



California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators

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Dear Program Director:

We have some exciting news which will be of interest to you as the director of a specialty school for Addiction Studies.

As you know, CAADE accredits Alcohol and Drug Studies programs in over 40 colleges and universities in California, Arizona and Nevada, and issues the Certified Addiction Treatment Counselor (CATC), a credential which is nationally accredited and meets the highest standards for addiction counselor certification in California.

Until recently the CATC credential has only been available to students who completed a CAADE accredited program at a regionally accredited college or university or equivalent, or to those with degrees and equivalent AOD education. CAADE is pleased to announce that the basic CATC credential is now available to those students who complete programs at private post secondary schools and extension programs that may not offer transferrable courses but that do offer quality education that meets the substantial requirements of basic addiction education required by CAADE and the State of California. Schools that have a minimum of 315 hours (or 21 units) of AOD focused studies may now apply for CAADE Career Track accreditation.

We are pleased to announce that with this letter your school is being offered accreditation for the CAADE Career Track. Details of the accreditation process are attached.

If you wish to apply for CAADE accreditation of your program, please advise CAADE of your intent to do so in writing to Fr. Jack Kearney at jkearney@caade.org. Once accredited you may inform your students that they will be eligible to take the CATC exam upon completion of your program. Students who pass the CATC exam advance to CATC-i (intern) status, and qualify to receive full certification upon completion of 2240 supervised internship hours as required by CAADE. The CATC certification process is less complicated and less expensive than alternative credentials offered in California and offers entry into the CAADE Tiered System.

Students who complete your program and who have related degrees from regionally accredited colleges or universities may apply for an advanced credential on our tiered system: the CATC I, CATC II, CATC III, CATC IV, CATC V, or the CATC N (for licensed RNs).

CAADE accreditation standards are rigorous but flexible, and can be adapted to meet the unique design of your program as long as it is based on a foundation of quality education, follows TAP 21 guidelines and meets other minimum requirements as set forth in the CAADE Career Track Guidelines manual and the State of California regulations.

Please let us know by email if you are interested in CAADE accreditation and how we can assist you in completing your self-study for submission to our Career Track Oversight Committee. We look forward to working with you to achieve CAADE accreditation for your program.

Sincerely,

Lori Phelps, Psy.D., CATC V
Executive Director

Jack Kearney, M.Div, CATC IV
Chair, Career Track Committee

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