

Counseling Credentials

Credential	Is supervision, consultation, or employee status required?	Are there other practice setting requirements?	Is the credential holder's practice limited to a type of counseling?	Can this credential holder provide chemical dependency counseling?	Are there additional practice requirements or credential limitations?
Agency Affiliated Counselor	Yes RCW 18.19.210	Yes. Applicants must have an offer of employment from an agency or facility identified in WAC 246-810-016 or recognized by the secretary as an agency or facility that can employ agency affiliated counselors as identified in WAC 246-810-017 .	No, see the definition of counseling in RCW 18.19.	Yes, however the credential holder cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.	No
Certified Adviser	Yes WAC 246-810-025	None	No, see the definition of counseling in RCW 18.19.	Yes, however the credential holder cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.	Yes, please see WAC 246-810-021 If the client has a global assessment of functioning score greater than sixty, a certified adviser may counsel and guide the client in adjusting to life situations, developing new skills, and making desired changes, in accordance with the theories and techniques of a specific counseling method and established practice standards. RCW 18.19.060 requires that certified counselors and certified advisers must also disclose that they are not credentialed to diagnose mental disorders or to conduct psychotherapy as defined by the secretary by rule.
Certified Counselor	Yes WAC 246-810-025	None	No, see the definition of counseling in RCW 18.19.	Yes, however the credential holder cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.	Yes, please see WAC 246-810-0201 RCW 18.19.060 requires that certified counselors and certified advisers must also disclose that they are not credentialed to diagnose mental disorders or to conduct psychotherapy as defined by the secretary by rule.
Chemical Dependency Professional	No	Yes. The title "certified chemical dependency professional" or "certified chemical dependency professional trainee" can only be used when treating patients in programs approved under chapter 70.96A RCW. If the practitioner	Yes. "Chemical dependency counseling" means employing the core competencies of chemical dependency counseling to assist or attempt to assist an alcohol or drug addicted person to develop and maintain abstinence from alcohol and	Yes.	

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		does not have an additional credential, then their practice is limited to agencies approved by the Department of Behavioral Health and Rehabilitation.	other mood-altering drugs. "Core competencies of chemical dependency counseling" means competency in the nationally recognized knowledge, skills, and attitudes of professional practice, including assessment and diagnosis of chemical dependency, chemical dependency treatment planning and referral, patient and family education in the disease of chemical dependency, individual and group counseling with alcoholic and drug addicted individuals, relapse prevention counseling, and case management, all oriented to assist alcoholic and drug addicted patients to achieve and maintain abstinence from mood-altering substances and develop independent support systems.		
Chemical Dependency Professional Trainee	Yes. All of the experience must be under an approved supervisor as defined in WAC 246-811-049 . The first fifty hours of any face-to-face patient contact must be under direct observation of an approved supervisor or a chemical dependency professional.	Yes. The title "certified chemical dependency professional" or "certified chemical dependency professional trainee" can only be used when treating patients in programs approved under chapter 70.96A RCW. If the practitioner does not have an additional credential, then their practice is limited to agencies approved by the Department of Behavioral Health and Rehabilitation	Yes. Same limitations as a Chemical Dependency Professional.	Yes.	The credential can only be renewed four times.
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist	No	None	No, see the definition of " Marriage and family therapy " in RCW 18.225.010	Yes. RCW 18.225.010 describes the scope of practice for marriage and family therapists licensed by the state of Washington, which includes diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders.	No.

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				<p>Under that statute, Washington law does not preclude licensed practitioners in these three professions from assessing and/or diagnosing substance abuse or addiction issues. However, whether an individual practitioner can assess or diagnose substance abuse or addiction issues within the standard of care depends on the individual practitioner's skill, training, experience, and other factors that can only be determined on a case by case basis.</p> <p>However, these credential holders cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.</p>	
<p>Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist - Associate (LMFTA) Licensed Mental Health Counselor - Associate (LMHCA) Licensed Social Worker Associate Advanced (LSWAA) Social Worker Associate Independent Clinical (LSWAIC)</p>	<p>Yes. An associate is a pre-licensure candidate who has a graduate degree in mental health counseling or a related field. Associates are gaining post-graduate supervision experience needed for licensure as a marriage and family therapist. Associates may not independently provide marriage and family therapy or counseling for a fee, monetary or otherwise.</p> <p>If an associate is working under the supervision of an approved supervisor, it is not considered</p>	None	No	Yes	The credential can only be renewed four times.

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	independent practice.				
Licensed Mental Health Counselor	No	None	No, see the definition of " Mental health counseling " in RCW 18.225.010.	<p>Yes. RCW 18.225.010 describes the scope of practice for mental health counselors licensed by the state of Washington, which includes diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders.</p> <p>Under that statute, Washington law does not preclude licensed practitioners in these three professions from assessing and/or diagnosing substance abuse or addiction issues. However, whether an individual practitioner can assess or diagnose substance abuse or addiction issues within the standard of care depends on the individual practitioner's skill, training, experience, and other factors that can only be determined on a case by case basis.</p> <p>However, these credential holders cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.</p>	No.
Licensed Advanced Social Worker (LASW) Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)	<p>The LASW must practice under the supervision of a licensed independent clinical social worker, case management, consultation, advocacy, counseling, and community organization.</p> <p>There are no supervision</p>	None	<p>No. "Advanced social work" means the application of social work theory and methods including emotional and biopsychosocial assessment, psychotherapy under the supervision of a licensed independent clinical social worker, case management, consultation, advocacy, counseling, and community organization.</p> <p>"Independent clinical social work" means the diagnosis and treatment of emotional</p>	<p>Yes. RCW 18.225.010 describes the scope of practice for social workers licensed by the state of Washington, which includes diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders.</p> <p>Under that statute, Washington law does not preclude licensed practitioners in these three professions from assessing and/or diagnosing substance abuse or addiction issues. However, whether an individual practitioner can assess or diagnose</p>	No

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	requirements for a LICSW.		and mental disorders based on knowledge of human development, the causation and treatment of psychopathology, psychotherapeutic treatment practices, and social work practice as defined in advanced social work. Treatment modalities include but are not limited to diagnosis and treatment of individuals, couples, families, groups, or organizations.	substance abuse or addiction issues within the standard of care depends on the individual practitioner's skill, training, experience, and other factors that can only be determined on a case by case basis. However, these credential holders cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.	
Psychologist	No	None	No, see the practice of psychology in RCW 18.83.010.	The broadly defined "practice of psychology" for psychologists licensed in Washington should permit a psychologist to provide services to clients with substance abuse or dependency problems. RCW 18.83.010. Any psychologist providing substance abuse/dependency services would also need to comply with the "competence" rule, WAC 246-924-353 . Under that rule, a psychologist who determines that he/she does not have the "appropriate education, training, or experience" to provide substance abuse/chemical dependency services to any particular client or category of clients would refer to other providers. A licensed psychologist may also need to meet additional requirements imposed by an employer, a third-party payor, etc..	No
Sex Offender Treatment Provider	No		RCW 18.155.030(4) Certified sex offender treatment providers and certified affiliate sex offender treatment providers may perform or provide the following service: Treatment of convicted level I and level II sex offenders who are sentenced and ordered into treatment pursuant to chapter	Depends on what the scope of practice is for the underlying credential. If the underlying-credential is a "counseling credential", then they can conduct chemical dependency counseling. However, they cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.	Must hold an underlying health professional credential

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			<p>9.94A RCW and adjudicated juvenile level I and level II sex offenders who are sentenced and ordered into treatment pursuant to chapter 13.40 RCW.</p>		
<p>Affiliate Sex Offender Treatment Provider</p>	<p>Yes, supervision is required. RCW 18.155.020(2)</p>		<p>RCW 18.155.030(4) Certified sex offender treatment providers and certified affiliate sex offender treatment providers may perform or provide the following service: Treatment of convicted Level I and Level II sex offenders who are sentenced and ordered into treatment pursuant to chapter 9.94A RCW and adjudicated juvenile level I and level II sex offenders who are sentenced and ordered into treatment pursuant to chapter 13.40 RCW.</p>	<p>Depends on what the scope of practice is for the underlying credential. If the underlying-credential is a "counseling credential," then they can conduct chemical dependency counseling. However, they cannot use the Chemical Dependency Professional title unless he or she has also obtained the CDP credential.</p>	<p>Must hold an underlying health professional credential</p>