



## RECOVERY CHANGES LIVES

All over the world, individuals, families, and communities struggle with the ravaging effects of addiction, and the problem is growing.

The World Economic Forum predicts that the global economic impact of mental illness, including substance use disorders, will be \$16 trillion over the next 20 years. Even before that, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates that, by 2020, mental and substance abuse disorders will surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability worldwide. Drug deaths already outnumber traffic fatalities in the U.S. in recent years.

To turn this tide, the world desperately needs trained, ethical professionals to treat people healing from addiction and help them on their journey of recovery. Recovery is not about the past; it is about offering hope for the future - to people who are still struggling, their families, and communities.

## ABOUT IC&RC

For more than 30 years, IC&RC has developed credentials for addiction, prevention, treatment, and recovery professionals that adhere to the highest standards of quality and integrity.

Today, IC&RC represents 76 member boards, including 24 countries, 47 U.S. states and territories, and all branches of the U.S. military. Members also include five Native American territories.

### IC&RC's credentials include:

- ✓ Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC)
- ✓ Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC)
- ✓ Clinical Supervisor (CS)
- ✓ Prevention Specialist (PS)
- ✓ Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (CCJP)
- ✓ Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional (CCDP)
- ✓ Certified Co-Occurring Disorders Professional Diplomate (CCDPD)

The organization is in the process of developing a Peer Recovery Coach (PRC) credential.

IC&RC represents 45,000 reciprocal-level credentialed professionals. Up to half of all substance abuse professionals in the U.S. hold IC&RC certificates.

298 South Progress Avenue  
 Harrisburg, PA 17109 USA  
 +1 717 540 4457 Fax: +1 717 540 4458  
**InternationalCredentialing.org**

# ADC

## ALCOHOL & DRUG COUNSELOR

*A Credential That Changes  
Lives & Your Career*



**IC&RC**  
 Setting Global Standards for Addiction Professionals

## COUNSELING AS A PROFESSION

The United Nations Office of Drug Control estimates that “205 million people in the world use illicit drugs, of whom some 25 million are drug dependent. For \$US 1 invested in evidence-based treatment, up to \$US 6 are saved in terms of costs for health, security and welfare.”

Beyond drugs, the International Society for Addiction Medicine now defines addiction as a brain disease, regardless of substance or frequency.

A thorough understanding of the mechanisms of addiction and the latest evidence-based practices for treating it is the hallmark of a qualified professional. In keeping with its tradition of establishing high-quality practice standards, IC&RC developed the professional practice standards for **Alcohol & Drug Counselors**, which is recognized worldwide as the gold standard for competency in the field.

In its *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition*, the U.S. Department of Labor has named substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors as one of the fastest growing professions. The report goes on to mention the value of certification: “Becoming certified is voluntary, but having certification may enhance one’s job prospects.”

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ALCOHOL & DRUG COUNSELOR.**

**Take the first step at  
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## CREDENTIALING 101

Credentialing provides standardization to the rapidly growing profession of addiction recovery counseling.

Becoming credentialed demonstrates competency, by having professional expertise and qualifications verified by an independent evaluator. It recognizes achievement of a standard of professional education and experience necessary to provide quality treatment services.

**The internationally recognized standards for an Alcohol & Drug Counselor (ADC) are:**

### EXPERIENCE:

6,000 hours of supervised work experience specific to the ADC domains. An associate’s degree in behavioral science may substitute for 1,000 hours; a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science may substitute for 2,000 hours; a master’s degree in behavioral science may substitute for 4,000 hours.

### EDUCATION:

270 hours specific to the domains. Six hours must be specific to counselor ethics.

### SUPERVISION:

300 hours specific to the domains, with a minimum of ten hours in each domain.

### EXAMINATION:

Applicants must pass the IC&RC ADC Examination.

### CODE OF ETHICS:

Applicants must sign a counselor-specific code of ethics statement or affirmation statement.

### RECERTIFICATION:

40 hours of continuing education earned every two years.

## ADC DOMAINS

1. Clinical Evaluation
2. Treatment Planning
3. Referral
4. Service Coordination
5. Counseling
6. Client, Family & Community Education
7. Documentation
8. Professional & Ethical Responsibilities

TAP 21 Competencies & the 12 Core Functions are contained within these domains.

## A FIELD OF OPPORTUNITY

Created in 1981, the **Alcohol & Drug Counselor** is the largest credential in the field of addiction-related behavioral health care – totaling over 20,000 professionals worldwide. There are now more than 63 boards that offer a reciprocal ADC credential, including the following countries, U.S. states, and territories:

### COUNTRIES

Bermuda	Finland	Latvia
Canada	Greece	Lithuania
China	Germany	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Iceland	Norway
Denmark	India	Singapore
Estonia	Israel	Sweden
		United Kingdom

### U. S STATES & TERRITORIES

Alabama	Kentucky	Ohio
Arizona	Louisiana	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Maryland	Pacific
California	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Michigan	Puerto Rico
Delaware	Minnesota	Rhode Island
District of Columbia	Mississippi	South Dakota
Florida	Missouri	Texas
Georgia	Nebraska	Utah
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Vermont
Idaho	New Jersey	Virginia
Illinois	New Mexico	Washington
Indiana	New York	West Virginia
Iowa	North Carolina	Wisconsin

### ARMED FORCES, NATIVE AMERICAN & OTHER

U.S. Air Force	IHS California	World Federation of Therapeutic Communities
U.S. Army	IHS Nashville	
U.S. Navy	IHS Northern Plains Southwest	
	Upper Midwest	

Go to [InternationalCredentialing.org](http://InternationalCredentialing.org) for more information and to find your local Member Board. Each IC&RC Member Board has unique procedures, requirements, and documents – specific questions about pursuing an **Alcohol & Drug Counselor** credential should be directed to the local board.