



AAC APPLICATION

Associate Addiction Counselor

298 S. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109
Phone: 804-741-2319 | Fax: 717-540-4458
www.vacertboard.org | info@vacertboard.org

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS – READ CAREFULLY

Prior to submitting your application, you must have all requirements completed and documented. Use the table below as a guide for gathering your documentation.

Do not submit any documentation with your application that is not listed on the table or the application unless specifically instructed by a staff member. Do not submit your application until you have completed the application requirements.

REQUIREMENT	DOCUMENTATION	✓
Application Page with payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 7 	
Experience & Supervision Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 8 Previous relevant employment documentation (if needed). 	
Current Job Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain from employer. 	
Supervision Documentation Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 9 	
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Diploma/GED transcripts or diploma or official college/university transcripts Copies of trainings 	
Acknowledgement & Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 10, notarized 	
Disciplinary Actions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include letter of explanation with application. 	
Convicted of a felony?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include letter of explanation with application. 	
Company paying fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include applicant name on payment. 	
Copy entire application for records		

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Mail:** VCB, 298 S. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109
- Email:** info@vacertboard.org *NOTE: Only PDFs are permitted. Photos of applications are not accepted.*
- Fax:** 717-540-4458 *NOTE: faxing is an unreliable technology. Receiving a confirmation of fax does not indicate it has been received. To confirm receipt of your application, email info@vacertboard.org.*

REVIEW & APPROVAL PROCESS

- Application submitted to the Board. To confirm receipt of your application, you must email the Board at the above email address.
- Staff reviews application. Allow 5- 10 business days for review and processing of your application.
- Applicant will be emailed if there is any documentation missing from the application or there are questions regarding your application. It is imperative that you write your email legibly.
- If you have not heard from the Board regarding your application, check the Credential Search on the website. If your name does not appear after 10 business days, email info@vacertboard.org.
- A certificate will be mailed to you automatically within 5-10 business days.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPEAL PROCESS

The purpose of appeal is to determine if the Board accurately, adequately and fairly reviewed an application that is denied. A letter requesting an appeal must be sent to the Board in writing within 30 days of the notification of the Board's action. An applicant shall be considered notified three days after the relevant date of mailing. The written appeal will be sent to the Executive Committee who in turn will thoroughly review the entire application and materials to determine whether or not applicant should have been denied approval. The applicant will be notified in writing as to the findings of the Executive Committee.

CERTIFICATION TIME PERIOD

Certification encompasses two calendar years beginning on the date the applicant passes the examination. The certificate issued to the professional lists the following information: name of professional, credential name, date of issue, date of expiration and certification number.

If a professional holds the AAC for four consecutive years, they may upgrade to the CADC without a degree.

FELONIES & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

While felonies and disciplinary actions from other certification/licensing entities may not prohibit certification, documentation is required to be submitted at the time of application. Certification through the Board does not mean a professional should not disclose this information to potential employers and does not in any way exonerate charges.

REQUESTS TO CHANGE APPLICATION

Professionals who wish to have their application re-reviewed for another credential the Board offers prior to taking the examination, or after an unsuccessful attempt at the examination will incur a \$50 application change/review fee.

RE-CERTIFICATION

To maintain the high standards of professional practice and to assure continuing awareness of new knowledge in the field, the Board requires recertification every two years. Professionals should review the Recertification Application for credential specific requirements listed on the Board website well in advance of their expiration date.

ASSOCIATE ADDICTION COUNSELOR REQUIREMENTS

Prior to submitting your application, applicants must have all requirements completed and documented.

LEVEL OF EDUCATION

A minimum high school diploma/GED from an accredited school. A copy of the transcript or diploma is acceptable. If the school is from outside the United States an equivalency must be done by an organization that specializes in that process. The applicant is responsible for arranging this process and all costs.

If the applicant's High School is no longer open, contact the office. Veterans may provide discharge documentation in lieu of a High School Diploma/GED. **It is recommended you obtain documentation approximately three weeks prior to sending in your application.**

- High School Diploma/GED.

Degree documentation can be sent in lieu of a high school diploma/GED. The degree must be from an accredited college/university that is recognized by the US Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. An official transcript sent directly from college/university is required. If the degree is from outside the United States a degree equivalency must be done by an organization that specializes in that process. The applicant is responsible for arranging this process and all costs.

Official transcripts are required and must be sent directly from college/university to the Board office. If your college/university uses an e-transcript system, they can be emailed directly to the Board. **It is recommended you request transcripts approximately three weeks prior to sending in your application.**

EXPERIENCE & SUPERVISION

Qualifying experience is defined as providing primary, direct, clinical, substance use disorder or co-occurring counseling to persons whose primary diagnosis is that of substance use disorder or providing supervision of said counseling. Applicant must have primary responsibility for providing substance use disorder counseling in an individual and/or group setting, preparing treatment plans, documenting client progress and is clinically supervised. Examples of positions that typically are not approved include: case managers, technicians, peer and recovery counselors/specialists, intake, admissions, etc.

The applicant must be currently employed in the qualifying position at the time of application. Only employment within the last seven (7) years may be counted towards the total experience requirement.

If the applicant's experience requirement is not fulfilled from their current employer, they must include a letter (on company letterhead) from previous employer(s) verifying their duties and dates employed with their application.

- **Experience:** two (2) years of full-time employment or 4000 hours of part-time of employment.

Supervision is a formal or informal process that is evaluative, clinical, and supportive. It can be provided by more than one person, it ensures quality of clinical care, and extends over time. Supervision includes observation, mentoring, coaching, evaluating, inspiring, and creating an atmosphere that promotes self-motivation, learning, and professional development. In all aspects of the supervision process, ethical and diversity issues must be in the forefront.

- **Supervision:** 200 hours with a minimum of 10 hours in each domain. Hours may be included in the total experience requirement.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION

All applicants must include their current job description with their application. This document is provided by your employer and must be signed and dated by you and your supervisor. Job descriptions are reviewed as a part of experience verification. If your supervisor does not have your job description, you should contact your organization's Human Resource department. The Board does not provide the job description.

- **Current job description:** obtained from employer.

EDUCATION

Education is defined as formal, structured instruction in the form of workshops, trainings, seminars, in-services, college/university credit courses and online education. If you provide this type of education to other professionals, you may use it towards the education requirement with documentation from the organization or college/university. Most three-credit college/university courses are 45 hours. There is no time limit on the use of education for initial certification.

Education review is available prior to application submission with the use of the Education Review Form on the Board website.

- **Education:** 200 total hours of education relevant to the field of substance use disorders.
 - Six (6) of the hours must be in professional ethics and responsibilities that are specific to behavioral health. Ethics courses that are in business, philosophy, religion, etc. are not accepted.

FEE

The application fee may be paid by check, money order or with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. One-half of the application fee is refundable if application is denied. If an employer or organization is paying the application fee, they must include the applicants name with the payment. Failure to include the applicants name will result in delay in approval of the application.

- **Application Fee:** \$100 *(fee must accompany application and materials)*

VCB APPLICATION FOR AAC

Form can be completed and saved. You may then print the appropriate pages to submit to VCB.

TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: _____ DOB: _____ Male Female Self-identify _____

Name: _____ SSN: (last four) _____
Print your name as it should appear on your certificate. Credentials and degrees will not be printed.

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____
PRINT LEGIBLY: EMAIL IS OUR PRIMARY WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOU.

College/University: _____

Name on Transcript: _____

Date Transcript Requested: _____ Delivery Method: _____

Have you ever received any disciplinary action from another certification/licensing authority? Yes No
If yes, provide full details on a separate sheet.

Have you read and understood the VCB Code of Ethical Conduct? Yes No
The Code of Ethical Conduct is located at www.vacertboard.org, and click on Ethics.

Military Experience: Not Applicable Active Veteran

Ethnicity: American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Caucasian Hispanic Latino
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Not specified: _____

Employment plans for the next two years: Increase Hours Decrease Hours No Change Seek Advancement
 Retire Move to a different career Unknown

PAYMENT INFORMATION

FEE OF \$100 CAN BE PAID USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (CHECK ONE):

Check Money Order VISA MasterCard Discover American Express
Checks & Money Orders made payable to VCB

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Sec. Code: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Name on Card: _____

Billing address: _____
(If different than Home Address)

Email for receipt (if paying by credit card only): _____

AAC APPLICATION: EXPERIENCE & SUPERVISION INFORMATION

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Employer Name: _____

Employer City: _____ Zip: _____

Applicant Position/Title: _____

Hire Date in Current Position: _____

How many hours do you work per week? _____

Do you need to document previous employment to fulfill the experience requirement? Yes No

If yes, a letter (on company letterhead) from previous employer(s) verifying your duties and dates employed must be included with your application.

DO NOT SUBMIT A RESUME WITH YOUR APPLICATION. IT WILL NOT BE REVIEWED AND IT DOES NOT FULFILL THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR EXPERIENCE.

CURRENT SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Immediate Supervisor Name: _____

Supervisor Position/Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Average Number of Hours of Supervision Received Per Week: _____

Do you have more than one supervisor or need to document supervision from a previous employer? Yes No

If yes, provide copies of the AAC Application: Supervision Documentation Form (page 9) to all supervisors. Multiple supervision forms can be submitted with your application.

AAC APPLICATION: SUPERVISION DOCUMENTATION FORM

Form to be completed by Applicant's current and/or previous clinical supervisor(s).

This form is not intended to document all experience or supervision hours of the applicant, rather the minimum hours required for the certification. Please note: the standard hours accepted for clinical supervision is two (2) hours per week. If you document more than that for the applicant (your supervisee) you will need to provide documentation to the Board for the hours to be accepted. This will delay the approval of your supervisee's application.

Supervision is a formal or informal process that is evaluative, clinical, and supportive. It can be provided by more than one person, it ensures quality of clinical care, and extends over time. Supervision includes observation, mentoring, coaching, evaluating, inspiring, and creating an atmosphere that promotes self-motivation, learning, and professional development. In all aspects of the supervision process, ethical and diversity issues must be in the forefront.

Applicant Name: _____

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Licenses, Certifications and/or Degrees: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Employer Name: _____

Employer City: _____ Zip: _____

CLINICAL SUPERVISION DOCUMENTATION

Clinical Supervision was provided in the following Domains (check all that apply):

DOMAIN:	NUMBER OF HOURS:
<input type="checkbox"/> Screening, Assessment, & Engagement	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment Planning, Collaboration, & Referral	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional & Ethical Responsibilities	_____
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF CLINICAL SUPERVISION:	_____

Supervisor Attestation:

I attest that the above-named applicant is providing primary, direct, clinical, substance use disorder or co-occurring counseling to persons whose primary diagnosis is that of substance use disorders or providing supervision of said counseling. They have primary responsibility for providing counseling in an individual and/or group setting, preparing treatment plans, documenting client progress and is clinically supervised. **Current employers:** I have provided the applicant with their job description, reviewed it with them, signed and dated it. **Previous employers (if applicable):** I have provided the applicant with a letter (on company letterhead) listing and verifying their duties and dates employed.

Supervisor Signature

Date

AAC APPLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RELEASE

This page must be completed by the applicant. It must be notarized and submitted with the application.

RELEASE

I request that the Virginia Certification Board (VCB) grant the credential to me based on the following assurances and documentation:

- I subscribe to and commit myself to professional conduct in keeping with the VCB Code of Ethical Conduct;
- I certify that the information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also authorize any necessary investigation and the release of information relative to my credential. Falsification of any documents will nullify this application and will result in denial or revocation of certification;
- I consent to the release of information contained in my application and any other pertinent data submitted to or collected by VCB to officers, members, and staff of the aforementioned Board;
- I consent to authorize VCB to gather information from third parties regarding education and employment and understand that such communication shall be treated as confidential;
- Allegations of ethical misconduct reported to VCB before, during, or after application for certification is made will be investigated by VCB and could result in the nullification of the application or denial or revocation of certification.

INITIAL EACH STATEMENT

_____ I have read and understood the Release.

_____ I either live or work in Virginia at least 51% of the time.

_____ I understand one-half of the application fee is refundable if application is denied.

_____ I understand that my application is open for a period of one year after the date of review. If I fail to fulfill all certification requirements within that year, the application will be closed, and no refund will be issued.

_____ I understand that if I request to have my application re-reviewed for another credential VCB offers prior to the examination, or after an unsuccessful attempt at the examination I will incur a \$50 change/review fee.

Applicant: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
PRINT NAME LEGIBLY

NOTARY PUBLIC ONLY

Name: _____ Date: _____

I attest that I am a notary public and the above-named applicant satisfactorily proved to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same for the purposes therein contained. In witness whereof, I hereby set my hand and official seal.

Notary Public Signature **SEAL:**