Module / Final Assessment**

The assessments at the end of each module section will be based on the workbook; however, the module assessments can also include questions from the material found in the RESOURCES section.

The assessments are not provided to halt your learning progress, and the reviews show that you are doing the work and understand the information provided to you.

## HYBRID TRAINING

OASAS has set new regulations. You **MUST** take up to 75 hours of live virtual training...

I've included in your purchase two products; one is access to the entire course.

And the second is Part B, all the content for the live training.

We planned on adding live strength-building virtual training to our school, but OASAS forced us to do it sooner.

### **We see this as a positive for two reasons:**

1. You get hands-on training and education from a CASAC education provider, your questions answered, and a chance to develop your skills while learning with your peers.
2. You can finish even quicker now because you can start taking the virtual sessions on the first Saturday or Sunday after your purchase.

As with all our training, we value your time. It is optional for you to start this part immediately, nor do you have to show up every virtual training day.

We will give you a checklist to keep score of the hours you attend (we will track progress too)

We want you to take away the most from our training and still leave you in the most control of when and where you study. Managing your time and busy schedule is essential for an enjoyable, well-rounded learning experience.

The course is still 100% online.

All of the course material is available immediately following your account activation.

Self-study training doesn't mean you are on your own. Our trainers possess advanced CASAC and NCAC 1 certifications and are ready to guide you through the educational process.

You can reach out to us for support and guidance during your study.

Our new instructor-led virtual training begins in Sections 2 and 3, but you can take this training on the first Saturday after your purchase. The sessions will be stand-alone training, so you should finish the training sooner this way and, most importantly, be able to ask questions that might have come up from your studies.

**Below you'll find a quick breakdown of our virtual Zoom training:**

Section 2 includes 75 hours of virtual training via Zoom;

Section 3 consists of 50 hours of virtual training.

Training will be held weekly on Saturday and Sunday. No need to sign up or register. Show up and hone your counseling skills.

Our goal is to help you become a great asset to the recovery field.

We only succeed when you succeed.

You'll receive your Certificate of Completion upon completing 350 hours of study.

## **V. Conclusion**

### **Is the Certified Addiction Counselor an Inferior Credential**

While the requirements are very different and the level of practice is as well, it is hard to say that one credential is “better” than another. The certifications are geared toward very different people. In most cases seeking the addiction counselor credential through an approved education and training provider seems more logical. When fulfilling your education and training requirements through a provider such as Educational Enhancement-CASAC Online, you can be in the field and working in as little as 4-6 months, depending on your motivation and effort.

Our training is a self-paced and self-study program that allows you to learn when and where you want, without waiting for classes to start or interruptions from other students. However, you are never on your own. Our team of addiction professional trainers is available to answer your questions, motivate and encourage optimal performance, and supervise you along the way to your addiction professional credential.

Once you receive your CASAC credential from NYS OASAS, you can go back to school for specialized addiction counselor undergraduate or graduate study. However, the CASAC credential is by no means inferior to a CASAC-2 or Advanced CASAC credential, and a CASAC is a qualified health professional.

After working in the field for 3 years or more, you can obtain your National Certified Addiction Counselor, Level I (NCAC I), a voluntary *national* certification. However, this credential shows clients, employers, and colleagues your commitment to quality care.

## U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

As we stated earlier, state licensing is often a separate process. Here is a synopsis of 5 states that employ the most substance use counselors (in brackets), per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS May 2016). These are their respective educational requirements:

1. California (9,050): The Addiction Counselor Certification Board of California awards the Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor (CATC I) credential to those who have completed programs that are accredited by the California Association for Alcohol/ Drug Educators (CAADE) or deemed equivalent. Candidates must accrue 2,240 hours in a state-licensed facility. Candidates also must take and pass the Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor (CATC) Exam.
2. New York (7,600): A candidate needs 350 clock hours of education and training to develop addiction counseling competencies. These hours are divided into specific areas: substance use, clinical evaluation, treatment planning, tobacco usage, and others.



3. Pennsylvania (6,730): The minimum qualification requires an associate's degree in chemical dependency, counseling, psychology, social work, or a related field. The Certified Associate Addiction Counselor (CAAC) must have 300 hours of education relevant to addiction counseling.
4. Massachusetts (5,010): An individual may be licensed as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor I (LADC) based on a master's or doctoral degree from an institution with national or regional accreditation. The degree must be in the behavioral sciences, and the graduate must have at least 18 semester hours of counseling or related subjects. Additionally, the LADC candidate must complete a program of study that includes at least 270 hours that address a "full range" of concepts related to alcohol and drug counseling.
5. Florida (4,440): Applicants may achieve Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) status with a high school diploma or GED. CAC must have at least 250 hours of training relevant to the job. Education must include at least 60 hours each in 1) understanding addictions and treatment and 2) professional readiness/ application to practice. The professional readiness curriculum must consist of two hours of domestic violence training and four hours of HIV/AIDS, regardless. The experience requirement is 6,000 hours for a trainee with education at the high school level and 4,000 for one with an associate or vocational degree.

As you can see, there are always opportunities for applicants with a high school education to launch their careers in addiction counseling.

Thank you for your time, and I hope we answered your questions in our **Guide to Addiction Counselor Certification**.

**For all other questions and comments, reach John by:**

Phone— 201-701-3205

Email— [john@educationalenhancement-casaonline.com](mailto:john@educationalenhancement-casaonline.com)

To Submit college courses in the field of addiction studies to our compliance officer email:

Maria Mendez: [Edctnenhancement@aol.com](mailto:Edctnenhancement@aol.com)

## **About Educational Enhancement CASAC-Online**

Educational Enhancement is a premier Online Addiction Counselor Training and Education Provider. Our curriculum is approved by OASAS in New York State (provider #0415).

## **Our Story**

Educational Enhancement was founded in 2002. Since its inception, we have provided training to over 5000 students with

an average 92% pass rate on the IC & RC exam. In 2020, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) forced us to adapt to new schedules, lifestyles, and norms.

Educational Enhancement is the first ONLINE Addictions Counselor education and training self-study hybrid program in New York State. Our OASAS-certified trainers are available to keep you motivated toward your goal and answer all your questions along your journey to becoming an Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CASAC in NYS).

Educational Enhancement is an approved CASAC Education and Training provider #0415 for the New York State Office of Addiction Supports and Services (OASAS).

## **Our Mission--Encourage. Educate. Empower.**

Educational Enhancement aims to provide the highest online Addictions Counselor Education and Training standards. Once you become part of our professional development community, we will continue to serve and inspire you in all your endeavors within the Addiction Recovery field. What distinguishes us from other training providers is that we gauge our success on your success.

**—Your success inspires us to excel.**

## **Our Philosophy**

We believe at Educational Enhancement that when you excel in your career as an addiction professional, so do we. We are here to

provide you with the highest education and professional development standard. When you become part of our online addictions counselor education and training program, you will be prepared to step into the addiction recovery field proudly. You will not only receive an education in a self-paced, enjoyable virtual classroom, but you'll join our community of peers. Your peers will encourage and motivate you to strive to reach the highest professional growth and development level.

## **Our Commitment**

Our commitment to you as an online addictions counselor education and training provider is to offer you all the tools and support you need to succeed. Once you purchase our [training](#), the material is yours to keep so you can watch it repeatedly. Our trainers are NYS CASAC, NAADAC, and IC & RC credentialed trainers. We are available to you via email, telephone, and in our private LinkedIn community. We are here to ENCOURAGE. EDUCATE. And EMPOWER you to succeed in motivating and making lasting impressions on persons struggling with substance use or co-occurring disorders today.

## **About Maria Mendez, President; CEO**

Advanced CASAC, NCAC I, Trainer

Maria has been in the field for over 30 years and has trained clinicians since 2002.

She has a wealth of knowledge, compassion, and passion for working with new students coming into the field.

## About **John Makohen VP; COO**

Johnny is passionate about online addiction counselor training. He has repurposed Educational Enhancement's traditional material in self-study training for you to thrive in addiction counseling. John enjoys motivating new CASACs and CASAC renewal applicants to succeed independently in all areas of their professional development.

John is responsible for guiding you through this training from a technical and motivational perspective. You can reach him in several ways listed below. It is suggested that you add his email address to your contact list, so you get all the emails from him or the team.

**Thank you**

**Educational Enhancement**