

**This is an amendment to 16.27.11 NMAC, Section 9, effective 11/18/2025.**

**16.27.11.9 APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE:** An alcohol and drug abuse counselor (LADAC) must possess the following qualifications and provide the required documentation with the application.

- A.** Age requirement: Be at least 21 years of age.
- B.** Applicant must sign a statement provided in the application indicating the applicant has read the code of ethics and agrees to be bound and governed by the code of ethics.
- C.** Applicant must demonstrate professional competency by passing the national certification examination for addiction counselors (NCAC level 1).
- D.** Education requirements
  - (1)** Holds an associate degree in counseling, counseling related field or a substance abuse related field from an accredited institution. The board may approve, on a case-by-case basis, applicants whose education is not in a counseling or substance abuse related field. One semester credit hour is equal to 15 clock hours of education. Qualifying education shall include 276 clock hours in the following areas:
    - (a)** 90 hours in the field of alcohol abuse
    - (b)** 90 hours in the field of drug abuse
    - (c)** 90 hours in the field of counseling
    - (d)** six hours that pertain specifically to alcohol and drug counseling ethics training.
  - (2)** Holds a baccalaureate degree in counseling, a counseling related field or a substance abuse related field from an accredited institution. The board may approve, on a case-by-case basis, applicants whose education is not in a counseling or substance abuse related field. One semester credit hour is equal to 15 clock hours of education. Qualifying education shall include 276 clock hours in the following areas:
    - (a)** 90 hours in the field of alcohol abuse
    - (b)** 90 hours in the field of drug abuse
    - (c)** 90 hours in the field of counseling
    - (d)** six hours that pertain specifically to alcohol and drug counseling ethics training,(must be acquired two years prior to submission of an application).
  - (3)** Holds a masters or doctoral degree in counseling, a counseling related field or a substance abuse related field from an accredited institution. The board may approve, on a case-by-case basis, applicants whose education is not in a counseling or substance abuse related field. One semester credit hour is equal to 15 clock hours of education. Qualifying education shall include 276 clock hours in the following areas:
    - (a)** 90 hours in the field of alcohol abuse
    - (b)** 90 hours in the field of drug abuse
    - (c)** 90 hours in the field of counseling
    - (d)** six hours that pertain specifically to alcohol and drug counseling ethics training,(must be acquired two years prior to submission of an application).
- E.** Experience requirements.
  - (1)** associate degree requires a minimum of three years and 3,000 client contact hours under appropriate supervision of experience in the practice of alcohol and drug abuse counseling and 200 hours of appropriate supervision; or
  - (2)** a baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of two years and 2,000 client contact hours under appropriate supervision of experience in the practice of alcohol and drug abuse counseling and 100 hours of appropriate supervision; or
  - (3)** a masters or doctoral degree requires a minimum of one year and 1,000 client contact hours under appropriate supervision of experience in the practice of alcohol and drug abuse counseling and 50 hours of appropriate supervision.
- F.** Documentation required for licensure:
  - (1)** a completed application as specified in 16.27.3.8 NMAC, and
  - (2)** proof of completed education and experience requirements:
    - (a)** the applicant is required to upload or submit an official transcript [~~in a sealed envelope~~] from each institution contributing to the applicant's associate, baccalaureate, or masters degree; the official transcript must be submitted with the application; applicants educated in foreign institutions who are unable to submit certified official transcripts shall submit a statement explaining why such transcripts are not available and

shall submit certified copies of the degree certificates granted, information on the curricula offered, and any other documentation requested by the board, and

(b) documentation of required drug, alcohol, counseling and ethics training (attachment D) shall include:

(i) transcripts from the college or university, and

(ii) the date, course title, course description, number of hours attended and certificate of attendance, and

(c) a statement from each supervisor [~~in a sealed envelope~~] on a form provided by the board (attachment B) verifying the applicant's supervised experience and setting forth the nature and extend of such supervision must be submitted with the application; the statement shall verify that the applicant's performance was in accordance with adequate counseling standards of alcohol and drug practice; if a supervisor' statement is not available, the applicant may submit documentation explaining why the supervisor's statement is not available and sworn affidavits from other individuals verifying that supervision took place and describing the nature and the extent of supervision, and

(3) applicant must sign a statement provided in the application indicating the applicant has read the code of ethics and agrees to be bound and governed by the code of ethics, and

(4) verification of the applicant's licensure, registration, or certification status must be submitted on attachment form A, which must be sent directly to the board by the jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed, certified or registered.

[16.27.11.9 NMAC - Rp, 16.27.11.9 NMAC, 11/30/2021; A, 11/18/2025]