

What can I do after completing an Advanced Certificate or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Chemical Dependency Counseling at Central Texas College?

Licensed chemical dependency counselors (also known as drug and alcohol counselors or substance abuse counselors) help individuals overcome addiction to drugs and alcohol by helping patients develop life skills, modify behavioral patterns, learn coping strategies, and by recommending suitable treatment options. LCDCs work in a variety of settings including state or private-run drug treatment/rehabilitation centers, prisons, hospitals, mental health centers, and community health centers.

Licensing requirements vary depending on the state in which one resides. For example, in the State of Texas, in order to be a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC), individuals must complete at a minimum an AAS degree, 4,000 hours of approved supervised experience working with chemically dependent persons, pass the chemical dependency counselor examination, and submit two letters of recommendation from LCDCs.

After completing an advanced Chemical Dependency Counseling Certificate or an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Chemical Dependency Specialization at Central Texas College, students are eligible to apply for Counselor Intern (CI) status as directed by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Applying for registration as a Counselor Intern (CI) is the first step towards becoming a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor.

The CI registration is issued once for a term of five years, during which time a person must complete all requirements for licensure as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, including completing a minimum of an AAS degree, 4,000 hours of approved supervised experience working with chemically dependent persons, passing the chemical dependency counselor examination, and submitting two letters of recommendation from LCDCs.

To apply for Licensed Chemical Dependency **Counselor Intern (CI) status**, applicants must submit the below to the Texas Department of State Health Services. *Please note: this information is subject to change therefore students are advised to visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website for specific and up to date information:* http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lcdc/lcdc_counselor.shtm.

1. Completed **Application for Licensure by Exam/Internship (Counselor Intern Registration)** available on the Texas Department of State Health Services website: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lcdc/lcdc_forms.shtm.

Note: the application form must be signed, dated and notarized with a recent full face wallet sized photo and submitted with an Application and Background Investigation fee (cashier's check or money order), payable to DSHS - please check the DSHS website for current fee.

2. Confirmation of submission of fingerprints via FAST process (pages 3 & 4 of the **Application for Licensure by Exam/Internship form** (http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lcdc/lcdc_forms.shtm))
3. **Official CTC transcript** showing your approved degree. Please visit the Transcript Department website for more information on how to request a transcript in person, via mail, via email, or fax: <http://www.ctcd.edu/transcripts/index.htm>)
4. **Letter signed by the Mental Health Services Department Chair** providing evidence that applicant has completed a 300-hour practicum in the field of chemical dependency. To request a letter contact the Mental Health Services Department on (254) 526-1891 or email: Mental.health1@ctcd.edu.

Please note: the information above is for general information purposes only and is merely a guideline to give students suggestions of a career that can be pursued following an advanced Certificate or AAS degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling. It is by no means an exhaustive or prescriptive list. We strongly

recommend students explore their chosen career fields by visiting the **Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook** (www.bls.gov/ooh).

We also suggest student's research job search websites to gain an understanding of the types of jobs in the field and the minimum requirements required.