



CASAC-Trainee Certification Overview

The Mental Health Counseling master's curriculum within the Department of Counseling and Human Development has been registered with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) as a 350-hour Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) Curriculum Academic Provider. All students enrolled in the Mental Health Counseling master's program can apply for a CASAC-Trainee (CASAC-T) credential following graduation.

Eligibility:

Only students who are enrolled in the 60-credit hour Mental Health Counseling master's program are eligible to apply for a CASAC-T credential post-graduation. Students who are enrolled in the School Counseling or Human Development programs are not eligible for the credential. Students enrolled in the Bridge Program from School Counseling to Mental Health Counseling are not eligible unless they take an additional practicum course as part of their Program of Study. Doctoral students enrolled in EdD/PhD Counseling or Human Development programs are also not eligible to receive the credential.

Post-graduation instructions for Mental Health Counseling Graduates:

Graduates must start a CASAC application with OASAS following commencement. The CASAC application can be found on [OASAS's Website](#). Graduates must submit the following portion of the CASAC application to OASAS for CASAC-T certification:

- Part A Application Summary form
- Canon of Ethical Principles, Misconduct, and Other Prohibited Acts attestation form
- NYS Justice Center Code of Conduct form
- Copy of diploma or transcript to verify your highest level of graduated education
- Copy of your OASAS 350-hour standardized training certificate OR academic transcript to satisfy the requirement
- Application Processing Fee (certified check or money order)

From CASAC-Trainee to full CASAC certification:

Beyond just completing 350-hours of substance use specific education, OASAS requires a passing score on the Alcohol & Drug Counselor (ADC) Exam, as well as specific work experience to transition from a CASAC-T to a CASAC. Those requirements are explained below:

Work experience:

For a graduate to earn the full CASAC certification, they must accrue 2,000 of substance use specific counseling experience from an [OASAS approved facility](#), or by a [New York State Office of Mental Health \(OMH\) Provider](#). If a graduate has completed a practicum or internship with either an OASAS approved facility or OHM Provider, it is possible that some of those clinical training hours could be applied to the 2000 hours required by OASAS.

Exam:

As part of the application process for the CASAC, a graduate must pass the Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ADC) exam, offered by the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). The exam is comprised of 150 items related to the following competency areas of substance use counseling:

- Screening, Assessment, and Engagement
- Treatment Planning, Collaboration, and Referral
- Counseling
- Professional and Ethical Responsibilities

The exam is offered on a weekly basis, and it can be taken once every 90-days. For more information about the exam, including how to request an exam appointment, please consult [OASAS's CASAC overview website](#).

Reciprocity:

Forty-six states, and all Canada, use the ADC Exam to license or credential substance use counselors. A reciprocity application can be obtained from the IC & RC if a graduate is looking to relocate to another jurisdiction outside of New York post-graduation. For more information about reciprocity, consult the [IC & RC's reciprocity website](#).

For more information about the Mental Health Counseling Program's CASAC Curriculum, please contact [Scott McGuinness](#) at smcguinness@warner.rochester.edu.