**Massachusetts Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification (MBSACC)**

**About**

MBSACC is the Massachusetts chapter of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). IC&RC promotes public protection by setting standards and developing examinations for the credentialing and licensing of prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals. Organized in 1981, IC&RC has 73 member certification and licensing boards in nationally and internally.

IC&RC has developed standards within the alcohol and drug field for the following credentials:

* Alcohol and Drug Counselor – 1981
* Clinical Supervisor – 1992
* Prevention Specialist – 1994
* Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor – 1999
* Criminal Justice Addictions Professional – 2002
* Co-Occurring Disorders Professional/Diplomate – 2007
* Peer Recovery – 2016

**MBSACC Credentialing System**

MBSACC designed this credentialing system to evaluate counselor competency and grant recognition to those counselors who meet specified minimum standards. More specifically, the system:

* Identifies the functions, responsibilities, knowledge, and skill bases required by an addictions counselor in the performance of his/her job
* Is designed to accommodate and evaluate both degreed and non-degreed counselors
* Defines the core knowledge and skill bases needed by all counselors regardless of treatment setting or professional training and orientation
* Provides a professional credential that can guide employers and prospective clients in selecting competent counselors

**Certified Addictions Recovery Coach (CARC)**

Basic Requirements

* High school diploma or GED
* 500 hours of supervised work experience within the four CARC domains of 1) advocacy, 2) mentoring/education, 3) recovery/wellness support, and 4) ethical responsibility.
* 60 hours education within the CARC domains and additional training
* 35 hours of supervision (minimum of 5 hours per CARC domain)

Certification Process[[1]](#endnote-1)

* Applicants complete and submit their application with required documentation
* MBSACC reviews the application package to determine completeness and eligibility for the certificate.
* Applicants who meet all certification requirements will be notified in writing of the approval of the application, and will be issued a Certificate of Certification.
* Once issued the Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC) Certification covers a two-year period, after which it must be renewed.

1. Unlike other MBSACC certifications, the IC&RC written exam for the CARC Certification **is not required** during the test exempt period. The test-exempt period has been extended to March 31, 2019. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)