

NOVEMBER 2018 FACT SHEET

Licensed Addiction Counselors in North Dakota

Licensed addiction counselors (LACs) are licensed mental health professionals who specialize in treating people with substance abuse disorders.

LACs are a tier 2b behavioral health professional. The tiered system for behavioral health professionals in North Dakota is a basic ranking of behavioral health professionals based on their scope of practice, with tier 1 being the highest rank and tier 4 being the lowest rank. As a tier 2b behavioral health professional, LACs can work as independent clinicians. They are able to provide assessment and counseling services to individuals concerning substance abuse disorders.

Education

LACs must hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in addiction studies or related field. At the bachelor's degree level, 960 clinical training hours are required, typically completed at two or more training sites. For the master's level training, 700 clinical training hours are required, which may be completed at one or more training sites.

In North Dakota, addiction studies programs are offered at the University of North Dakota (track within a degree program, not accredited), University of Mary (MSC, not accredited or a minor combined with either social work or psychology degree), Minot State University (BS degree, NASAC accredited), University of Jamestown (psychology degree with concentration in addiction studies), and Dickinson State University (pending SBHE approval).

Licensure Criteria

Licensure requirements for LACs include:

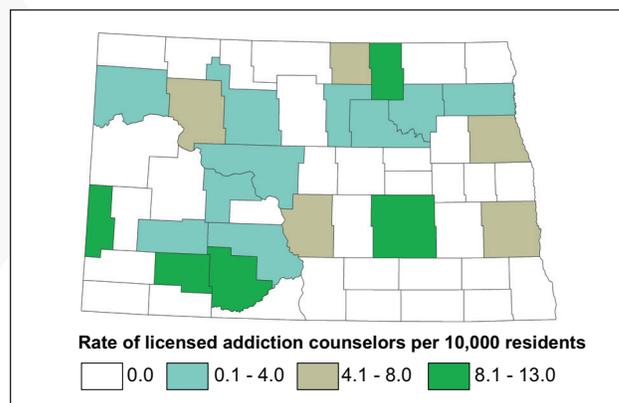
- Successful completion of coursework from an accredited college or university.
- Successful completion of an oral and/or written examination and agreement to adhere to the code of professional conduct adopted by the North Dakota State Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners.
- LACs may work in private practice if they have 10,000 hours of full-time clinical experience as a LAC, or hold a master's degree in a closely related field with 4,000 hours of post-master's clinical experience as a LAC.

- Students may choose to complete an additional 2,000 hours of supervised training to become a licensed master addiction counselor (LMAC). A North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners registered clinical supervisor (LCAC or LMAC) must provide at least 50% of the supervised training.

Practice Characteristics of Licensed Addiction Counselors and Primary Workplace

- As of 2018, North Dakota had 351 LACs. Figure 1 shows their distribution across the state.
- LACs in North Dakota had been licensed for an average of 12 years.
- Most LACs (64.8% or 219) worked in urban areas.

Figure 1. Rate of Licensed Addiction Counselors Per 10,000 Residents in North Dakota



Conclusion

- Addiction counselors help clients overcome reliance on drugs, alcohol, and other behaviors like gambling.
- Along with clinical training hours, individuals can become a LAC with a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.
- North Dakota had 351 LACs in 2018, most of whom worked in urban areas (64.8%).

Data

- North Dakota Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners. (2018). Licensure file. Retrieved from www.ndbace.org/get-licensed.html.