



*There are many pathways to certification, and no “wrong door” for professionals to enter through.* The Virginia Certification Board (VCB) has developed the following to outline the general requirements for certification, as well as the requirements to obtain other credentials. VCB offers credentials that help a professional progress along a career ladder. 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](http://www.vacertboard.org). VCB offers several certifications:

- Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS)
- Associate Addiction Counselor (AAC)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)
- Certified Community Health Worker (CCHW)
- Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS)
- Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC)

	CPRS*	CCHW	AAC	CADC *	CAADC*	CCS*
Education	72 hours	60 hours	200 hours	300 hours	180 hours	30 hours
Experience	500 hours	1 year	2 years	3 years	1 year	2 years
Supervision	25 hours	50 hours	200 hours	300 hours	100 hours	200 hours
Exam	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Degree	High School Diploma/GED	N/A	High School Diploma/GED	Bachelor’s	Master’s	Master’s or Prerequisite certification

**\*Denotes reciprocal level certification**

## Common Job Titles of Professionals Seeking Certification

Professionals seeking certification hold many job titles. This is not intended to be a full list of what is accepted, but rather a guide to what job titles fall under a specific certification. If you have questions regarding job title, or responsibilities you should contact VCB.

### CPRS

Peer Specialist  
Peer Recovery Specialist  
Recovery Coach  
Recovery Navigator  
Recovery Specialist  
Program Aide

### COUNSELOR CERTIFICATIONS\*

Counselor Assistant  
Junior Counselor  
Counselor  
Addiction Therapist  
Clinical Supervisor  
Co-Occurring Specialist

\*Counselor Certifications include: AAC, CADC, and CAADC.

## Benefits 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.
- *Certification provides public protection* and a grievance process for those harmed.

For more information or if you need assistance determining your next steps, please email [info@vacertboard.org](mailto:info@vacertboard.org) or call 804.741.2319.