

**SUBCHAPTER 185-10
COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING
BOARD REGULATIONS**

Part 4700- Addiction Professionals

§ 185-10-4701.	Definitions.
§ 185-10-4705.	Licensing.
§ 185-10-4710.	Requirements.
§ 185-10-4715.	Scope of Work
§ 185-10-4720.	Exemptions.
§ 185-10-4725.	Examination.
§ 185-10-4730.	Fees.
§ 185-10-4735.	Continuing Education.
§ 185-10-4740.	Restrictions.
§ 185-10-4745.	Privileged Communication.
§ 185-10-4750.	Disciplinary Action

§ 185-10-4701. **Definitions.**

- (1) **“Act”** refers to the Board’s enabling legislation, codified at 3 CMC §§ 2201–2236.
- (2) **“ADC”** means Addiction Disorder Counselor
- (3) **“Addiction counseling”** means a process involving a therapeutic relationship between a client who is experiencing addiction, dependence or abuse of alcohol or other drugs and a counselor or therapist trained to provide that assistance to address addiction, dependence, or abuse. Addiction counseling includes understanding and application of the limits of the counselor’s own qualifications and scope of practice, including, but not limited to, screening and, as indicated, referral to or consultation with an appropriately licensed healthcare practitioner consistent with the client’s needs. Addiction counseling includes all the following:
 - (a) Clinical intake, assessment, and evaluation
 - (b) Treatment planning
 - (c) Referral
 - (d) Service coordination/case management
 - (e) Counseling, including individual, group, family, and couples counseling
 - (f) Client, family, and community education
 - (g) Documentation
 - (h) Professional and ethical responsibilities
- (4) **“Advertise”** includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of any card, sign or device to any person, or the causing, permitting, or allowing of any sign or marking on or in any building or structure, or in any newspaper or magazine or in any directory, or any printed matter, with or without any limiting qualification. It also includes business solicitations communicated by radio or television broadcasting, the Internet, or any other electronic medium.
- (5) **“Board”** refers to the Healthcare Professions Licensing Board.
- (6) **“Certified Addiction Counselor”** means an individual who meets the requirements of these regulations and is licensed as a certified addiction counselor by the Board.
- (7) **“Clinical supervision”** means the ongoing process in which the supervisor participates with one or more supervisees to ensure high quality service delivery across domains of counselor development, professional and ethical standards, program development, quality assurance, performance evaluation and administration, as described in “Competencies for Substance Abuse Treatment Clinical Supervisors,” Technical Assistance Publication Series No. 21-A, published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, or other sources as the Board may specify by regulation.

- (8) **"Continuing education"** means an orderly process of instruction that is approved by an organization or the Board for addiction professionals and designed to directly enhance the practitioner's knowledge, competence, and skill in providing services relevant to his or her occupation.
- (9) **"Counseling"** means techniques and methods used to help individuals learn how to solve problems and make decisions related to personal growth, vocational, environmental, family, social, financial, and other interpersonal concerns.
- (10) **"EMAC"** means Examination for Master Addiction Counselor.
- (11) **"IC&RC"** means International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
- (12) **"Independent practice of addiction counseling"** means a person who renders for compensation, addiction counseling-related services to an individual, group, organization, corporation, institution, or the public, and who is licensed, trained, or experienced in addiction counseling, and who holds a license issued under this chapter to engage in such services.
- (13) **"Master Addiction Counselor"** means an individual who meets the requirements of these regulations and is licensed as a master addiction counselor by the Board.
- (14) **"NAADAC"** means National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
- (15) **"NBCC"** means National Board of Certified Counselors.+
- (16) **"NCAC"** means National Certified Addiction Counselor
- (17) **"NCC AP"** means National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals.
- (18) **"Practice of addiction counseling"** means the providing of professional services that are delivered by a licensed addiction professional, that are designed to change substance use or addictive behavior, and that involve specialized knowledge, competence, and skill related to addictions and addictive behaviors, including understanding addiction, knowledge of the treatment process, application to practice and professional readiness. The term includes:
 - (a) gathering information through structured interview screens using routine protocols;
 - (b) reviewing assessment findings to assist in the development of a plan individualized for treatment services and to coordinate services;
 - (c) referring for assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, and mental health therapy;
 - (d) providing client and family education related to addictions;
 - (e) providing information on social networks and community systems for referrals and discharge planning;
 - (f) participating in multidisciplinary treatment team meetings or consulting with clinical addiction professionals;

- (g) counseling, through individual and group counseling, as well as group and family education, to treat addiction and substance use disorders in a variety of settings, including but not limited to:
 - (i) mental and physical health facilities; and
 - (ii) child and family service agencies; and
- (h) maintaining the highest level of professionalism and ethical responsibility.
- (19) **"Practitioner"** means an individual who holds an unlimited license, certificate, or registration; a limited or probationary license, certificate, or registration; a temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit; an intern permit; or a provisional license.
- (20) **"Professional Addiction Counselor"** means a person who renders for compensation, addiction counseling-related services to an individual, group, organization, corporation, institution, or the public, and who is licensed, trained, or experienced in addiction counseling, and who holds a license issued under this Part to engage in the professional practice of addiction counseling.
- (21) **"Registrant"** means an uncertified or unlicensed person who is while completing the requirements for certification or licensure under these regulations, who has completed no less than 12 semester units, or 18 quarter units of the education required under these regulations and who is registered with the Board.
- (22) **"Supervised work experience"** refers to a time during which an applicant provides addiction counseling services directly to clients diagnosed with a substance use disorder, including treatment of clients, and at least 50% of the time consists of providing addiction counseling services directly to clients diagnosed with a substance use disorder. The supervisor(s) must be approved by the Board in advance of applicant providing any addiction counseling services.
- (23) **"Supervisee"** means a registrant or certified or licensed addiction counselor under these regulations who is seeking to meet the supervised experience requirements of these regulations.

§ 185-10-4705. Licensing.

An individual may not engage in the practice of professional addiction counseling unless the person is licensed as a Certified Addiction Counselor (Level I/NCAC I), Certified Addiction Counselor (Level II/NCAC II), or Master Addiction Counselor under these Regulations.

§ 185-10-4710. Requirements.

- (1) The Board shall certify or license, at the appropriate level, as applicable, everyone who the Board determines to meet the criteria outlined below.
- (2) **Certified Addiction Counselor (Level I/NCAC I) licensing requirements.** An individual who applies for licensure as an Addiction Counselor Level I must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board that the individual has:

- (i) AA Degree or higher with a clinical application, including at least 270 clock hours of substance use disorder related topics, six (6) hours of which must be related to ethics education and training within the last six (6) years and six (6) hours related to HIV/AIDS/Other pathogens education and training within the last six (6) years. If not received with degree, these hours can be obtained as advanced coursework outside of the school setting.
 - (ii) Completed 6,000 hours of supervised work experience or three (3) years full time work in substance use disorders training, with 600 hours being direct client work, prior to taking the examination. Supervisor and supervisee must keep records of the experience and supervision hours. At the end of the supervision period, the supervisor must prepare and forward to the board a written evaluation, including a written evaluation for this credential including written certification of successfully completed supervised hours of substance use disorder training and any hours not successfully completed.
 - (b) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board via a state and federal level criminal offender record information search that the individual does not have:
 - (i) convictions of five (5) or more criminal offenses within a 30-month period ending two (2) years or less prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (ii) a conviction of a violent felony within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (iii) a conviction related to a controlled substance within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (c) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice without endangering the public.
 - (d) A passing score on one (1) of the following exams:
 - (i) NCAC Level One (1) exam through National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCCAP).
 - (ii) ADC exam through the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC& RC).
 - (e) Submit a completed application to the Board for review.
 - (f) Pay the fee established by the Board.
- (3) Certified Addiction Counselor (Level II/NCAC II) licensing requirements. An individual who applies for licensure as an Addiction Disorder Counselor Level II must meet the following requirements:
- (a) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board that the individual has:

- (i) received a bachelor's degree or higher in addiction counseling or other allied mental health profession (social work, mental health counseling, psychology), including at least 450 clock hours of substance use disorder related topics, six (6) hours of which must be related to ethics education and training within the last six (6) years and six (6) hours related to HIV/AIDS/Other pathogens education and training within the last six (6) years. If not received with degree, these hours can be obtained as advanced coursework outside of the school setting.
 - (ii) completed 6,000 hours of supervised work experience or three (3) years full time work in substance use disorders training, with 600 hours being direct client work, prior to taking the examination for this credential.
 - (b) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board via a state and federal level criminal offender record information search that the individual does not have:
 - (i) convictions of five (5) or more criminal offenses within a 30-month period ending two (2) years or less prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (ii) a conviction of a violent felony within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (iii) a conviction related to a controlled substance within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (c) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice without endangering the public.
 - (d) A passing score on one (1) of the following exams:
 - (i) National Certified Addiction Counselor Level II exam through National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP).
 - (ii) EMAC exam through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
 - (iii) AADC exam through the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC).
 - (e) Submit a completed application to the Board for review.
 - (f) Pay the fee established by the Board.
- (4) Master Addiction Counselor (Level III) licensing requirements. An individual who applies for a license as a Master Addiction Disorder Counselor Level III must meet the following requirements:
- (a) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board that the individual has:
 - (i) received a master's degree or higher in addiction counseling or other allied mental health profession (social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family counseling, psychology), including at least 500 hours of substance use disorder related topics, six (6) hours of which must be related to ethics education and training

within the last six (6) years and six (6) hours related to HIV/AIDS/Other pathogens education and training within the last six (6) years. If not received with degree, these hours can be obtained as advanced coursework outside of the school setting.

- (ii) completed 6,000 hours of supervised work experience in substance use disorders, with 2, 000 hours being direct client work, prior to taking the examination for this credential but after obtaining the master's (or higher) degree.
- (b) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board via a state and federal level criminal offender record information search that the individual does not have:
 - (i) convictions of five (5) or more criminal offenses within a 30-month period ending two (2) years or less prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (ii) a conviction of a violent felony within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (iii) a conviction related to a controlled substance within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
- (c) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice without endangering the public.
- (d) A passing score on one (1) of the following exams:
 - (i) Master Addiction Counselor (MAC) exam through National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP).
 - (ii) EMAC exam through the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
 - (iii) AADC exam through the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC).
- (e) Submit a completed application to the Board for review.
- (f) Pay the fee established by the Board.
- (5) Licensure education requirements
 - (a) All substance use disorders related education accepted for purposes of licensure must be from one of the "Addiction Counseling Competencies" outlined in the Technical Assistance Publication Series No. 21, published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.
 - (b) All clinical supervisor related education accepted for purposes of licensure must be from one of the "Competencies for Substance Abuse Treatment Clinical Supervisors" outlined in the Technical Assistance Publication Series No. 21A, published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

- (c) All degrees accepted for purposes of licensure must be from one of the following:
 - (i) a higher learning institution located in the United States or a territory of the United States that was accredited on the date of graduation by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the U.S. Department of Education.
 - (ii) a higher learning institution located in Canada that was in good standing on the date of graduation with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.
 - (iii) a foreign higher learning institution that on the date of graduation was recognized by the government of the country where the school was located as a program to train in the practice of addiction counseling and has maintained a standard of training substantially equivalent to the standards of institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the U.S. Department of Education.
 - (d) Applicants with a master's degree (or higher) that did not emphasize substance use disorders or mental health counseling may complete the course work requirement from an institution that is:
 - (i) accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP);
 - (ii) recognized by NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) – National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP);
 - (iii) recognized by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC);
 - (iv) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (CAMFTE);
 - (v) accredited by the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation (APA); or
 - (vi) accredited by the Council on Social Work Board (ASWB); or
 - (vii) accredited by the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC).
 - (e) Education and supervised work experience gained outside of the state may be accepted toward the licensure or certification requirements.
- (6) Licensure supervised work experience requirements:
- (a) The supervised work experience required must be provided by a qualified and licensed supervisor, as determined by the Board. Prior to the commencement of clinical supervision, a supervisor must comply with all requirements for supervisors as established by the Board by regulation.

- (b) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised work experience requirement.
- (c) The supervised work experience requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the premises of the qualified supervisor. However, the supervised work experience requirement may not be performed away from the qualified supervisor's premises if:
 - (i) the work is the independent private practice of addiction counseling; or
 - (ii) the work is not performed at a place that has the supervision of a qualified supervisor.
- (d) Experience shall be gained only in a setting that meets all the following:
 - (i) Lawfully and regularly provides alcohol and other drug counseling.
 - (ii) Provides oversight to ensure that the supervisee's work at the setting meets the experience and clinical supervision requirements set forth in these regulations and is within the scope of practice for the profession.
 - (iii) Work experience shall not be gained as an independent contractor.
- (e) The required hours of supervised experience shall be obtained over a period of not less than two (2) years and shall have been gained within the six (6) years immediately preceding the date on which the application for certification or licensure was filed.
- (f) Experience shall not be credited for more than forty (40) hours in any week.
- (g) The supervisor and the supervisee shall develop a supervisory plan that describes the goals and objectives of clinical supervision. These goals shall include the ongoing assessment of strengths and limitations and the assurance of practice in accordance with the laws and regulations. The supervisee shall submit to the Board the initial original supervisory plan upon application for licensure or certification.
- (h) A supervisee must receive an average of at least one (1) hour of direct supervisor contact for every week in which more than ten (10) hours of face-to-face or group counseling is performed in each setting where experience is gained. (No more than five (5) hours of clinical supervision, whether individual or group, shall be credited during any single week.) For purposes of this section, "direct supervisor contact" means one (1) hour of face-to-face contact on an individual basis or two (2) hours of face-to-face contact in a group, of not more than eight (8) persons receiving clinical supervision, addressing the substance of the supervisory plan. The face-to-face contact may also be conducted using a telehealth service provider.
- (i) A supervisee may be either a paid employee or a volunteer. Employers are encouraged to provide fair remuneration to supervisees.
- (j) A supervisee shall not receive any remuneration from patients or clients and shall be paid only by his or her employer. A supervisee shall not have any proprietary interest in the employer's business.

- (k) A supervisee may receive clinical supervision from a person not employed by the supervisee's employer if that person has signed a written agreement with the employer to take supervisory responsibility for the supervisee's substance use disorder counseling and hours of clinical supervision are formally recorded.
- (l) The Board may limit, by regulation, the number of registrants that anyone (1) supervisor may supervise, the number of registrants that may be supervised in any given program or setting, and the proportion of the workforce in any given program or setting, which may be comprised of registrants, or any of these.
- (m) A supervisor must be licensed in the CNMI to oversee the work of a supervisee.

§ 185-10-4715. Scope of Work

(1) Certified Addiction Counselor (Level I/NCAC I)

The Scope of Practice for the category of those with an AA degree include the following activities with clinical supervision from a Master Addiction Counselor/Supervisor (Level III or higher), licensed psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, licensed social worker, or other qualified provider approved by the board. The Certified Addiction Counselor I cannot provide clinical or administrative supervision of staff but can supervise community and social activities.

- (a) Diagnostic impression and Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment of SUD (SBIRT).
- (b) Monitor treatment plan/compliance
- (c) Referral
- (d) Service Coordination and case management for SUD
- (e) Psycho-educational counseling of individuals and groups
- (f) Client, Family, and Community Education
- (g) Documentation
- (h) Professional and Ethical Responsibilities

(2) Certified Addiction Disorder Counselor (Level II/NCAC II)

The Scope of Practice for the category of those with a bachelor's degree includes the following activities with clinical supervision of a Master Addiction Counselor/Supervisor (Level III or higher), licensed psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed social worker, or other qualified licensed provider approved by the board. The Certified Addiction Counselor (Level II/NCAC II) may provide administrative supervision of the Level I Addiction Counselor.

- (a) Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment Referral (SBIRT), Clinical evaluation, including diagnostic impression, screening, and assessment of SUD.

- (b) Treatment Planning for Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and Co-Occurring Disorders (COD), including initial, ongoing, continuity of care, discharge, and planning for relapse prevention
- (c) Referral
- (d) Service Coordination and case management for SUDs and CODs
- (e) Counseling, therapy, trauma informed care, and psycho-education with individuals, families, and groups
- (f) Client, Family, and Community Education
- (g) Documentation
- (h) Professional and Ethical Responsibilities
- (i) Provide administrative supervision of Category 1 Substance Use Counselor.

(3) Master Addiction Counselor (Level III)

The Master Addiction Counselor typically has a Master or other post graduate degree. The following activities of an unlicensed Master Addiction Counselor will require clinical supervision under a licensed Master Addiction Counselor (Level III or higher), licensed psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed social worker, or other qualified licensed provider approved by the board.

- (a) Clinical evaluation, including screening, assessment, and diagnosis of Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and Co-Occurring Disorders (CODs)
- (b) Treatment Planning for SUDs and CODs, including initial, ongoing, continuity of care, discharge, and planning for relapse prevention
- (c) Referral
- (d) Service Coordination and case management in the areas of SUDs and CODs
- (e) Counseling, therapy, trauma informed care, and psycho-education with individuals, families and groups in the areas of SUDs and CODs
- (f) Client, Family, and Community Education
- (g) Documentation
- (h) Professional and Ethical Responsibilities
- (i) Clinical supervisory responsibilities for all categories SUD counselors.

§ 185-10-4720. Exemptions.

The Board shall exempt an individual from the requirements set forth in these regulations and grant the individual an applicable license if the individual meets the following requirements:

- (1) Federal or state government employees in job classification of addiction counselor position providing rehabilitation and support services to individuals in mental health, alcohol, or drug abuse facilities, state hospital and treatment facility, division of state mental health services for family and children, or state prison facility. Individuals in this category shall be exempt from having an active license to provide addictions services provided the individual has the training experience and academic degree commensurate with the appropriate scope of work in addiction services (noted in § 185-10-4710) and must be under the supervision of a Licensed Psychiatrist, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Licensed Social Worker, or other qualified licensed provider approved by the Board; and does not represent himself/herself to be a licensed mental health or professional counselor or associate;
- (2) Individuals working as clinical addictions counselors who possess the minimal training and education commensurate with the appropriate scope of work in addictions services (noted in § 185-10-4710) who are practicing under the supervision of a Licensed Psychiatrist, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Licensed Social Worker, or other qualified licensed provider approved by the Board; and does not represent himself/herself to be a licensed mental health or professional counselor or associate;
- (3) Individuals providing instructions and/or research in educational institutions;
- (4) Any person who is a duly recognized member of the clergy, provided that the person functions only within the scope of the performance of the ministerial duties of an established and legally recognizable church or denomination and the person performing the services remains accountable to the established authority of the Church or denomination and provided further, that the person does not represent himself/herself to be a licensed mental health or professional counselor or mental health counselor associate;
- (5) Individuals responding to a state emergency declaration.
- (6) Holds a valid certification/licensure as an addiction counselor or addiction therapist from a credentialing agency that is approved by the Board. (e.g. NAADAC or IC & RC).
- (7) Furnishes satisfactory evidence to the Board via a state and federal level criminal offender record information search that the individual does not have:
 - (a) convictions of five (5) or more criminal offenses within a 30-month period ending two (2) years or less prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (b) a conviction of a violent felony within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (c) a conviction related to a controlled substance within three (3) years prior to the date of the Board's determination.
 - (d) Submit a completed application to the Board for review.

- (e) Pay the fee established by the Board.
- (8) These regulations do not apply to the activities or services of a licensed physician, licensed psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist, or religious leader providing pastoral counseling (remove as this is redundant?) trained in addictions counseling provided that such counseling is within the scope of their duties. These regulations do not apply to school counselors certified by the state education agency providing school counseling within the scope of school counselors.
- (9) The criteria for licensed clinical social workers, marriage & family therapists, or licensed professional counselors require 180 clock hours of substance abuse specific education to include any course with a specific substance abuse/chemical dependence focus. No more than ninety (90) of these hours may be counseling courses without a substance abuse focus. Also required are six (6) hours in confidentiality for substance abuse programs and six (6) hours of substance abuse ethics.
- (10) Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to limit the activities and services of a student, intern, or resident in professional addiction counseling seeking to fulfill educational requirements in order to qualify for a license under these regulations, or an individual seeking to fulfill the post-degree experience requirements in order to qualify for a license under these regulations, if the activities or services are supervised as specified in these regulations, and that the student, intern, or resident is designated by the term “intern” or “resident” or other designation of trainee status. Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit students, interns, or residents to offer their services as professional addiction counselors to any person and to accept remuneration for such professional addiction counseling services other than as specifically exempted in this section, unless they have been licensed under these regulations.
- (11) Nothing in these regulations shall prohibit individuals not licensed under the provisions of these regulations who work in self-help or mutual support groups or programs or not-for profit organizations from providing services in those groups, programs, organizations, or healthcare financing agencies, as long as those persons are not in any manner held out to the public as practicing professional addiction counseling, or do not hold themselves out to the public by any title or designation stating or implying that they are professional addiction counselors.

§ 185-10-4725. Examination.

- (1) The written examinations the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands recognizes are sponsored by the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) and the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). The board recognized National and Regional certification boards; National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) and the National Boards for Certified Counselors (NBCC).
- (2) An individual who wishes to apply for licensure as an addiction professional must take the corresponding examination.
- (3) An applicant’s identity will be kept confidential and test scores are held by the testing board.
- (4) An applicant who fails the examination may take a subsequent examination on payment of the required examination fee. However, an applicant may only take two (2) subsequent examinations within a one (1) year period for a total of three (3) exams in a one-year period.

185-10 HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD

- (5) An individual who applies for an addiction counselor license under this article may be exempted by the Board from the examination requirement if the individual has met all the following:
- (a) is licensed or certified as an addiction counselor in another state and has passed a licensing or certifying examination substantially equivalent to the licensing examination required under these regulations;
 - (b) has engaged in the practice of addiction counseling and/or supervision for at least three of the previous five (5) years;
 - (c) has not committed a crime of moral turpitude and has not had any adverse actions taken against them by any licensing board of any jurisdiction and is not under investigation for any act that constitutes a violation of these regulations.

§ 185-10-4730. Fees.

PROFESSION	APPLICATION FEE	INITIAL LICENSE	RENEWAL LICENSE	LATE FEE/LICENSE VERIFICATION
Certified Addition Counselor (Level I/NCAC I)	\$100	\$100	\$200	\$25
Certified Addition Counselor (Level II/NCAC II)	\$100	\$100	\$200	\$25
Master Addition Counselor	\$100	\$100	\$200	\$25

§ 185-10-4735. Continuing Education.

The Board shall prepare or approve the preparation and administration of continuing education programs for licensed addiction counselors under this Act. The Board shall provide by rule for the administration of the continuing education requirements for license renewal under these regulations.

- (1) A person licensed under these regulations must complete at least forty (45) hours of continuing education within the two (2) year period in which the person holds a license as a requirement for the renewal of the license.
- (2) The practitioner shall provide the Board with a sworn statement executed by the practitioner that the practitioner has fulfilled the continuing education requirements required by the Board.
- (3) The practitioner shall retain copies of certificates of completion for continuing education courses for three (3) years from the end of the licensing period for which the continuing education applied. The practitioner shall provide the Board with copies of the certificates of completion upon the Board's request for a compliance audit.
- (4) Following every license renewal period, the Board shall randomly audit for compliance more than 1% but less than 10% of the practitioners required to take continuing education courses.

§ 185-10-4740. Restrictions.

- (1) An individual licensed, registered, or certified under these regulations may engage in the practice of addiction counseling.
- (2) A person who has received a certificate, registration or license under these regulations may use the title “Licensed Addiction Counselor”, or “Licensed Master Addiction Counselor” in accordance with the type of certificate, registration or license possessed.
- (3) Unlicensed individuals may not:
 - (a) profess to be a licensed addiction professional;
 - (b) use the title(s):
 - (i) "Licensed Addiction Counselor";
 - (ii) "Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor";
 - (iii) "Licensed Clinical Addiction Therapist";
 - (iv) "Licensed Addiction Therapist";
 - (v) "Addiction Counselor";
 - (vi) "Addiction Therapist";
 - (vii) "Clinical Addiction Counselor";
 - (viii) "Clinical Addiction Therapist";
 - (ix) "Substance Abuse Counselor";
 - (x) "Substance Abuse Therapist";
 - (xi) "Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor";
 - (xii) "Clinical Substance Abuse Therapist"; or
 - (xiii) Any other title containing the words mentioned in (A) – (L).
 - (c) use any other:
 - (i) words;
 - (ii) letters;
 - (iii) abbreviations; or
 - (iv) insignia; indicating or implying that the individual is a Licensed Addiction Counselor or Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor; or

- (v) practice as an addiction counselor or clinical addiction counselor for compensation, unless the individual is licensed under this article.

§ 185-10-4745. Privileged Communication.

Breach of a privileged communication, except as provided for in this Article is considered unprofessional conduct and grounds for revocation or suspension of a license.

§ 185-10-4750. Disciplinary Action

The Board shall have the power to impose administrative penalties and/or reprimands; revoke or suspend; refuse to issue, restore, or renew, the license of any person who is found to have violated one or more of the provisions enumerated in P.L. 15-105 § 2224 and sections 185-10-901 through 185-10-1301.