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**STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
FOR  
ALCOHOL, DRUG AND GAMBLING COUNSELORS  
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DAYTON, NV 89403  
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**TESTIMONY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

My name is Sharon Atkinson, Executive Director for the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors. I am here at the request of the committee.

As requested the following chart details the types and status of counselors licensed or certified by this board as of January 31, 2006:

Please refer to chart A.

Currently, the board has a total of 1,090 licensed or certified alcohol and drug abuse counselors and a total of 19 problem gambling counselors that are active and working in the field.

During the subcommittee meeting on Health Care to study the services for the treatment and prevention of substance abuse the issue was raised that there was a barrier to certification and/or licensure in Nevada. Currently the board has three primary levels of certification or licensure for alcohol and drug abuse counselors. Please refer to the handout for the specific details for qualifications.

Since 1977 when certification was made mandatory in Nevada the state has maintained high standards of proficiency. Prior to the boards inception in October of 1999 an individual was required to have a minimum of 10,000 hours of practical experience in order to qualify for the certification examination. There were two ways this could be achieved: 1. Obtain 10,000 hours of experience, 2. Have a combination of education and experience equal to 10,000 hours.

If an individual does not qualify for written examination or the waiver of the examination they can become an intern.

Internship, the following is the minimum requirements:

<b>EXHIBIT L</b>	Health Care	Document consists of 7 pages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entire document provided.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Due to size limitations, pages _____ provided.	
A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827 or e-mail <a href="mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us">library@lcb.state.nv.us</a> ). Meeting Date: <u>February 9, 2006</u>		

- Be twenty-one years of age
- Have a GED or high school education
- Obtain a position under the supervision of a licensed alcohol/drug abuse counselor that is also certified to supervise
- Be enrolled in college working on an applicable degree
- Submit a request for application and application

It is my understanding that the majority of intern positions are paid positions.

Another issued presented at the subcommittee was reciprocity. Nevada does not have reciprocity, however, Nevada does have a waiver of the examination and in order for an individual to qualify for the waiver they must:

An applicant for licensure or certification without examination as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to [NRS 641C.300](#) or an applicant for certification without examination as a problem gambling counselor who holds a license or certificate as a problem gambling counselor in another state, a territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia in which the requirements of that jurisdiction at the time the license or certificate was issued are deemed by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the requirements set forth in the provisions of this chapter and [chapter 641C](#) of NRS must submit to the Board:

- (a) A written application on a form prescribed by the Board;
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of [NAC 641C.245](#), the applicable fee;
- (c) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the license, certificate or other credential held by the applicant:
  - (1) Was issued by another state, a territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia;and
  - (2) Is currently valid and in good standing;
- (d) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant had a bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university in a field of social science approved by the Board at the time the license, certificate or other credential was issued by another state, a territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia;
- (e) A statement concerning whether the license, certificate or other credential issued by another state, a territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia has ever been suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted for any reason.

Every application is reviewed on an individual basis to determine where the applicant best qualifies. As of today's date the board has granted six waivers of the examination to qualified individuals.

As in the past Nevada has established very high standards to qualify for the written examinations, these standards were set to meet the needs of the public and to protect them.

Provided is some additional statistical information that may be of some assistance to this committee.

At this time I will be happy to answer any question you may have.

Thank you for your time.



## Nevada

### Nevada Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors

#### Information on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

**Licensure or Certification is Mandatory in the State of Nevada; Exceptions: If you are a Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist; Licensed Psychologist; Physician or Nurse who is licensed pursuant to that Nevada Boards regulations and approval**

Sharon Atkinson, Executive Director  
401 Dayton Valley Rd Suite B  
Dayton, NV 89401  
Telephone: (775) 246-2260  
Fax: (775) 246-2262  
e-mail: [Atkinson@govmail.state.nv.us](mailto:Atkinson@govmail.state.nv.us)

**NRS 641C.250** License or certificate is revocable privilege; holder acquires no vested right. A license or certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is a privilege that may be revoked in accordance with the disciplinary procedures set forth in this chapter and in regulations adopted by the board pursuant thereto, and no holder of such a license or certificate acquires thereby any vested right.

#### General requirements for certification/registration:

- No abuse of alcohol or controlled substances or problems with gambling for a period of 2 years before submitting application
- If you are on parole or probation the Board will not consider your application for a period of two-years after the completion
- All individuals certified must observe "Ethical Standards and Requirements"
- College graduation from an accredited college or university listed in Accredited Institutions of Post secondary Education
- Complete applications must reach the Board within 30 days of date of hire in the substance abuse or problem gambling field
- Finger print cards and a money order payable to the Board of Examiners for \$45.00 this is due when the request for application is submitted and is part of the request for application fees.
- Is not less than 21 years of age
- Is a citizen of the United States or is lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States –proof of citizenship or proof that an applicant is able to work in the United States
- Application must include social security number, resume, copy of birth certificate, drivers license or passport and copy of the completion of a high school education
- Must provide the Board with statement regarding child support

**Please note:** You will be required to provide the Board with any and all information concerning any arrests, convictions, indictments, suspensions or revocations. If you have any convictions, arrests or etc. you **cannot** do substance abuse or problem gambling counseling until approved by the Board. **An individual on parole or probation will not be considered for certification or licensure until such time as they have finished and have been off parole or probation for a minimum of two-years.**

The Board or staff has the authority to suspend any applicant upon documentation that an applicant has falsified any information on their application.

#### Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Intern (CADCI-Intern):

- High school diploma or GED and verification of graduation from an accredited college or university in an appropriate social science field and/or submittal of educational affidavit indicating that you are enrolled in college or will enroll at the beginning of the next semester
- Supervision Agreement
- Complete Application
- Fees of \$225.00



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**Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADC):**

- Proof of the completion of a Bachelors degree in approved social science field from an accredited college or university
- Proof of the completion of 2 years full time employment under clinical supervision in alcohol and drug abuse counseling or see allowances listed below
- Submittal of fees of \$405.00
- Written exam covers:  
Pharmacology of Psychoactive Substances  
Counseling Practice  
Theoretical Base of Counseling  
Professional Issues: Ethics, Confidentiality and Federal Dept. of Transportation Regulations
- An individual must pass the examinations required by the board with an average score of at least 70% to proceed to the oral boards
- Oral exam – an individual must receive a 70% or better to pass

**Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADC):**

- Proof of the completion of a Masters degree in an approved social science field
- Proof of the completion of 2 years full time employment under clinical supervision in alcohol and drug abuse counseling or see allowances listed before
- Submittal of fees of \$425.00
- Written exam covers:  
Pharmacology of Psychoactive Substances  
Counseling Practice  
Professional Issues: Ethics, Confidentiality and Federal Dept. of Transportation Regulations
- An individual must pass the examinations required by the board with an average score of at least 70% to proceed to the oral boards
- Oral exam – an individual must receive a 70% or better to pass

**ALLOWANCES: NAC 641C.205**

**WITH A BACHELORS DEGREE: If you complete 18 semester units in addictions you will reduce the number of hours of practical experience to 1,500 hrs.**

**WITH A MASTERS DEGREE: If you complete 12 semester units in addictions you will reduce the number of hours of practical experience to 1,500 hrs**

**WAIVER OF EXAMINATIONS:**

- If you are requesting a waiver of the examination for either a problem gambling counselor, alcohol and drug abuse counselor or Native American alcohol and drug abuse counselor please indicate so on the request for application.
- Submit the request for application and the required fee of \$165.00 balance of fees will be required at upon submittal of the application.

An applicant for licensure or certification without examination pursuant to [NRS 641C.300](#) must submit to the board:

1. A written application on a form prescribed by the board;
2. The applicable fee;
3. Proof satisfactory to the board that the license or other credential held by the applicant:
  - (a) Was issued by another state, a territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia;
  - (b) Is currently valid and in good standing; and
4. A statement of whether a license or other credential has ever been suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted for any reason.
  - a. The board will review each applicant on an individual basis and will consider the circumstances before and after the time the certificate or license was suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted for any reason;



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5. Fingerprint cards and the appropriate fees.
6. Proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant is otherwise qualified to engage in the practice of counseling alcohol and drug abusers:
  - (a) Applicant must have had a masters or bachelor's degree in an appropriate social science field at the time application was made in another state, territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.
  - (b) Alcohol and drug abuse counselors an applicant must have had a minimum of 4,000 hours practical experience providing alcohol and drug abuse counseling.
  - (c) Alcohol and drug abuse counselors an applicant must have passed a written and oral examination from a national testing organization, equal to the level used by the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors with a minimum of a score of 70% overall in both the written and oral examinations.



BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG and GAMBLING COUNSELORS

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS**

*Please print or type the following information:*

NAME
HOME ADDRESS
TELEPHONE HOME
BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE
SUPERVISORS NAME
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

**Please send me an application packet for certification/licensure as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor:**

\_\_\_\_ \*Certification - Requires you have completed a Bachelors degree in an appropriate social science field and **have already completed 4,000 hours of practical experience in alcohol & drug abuse counseling.**

\_\_\_\_ \*Licensure – Requires you have completed a graduate degree in an appropriate social science field and **have already completed 4,000 hours of approved experience in alcohol and drug abuse counseling.**

\_\_\_\_ Intern - Requires you have a **minimum** of a GED or High School Diploma and registration in an appropriate social science field in an approved college or provide the Board with a transcript from the registrar's office showing the completion of an appropriate degree from an accredited college or university.

- \* Please refer to the information recap for the exceptions regarding required practical experience.

**A nonrefundable money order for \$165.00 made out to the Board of Examiners must accompany this Request for Application for an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. ALL FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE.**

TYPES OF FEES	INTERN CERTIFICATION	CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE
REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FINGERPRINTS	\$165.00 DUE WITH THIS REQUEST	\$165.00 DUE WITH THIS REQUEST
CERTIFICATION/ PROCESSING	\$60.00 DUE WHEN APPLICATION SUBMITTED	\$60.00 DUE WHEN APPLICATION SUBMITTED
TESTING LEVEL II		\$180.00 DUE WITH APPLICATION & PER EVERY OTHER TEST TAKEN
TESTING MAC LEVEL		\$200.00 DUE WITH APPLICATION & PER EVERY OTHER TEST TAKEN
PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE		\$125.00 DUE WITH APPLICATION
WAIVER OF EXAMINATION		\$165.00 DUE WITH THIS REQUEST

**Please note:** All applicants will be required to provide the Board with any and all information concerning any arrests, convictions, indictments, suspensions or revocations. If you have any convictions, arrests or etc. you **cannot** do substance abuse counseling until approved by the Board. An individual on parole or probation will not be considered for certification or licensure until such time as they have finished and have been off parole or probation for a minimum of two-years.

REQUESTS GO TO SHARON ATKINSON AT:  
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG AND GAMBLING COUNSELORS**  
 401 DAYTON VALLEY RD SUITE B  
 DAYTON NV 89403  
 775-246-2260

I hereby request the certification/registration packet as indicated above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Materials: The following are recommended: "The Basics of Addiction Counseling Independent Study Guide" & "The Substance Abuse Professional's U.S. DOT Alcohol & Drug Testing Regulation Qualification Course" are available from NAADAC (1-800-548-0497); the TAP 21 Reference Guide is available free from the Nevada Prevention Resource Center at 775-784-6336. (Please refer to the references listed in the back of the TAP 21 for additional study materials). Other resources listed under frequently asked questions on the Boards website.

Note: THE APPLICATION PACKET **MAY NOT** BE DUPLICATED. THE APPLICATION IS VALID FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT AND CAN ONLY BE USED BY THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING THE APPLICATION

CHART A.

Status	Licensed Alcohol/Drug Counselors	Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselors	Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselors Interns	Certified Native American Alcohol/Drug Counselors	Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselors Supervisors	Certified Problem Gambling Counselors	Certified Problem Gambling Counselor Interns	Certified Problem Gambling Counselor Supervisors	Provisional Certificates
Active	769	61	259	1	189	10	9	7	3
Inactive	58	4	53	0	4	0	0	0	N/A

CHART B. Number of counselors with other occupational licenses or certificates

Marriage & Family Therapists	Social Workers	Registered Nurses	Psychologist's
163	126	32	10

CHART C. Ethic Backgrounds of licensed and/or certified counselors

Native American	African American	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	White
34	68	43	20	925

CHART D. Education

	High School Education/GED	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's or Higher
Interns	154	2	52	51
Licensed or Certified	28	40	192	509