



The Virginia Certification Board (VCB) has developed the following to outline the general requirements for certification in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

VCB offers credentials that help a professional progress along a career ladder and offer many pathways to certification. While some professionals may choose to stay at a certain level, progression through the ladder comes with the proper experience, education and examination. Professionals may begin wherever their current experience and education level permit. For more detailed requirements, please review the corresponding application on VCB’s website at www.vacertboard.org. VCB offers several certifications:

- Associate Addiction Counselor (AAC)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)
- Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC)

	AAC	CADC	CAADC	CSAC**
Education	200 hours	270 hours	180 hours	220 hours
Experience	2 years	3 years	1 year	1 year
Supervision	200 hours	300 hours	100 hours	100 hours, face-to-face
Exam	No	Yes	Waived until 5/15/2017	Yes
Degree	High School Diploma/GED	High School Diploma/GED*	Master’s	Bachelor’s
Recertification	45 hours including 3 hours in ethics every two years	40 hours including 3 hours in ethics every two years	40 hours including 3 hours in ethics every two years	Fee only

*Effective March 1, 2018 the CADC will require a minimum Bachelor’s degree.

** The CSAC is a state specific, non-reciprocal certification that is shown for comparison purposes only. VCB does not offer nor endorse the CSAC.

Benefits of Certification through VCB

- ***VCB offers international, reciprocal certifications through IC&RC.*** We offer the ability to seamlessly transfer a professional's certification to and from other IC&RC Member Boards – no other certification in the Commonwealth can offer reciprocity in this fashion.
- ***VCB's certification process allows professionals to quickly gain a competency-based certification by reviewing applications daily and on-demand, computer based testing.*** Professionals can take an examination throughout the year at their convenience and do not need to wait for specific testing cycles.
- ***VCB requires its professionals to continue their education.*** To ensure its professionals are staying up-to-date with best practices, VCB requires that their professionals seek continuing education to renew their certification. This is an added level of public protection.
- ***VCB provides public protection*** and a grievance process for those harmed.

Importance of Certification

- ***Certification identifies professionals who are specialists in the field, setting them apart from others not certified.***
- ***Certified professionals are recognized in state and national insurance legislation.***
- ***Certification is based on industry standards and evidence-based practices.***
- ***Certification is a marketing tool for the professional when seeking employment or advancement.***
- ***Certification is a marketing tool for the agency when promoting their services to the public, the client, potential clients, and payers.***

For more information or if you need assistance determining your next steps, please email info@vacertboard.org or call 804.741.2319.