



NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (Master's)

Note: Requirements listed below apply to the 2023 application cycle only. Dates and other eligibility requirements are subject to change for the 2024 application cycle.

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC) is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation in collaboration with NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program will administer up to 40 master's-level counseling fellowships of \$15,000 for addictions counseling students, plus the travel expenses to participate in other program-related trainings.

The NBCC MFP helps ensure that the behavioral health needs of all Americans are met, regardless of language or culture, thereby reducing health disparities and improving overall community health and well-being. Minorities include but are not limited to racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, sexual orientation, rural, or military groups. By strategically promoting and providing fellowships to master's-level counseling students, the NBCC MFP strengthens the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of substance use disorder professional counselors who provide direct substance use disorder services to minority populations. Eligible applicants must demonstrate knowledge of and experience in addictions/substance abuse services to one or more of the following: underserved minority communities, child/adolescent and geriatric groups, minority communities in inner cities and rural areas, minority persons (including LGBT), or those who are veterans or are from military families.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status.
- Applicants must not work for a federal agency or receive any other federal funds (except for federal student loans or work-study).
- Applicants must not already possess a master's degree in a behavioral health field.
- Applicants must be enrolled and be in good standing in **one** of the following programs.
 1. A Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)-accredited master's-level addictions counseling program or other master's-level counseling program with a concentration in addictions.
 2. A regionally accredited master's-level addictions counseling program or other master's-level counseling program with a concentration in addictions.
 3. An addictions program accredited by the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC).
- Applicants must be currently taking courses. Applicants may not have a pending status, deferred status, or other future start date for coursework.
- Applicants must commit to obtaining an addictions counseling credential, as evidenced by showing proof of applying for a state addictions certification before the end of the fellowship year.
- Applicants must commit to 12 semester hours of substance abuse/addictions course work, plus a full academic year of internship. (Note: The addictions course work need not be completed at your home university. The 12 hours must be taken by the end of your academic program, not exclusively during the fellowship award year. On a case-by-case basis, the 12 semester hours may be waived if you apply for your state addiction counseling certification and agree to complete the process.)

- Applicants are expected to graduate by May 31, 2025 (within three years of the date of the fellowship funding).
- Eligible applicants must not have an anticipated academic program completion date before Dec. 31, 2022, which will be verified in writing by their academic department prior to the awarding of funds.
- Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of and experience with addressing the substance use disorder needs of one or more of the following: underserved minority communities, child/adolescent and geriatric groups, minority communities in inner cities and rural areas, minority persons (including LGBTQIA2S+), or those who are veterans or are from military families.
- Applicants must commit to providing substance use disorder services to one of the above-named populations within one year of graduation and must commit to providing such services for the duration of two years post-graduation.
- Applicants must commit to securing a substance use services–related internship that provides experience with one or more of the minority populations listed above.
- Applicants must commit to becoming board certified by applying for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification or applying for certification from the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) prior to graduation and to completing the application process. It is the applicant’s responsibility to determine their eligibility to obtain these certifications prior to applying for the fellowship.
- Applicants must be able to attend the 2022 NBCC Foundation’s Bridging the Gap Symposium to open their fellowship year the week of May 23–27, 2022 and to close their fellowship year at the 2023 Symposium during the week of May 22–26, 2023 and up to two other training events during their fellowship year.
- Applicants must also be able to attend the NAADAC Annual Conference (typically in September or October) and potentially one other training event during their fellowship year. All travel expenses will be covered by the NBCC Foundation.
- African Americans, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are especially encouraged to apply.*

To check the CACREP status of a program, search the [CACREP website](#). To check the NASAC status of a program, search the [NASAC website](#).

NOTE: Applicants are strongly advised to verify their eligibility for the NCC or NCC AP prior to applying. Requirements of the NCC certification can be found on NBCC’s website at nbcc.org/Certification/NCC. Requirements of the NCC AP certification can be found on NAADAC’s website at naadac.org/types-eligibility.

For questions, please review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ). If after reviewing our FAQ document you still have questions, please email Foundation@nbcc.org or call 336-232-0376.

*Eligibility requirements for MFP awards are defined by SAMHSA. The program is not limited to individuals from minority populations; however, SAMHSA does prioritize individuals from the following communities: African American, Alaska Native, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. SAMHSA’s priority population decision is based on the documentation of significant mental health disparities within these communities and the SAMHSA-identified strategy of increasing the number of individuals representing these communities in counselor education and leadership. This priority is considered when there are applicants with equivalently strong results to the review process. In that case, those applicants who meet the SAMHSA priority are chosen.

The 2023 application cycle is closed.
The application cycle for 2024 MFP awards will open in Sept. 2023.

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