

Why NADD?

NADD has been in the forefront of virtually every advance in Intellectual or Developmental Disability/Mental Illness (IDD/MI) for its 30 year history. NADD is the leading North American expert in providing professionals, educators, policy makers, and families with education, training, and information on mental health issues relating to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Why should I get certified? Why is this certification better than or different from other certifications?

The NADD-CC is the gold standard for clinicians who work with people who have the dual diagnoses of IDD and MI and for clinicians who promote mental wellness among people with IDD. It is the only certification that is unique to this population, as well as being the only certification of this type that is purely competency based. Additionally, having this certification may assist you in getting into managed care billing or state service job classifications. As payers require more and more documentation of expertise, the NADD-CC may be of great assistance.

While NADD offers competency-based clinical certification, the required competencies (positive behavior supports and effective environments, psychotherapy, psychopharmacology, assessment of medical conditions, and assessment) are specific to a variety of professional practices. Successful applicants from various fields will have demonstrated expertise in the competencies associated with their field of practice and familiarity with or the ability to integrate competencies associated with other disciplines.

I am already an American Board of Professional Psychology Diplomate with a specialty in clinical cognitive-behavior psychology, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-D, and I am licensed by my home state as a psychologist. Why should I even consider another credential? What advantage is there for me?

The NADD-CC may assist in marketing and identification to the public. There are many professional practitioners who have obtained licensure or another credential. Those certifications, however, may not be directly related to working with people who have IDD/MI. In this case, having the NADD-CC may assist you in being recognized for your expertise. NADD maintains a list of professionals with the NADD-CC, so you may get additional referrals. Having the NADD-CC is a public designation that shows your unique competence and may help give you a competitive advantage over other psychologists with similar credentials.

How will this benefit a Psychiatrist?

There are specific benefits for psychiatrists as well. In the United States there is a scarcity of post-graduate fellowship level programs for Psychiatrists who wish to specialize in the care of individuals with IDD. As a result, many psychiatrists active in the field are either self-taught, gaining much of their knowledge from rotations during residency or conferences such as the NADD, AAIDD, or AADM. The NADD Certification Program offers an excellent means of solidifying and demonstrating an appropriate knowledge base while working towards certification. Becoming NADD Certified does not replace board certification or preclude one from seeking additional certification in Neurodevelopmental Disorders. The NADD Certification program is an excellent way to demonstrate clinical competency that can provide an advantage when seeking employment with MH-IDD agencies and third party payers seeking clinicians with expertise in this field. NADD provides training programs that provide valuable Continuing Medical Education credits that can be used to foster ongoing professional growth, preparation for the certification process and in the future maintenance of NADD-CC. On a cost basis NADD membership and Certification are real bargains that will provide significant long term benefits for Psychiatrists working in the Mental Health-IDD field.

What if I am Canadian?

The NADD Clinical Certification was designed to be equally relevant to professionals in Canada and the USA.

What if I am not North American?

NADD realizes that the educational systems as well as credentials from countries outside of North America may be different. Applicants from outside North America are eligible to apply for the NADD Competency-Based Clinical Certification. These applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to assess whether the education and credentialing (licensing) are comparable.

Who currently recognizes this certification?

The NADD-CC is being recognized by a wider and wider variety of different entities as a unique specialty, and we anticipate broader recognition as time passes. Individual municipalities such as the City of Philadelphia recognize the NADD-CC, giving specific preference in a Request For Proposals. Some third party payers, including managed care entities, recognize NADD-CC. Individual states, such as MN and NJ, recognize NADD-CC and are in process of adopting NADD CC into service qualifications and job class specifications.

What happens to me if I do not get all the continuing education hours for recertification completed on time? Do I lose the certification? Do I have to start the process all over again when I do have the continuing education hours? Do I get a notice when it is time to renew, or do I have to manage that myself?

Accrual of CE is required. Holders of NADD-CC will be given reminders about CE requirements for recertification. If you are not able to accumulate the necessary CE in time for the reapplication, the process for renewal in this case will be simpler and will be reviewed on a case by case basis with consideration of ongoing activity in the field during period of lapsed NADD-CC.

What should I study to get ready for the certification?

While there is no specific curriculum at this time, maintaining knowledge of best practices in IDD/MI as shared in NADD publications, such as journals, books, webinars, and conference presentations will prepare you for the certification process. A crash course of study is probably not helpful, but review of website and articles is most helpful, especially with an eye toward familiarity with competency areas as noted in the manual, such as the biopsychosocial and multi-modal approaches. The specific information to review depends on your specific discipline, but in general the NADD therapy book, the DM-ID textbook version, and Jacobson & Mulick's edited volumes are excellent starting points.

How are the work sample and interview different?

In the work sample, you will be providing a copy of your prior work in supporting a person with IDD/MI. In the interview you may be asked questions about your work sample. For the Vignette Response, you will be given a brief vignette and will be asked to give your clinical impressions in response to that Vignette. Please refer to the manual for full explanation of each of these plus guidelines and examples of previously used Work Samples.

Who will I speak with in the interview?

Your interviewers will be two experienced professionals in IDD/MI who have been awarded the Clinical Credential.

I am a behavior specialist, social worker, etc. I am not certain I am qualified to get the certification...

You may be. Qualification for NADD-CC depends on a number of different factors and details about these can be found in our Program Manual, available for download on our website.

NADD Clinical Certification requires an existing form of professional certification in almost all cases.

NADD Clinical Certification requires 5 years experience in support of persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues (Dually Diagnosed). This can include internships and externships. For Master's Level professionals or RNs, 7 years is required.

If you don't meet all of those credentials, NADD is currently in the process of creating a Dual Diagnosis Specialist Certification.

I am not a therapist. Will I be able to answer the questions in the interview?

NADD's Clinical Certification encompasses many different clinical professions, including:

- State/Provincial license as a Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D. Psychologist
- State/Provincial license, BCBA, or governing body recognition as an Applied Behavior Analyst
- State/Provincial license as a Physician
- State/Provincial license as a Master's level: Psychologist; Mental Health Counselor; Marriage & Family Counselor; Addictions Counselor
- State/Provincial license as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- State/Provincial license as a Physician's Assistant, Advanced Practice RN, or Nurse Practitioner (or clinical equivalent)
- Or other similar credentialing

All of these clinical specialties are qualified to receive this Certification, but a foundational knowledge of the Best Practice standards (<http://acp.thenadd.org/ccp-competency-overview.htm>) and the roles for each professional discipline is required.

If you have additional questions about these or other issues, please contact us by email to clinicalcerts@thenadd.org.