

# OCTOBER 2020 FACT SHEET

## I Want To Be a Licensed Addiction Counselor in North Dakota

### Introduction

Addiction counseling is the delivery of counseling or assessment of an individual regarding a substance-related or addictive disorder. Licensed addiction counselors (LAC) are licensed mental health professionals who specialize in treating people with substance abuse disorders through group and/or individual therapy.

### Education

Licensed addiction counselors must hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in addiction studies or related field. The following addiction study programs are offered in North Dakota

#### *Bachelor Degree Level*

- Minot State University (bachelor of science addiction studies, NASAC accredited)
- University of Jamestown (bachelor of arts/science psychology with addiction counseling concentration, not accredited)
- University of Mary (minor combined with either social work or psychology bachelor degree)

#### *Master and Doctoral Degree Level*

- University of North Dakota (track within master of arts counseling program, not accredited)
- University of Mary (master of science counseling, not accredited)

### Licensure

Licensed addiction counselors must complete coursework from an accredited college or university. They must also successfully complete an oral and/or written examination, complete a clinical training program, and adhere to the code of professional conduct adopted by the North Dakota State Board of Addiction Counseling Examiners (NDBACE). Nine hundred sixty clinical training hours are also required.

Licensed master addiction counselors (LMAC) must complete an additional 2,000 hours of supervised training to be licensed as LMACs. At least half of this additional training must be supervised by a NDBACE registered clinical supervisor (LCAC or LMAC). Private practice LACs who 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-masters clinical experience as a LAC may work in private practice.

### Barriers

There are several barriers that are identified in the North Dakota Century Code that would prevent someone from being a licensed addiction counselor, or cause them to be removed from practice. They are listed below.

- Obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts
- Conviction of an offense determined to have a direct bearing upon an individual's ability to practice counseling
- Violation of one or more of the rules and regulations of the board
- Violation of the NDBACE code of ethics

### Day-to-Day Practice

Addiction counseling is a rapidly growing field. Responsibilities in the field may include assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, group and individual therapy, care coordination, referral, advocacy, and record keeping in outpatient and residential addiction treatment settings. Licensed addiction counselors can expect to work individually with clients and collaborate as a member of a multi-disciplinary treatment team. Additional activities may include working with individuals and their families to promote independent living skills and personal well-being.

### Data

North Dakota Hospital Assessment: 2017 Flex Chartbook