



A M E R I C A N
ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDOLOGY

Individual Crisis Specialist Certification

Applicant's Manual

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Re-Certification Application

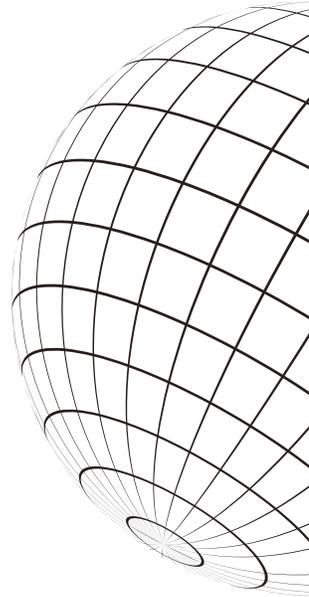
Individual Certification Program



AAS individual certification is an evaluation process for assessing the qualifications of crisis specialists for practice in crisis management. The certification process signifies that individuals providing crisis services have met the standards and requirements defined by the Individual Certification Committee of the American Association of Suicidology, a national certifying body in the crisis field. Certification means that the certificate holder has met a sufficiently stringent test of knowledge, experience, and ability to perform effectively in the crisis field.

Individual certification of crisis specialists across several practice disciplines is designed to address the diverse and needed work that is accomplished. It follows the widely utilized credentialing practice of professionals and organizations. The requirements for individual certification are based on the values and beliefs of the Individual Certification Committee:

- Crisis intervention is everybody's business, not the exclusive specialty of a particular discipline.
 - Every citizen is entitled to necessary assistance as a basic right during life-threatening situations.
 - The comprehensive service provided by a certified crisis specialist reminds us that this is rarely provided by a single person alone. Therefore, crisis specialists must not only work effectively as individuals, but also must collaborate with other groups such as police, emergency medical services, mental health agencies, and self-help groups.
1. Formal crisis management comprises a body of knowledge and practice skills that are related to but distinct from traditional counseling and psychotherapy.
 2. This body of knowledge and practice skills is acquired through a systematic education/training program and supervised clinical practice.
 3. Individual certification should provide crisis specialists a roadmap for self-evaluation and striving to stay current on crisis services, lethality, and best practices.



Advantages of Individual Certification

- AAS individual certification attests that crisis specialists have achieved a basic level of knowledge, skill, and experience in the crisis field as defined by national standards.
- Certification offers employing agencies, their policy boards, administrators, funding sources, and professional staff a vehicle by which to evaluate crisis specialists against national standards.
- Individual certification promotes career development for those crisis specialists desiring to continue in direct service positions.

Eligibility

The following individuals are eligible for crisis specialist certification:

- Volunteer or paid workers in crisis centers, mental health services, and overall crisis services.
- Any health or human service practitioner desiring to be formally credentialed as a crisis specialist (e.g. nurses, police officers, psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health professionals).

NOTE: Applicants for individual certification must be actively engaged in providing direct service to people in crisis at least part-time. However, staff who exclusively serve as trainers and/or supervisors are eligible for certification provided they have completed the required direct service experience.

Requirements for Crisis Specialist Certification

1. Minimum age 21.
2. Successful completion of AAS Crisis Specialist Certification training.
3. A minimum of 3 months full-time experience as a crisis specialist, or 6 months part-time.
4. Satisfactory evaluation of crisis specialist training and experience as outlined in the completed application, by a member of the AAS Individual Certification Committee.
5. Successful completion of your/an organization's training program.
6. A sponsoring letter from someone directly acquainted with the applicant's work, accompanying your application. The letter should specifically address the applicant's knowledge and skills as a crisis interventionist, as well as other professional strengths.

Approving Training Courses

Applicants must provide evidence of completing a minimum of 40 hours of training Crisis Work, Suicide prevention, intervention, rapport building, and safety planning. Experience may not be substituted for requisite training.

Approved training course must include successfully passing:

1. AAS Crisis Specialist Certification Training 2.5

And may include:

1. College-based courses at an accredited college.
2. Crisis intervention training program provided by an AAS-Accredited center, or a center whose training is similar in scope and content.
3. Recognizing and Responding to Suicide Risk (RRSR)
4. Firearms, Means Safety, and Suicide Prevention: A Clinical Workshop
5. ASIST, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
6. Continuing education training offered through in-house training, professional institutes, or conferences.

The Examination



EXAMINATION CONTENT

The online exam has 50 questions. Each online test is different but similar in categories tested and degree of difficulty. You must complete the training to take the exam.



ASSESSMENT OF EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

Passing score on the exam is 80 percent. Applicants will be informed of exam results immediately online. Individuals will receive a certificate if they pass or a breakdown of their results if they fail immediately. Applicants who do not pass the exam may retake the exam one time without an additional fee any time within the next six months.

Recertification

To maintain AAS crisis specialist certification it must be renewed every 5 years. It is the responsibility of the crisis specialist to renew, keep track of their certificates, and are aware that no reminders will be sent. Certification will be renewed when documentation of the following is received:

1. Participation in continuing education programs in the crisis field for at least **12 hours per year**.
2. Continued active work in the crisis field, including supervising and/or training crisis specialists. If there is a change in the certificate holder's work status or location, the Individual Certification Committee must be notified to assure continued certification.
3. Payment of the recertification fee of \$45 for AAS/CASP members, \$75 for non-members.
4. Completion of the recertification form which is attached to this document.

The American Association of Suicidology

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

(Please print clearly or type)

NAME: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

***HOME ADDRESS:**

Street address: _____ **City:** _____

State/Province: _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____

WORK ADDRESS:

Street address: _____ **City:** _____

State/Province: _____ **Zip/Postal Code:** _____

EDUCATION (Post high school. Begin with most recent.)

Institution	City, State	Dates attended	Degree/Certification

CRISIS COURSES & CLINICAL TRAINING: (Include all relevant workshops, conferences, and seminars relevant to Core Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes)

Course/Workshop	Date	# Hours

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN DIRECT CRISIS WORK:

Please complete the following information for every volunteer and/or paid position(s) you have held to calculate your total hours performing crisis intervention. Copy this form for additional space as needed. (Add other agency listings as needed)

(1) Agency: _____ Title: _____

City/State/Province: _____

Beginning date: _____ Ending date: _____

No. of weeks: _____ Hours doing crisis intervention: _____

Total Hours Performing Direct Crisis Work at this Position: _____

(2) Agency: _____ Title: _____

City/State/Province: _____

Beginning date: _____ Ending date: _____

No. of weeks: _____ Hours doing crisis intervention: _____

Total Hours Performing Direct Crisis Work at this Position: _____

(3) Agency: _____ Title: _____

City/State/Province: _____

Beginning date: _____ Ending date: _____

No. of weeks: _____ Hours doing crisis intervention: _____

Total Hours Performing Direct Crisis Work at this Position: _____

(4) Agency: _____ Title: _____

City/State/Province: _____

Beginning date: _____ Ending date: _____

No. of weeks: _____ Hours doing crisis intervention: _____

Total Hours Performing Direct Crisis Work at this Position: _____

TOTAL HOURS OF CRISIS INTERVENTION EXPERIENCE:

SPONSORING LETTER

Please indicate below the person from whom you have requested a sponsoring letter. This person must be acquainted with your work. This letter must be received prior to sitting for the exam.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Letter is enclosed: _____

Fees

Fees include the accreditation that's good for 5 years, access to the training, and 2.5 CE credits.

CERTIFICATION FEE

AAS/CASP Member: \$115
Non-Member: \$170

RE-CERTIFICATION FEE

AAS/CASP Member: \$45.00
Non-Member: \$75.00

AAS ACCREDITED CENTERS

5-10 Applicants: \$105/ea
10+ Applicants: \$100/ea

Late fees in reaccrediting:

Up to 3 months - \$25.00

3-6 months - \$50.00

Over 6 months must reapply. This includes completing the Crisis Specialist Training.

There will be a \$15 charge for copying and mailing a hard copy of the manual.

Send application form, sponsor letter, or questions to csandwell@suicidology.org.

The American Association of Suicidology

CRISIS SPECIALIST RE-CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Date certification expires: _____

List below all the continuing education hours you have taken in the crisis work field since your last certification began. You must have accumulated 60 hours of crisis intervention learning.

NAME OF COURSE

HOURS

List below your work responsibilities since your last certification. You must show that you have continued to be clinically active in crisis work. Start with your most current work.

NAME OF WORK

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

DATES

My signature testifies that all that I have submitted above accurately represents my clinical activities and training.

Signature

Date

Send re-certification form and materials to csandwell@suicidology.org.