

Chapter 2. Professional Counseling Organizations, Licensure, Certification, and Accreditation

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the American Counseling Association (ACA)?
 - a. It is the world's largest association for counselors.
 - b. There are more than 56,000 members.
 - c. Members are only from the United States.
 - d. ACA gives members the chance to stay in touch with issues important to counseling.
2. Which of the following is one of the four organizations that came together to originally form ACA?
 - a. Student Personnel Association for Teacher Education.
 - b. American College Personnel Association.
 - c. National Vocational Guidance Association.
 - d. All of the above.
3. Divisions can be categorized as _____ divisions or _____ divisions.
 - a. specialty; preferred
 - b. passion; specialty
 - c. work setting; specialty
 - d. passion; work setting
4. An example of a passion division is the
 - a. Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD).
 - b. Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC).
 - c. Association for Creativity in Counseling (ACC).
 - d. All of the above.
5. The American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) is an example of a
 - a. passion division.
 - b. work setting division.
 - c. Both of the above.
 - d. None of the above.
6. The _____ advocates for client-access to quality mental health care services.
 - a. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)
 - b. Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA)
 - c. American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA)
 - d. American College Counseling Association (ACCA)
7. The mission of the _____ is to promote excellence in rehabilitation counseling, research, consultation, and professional development.
 - a. American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
 - b. Association for Assessment in Counseling and Education (AACE)

- c. Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)
 - d. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)
8. The Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) strives to
- a. ensure appropriate supervision of professional counselors.
 - b. improve education and credentialing.
 - c. advocate for quality graduate education.
 - d. All of the above.
9. The _____ was originally chartered as the Military Educators and Counselors Association to support members of the armed services and their families.
- a. Military and Government Counseling **Association (MGCA)**
 - b. American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA)
 - c. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA)
 - d. Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW)
10. The Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC)
- a. strives to improve standards and identify barriers related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender counseling.
 - b. advocates for the reduction of stereotypical thinking and homosexual prejudice.
 - c. promotes awareness and understanding.
 - d. All of the above.
11. Which ACA division is nicknamed, “the heart and conscience of the counseling profession”?
- a. Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC)
 - b. **Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC)**
 - c. Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ)
 - d. International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (IAMFC)
12. Licenses and certifications require
- a. a minimum of a 3.0 as a graduate GPA.
 - b. continuing education.
 - c. qualification by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
 - d. three years of graduate education.
13. Which of the following is NOT one of the four ACA regions?
- a. Eastern.
 - b. Southern.
 - c. North Atlantic.
 - d. Midwest.
14. Which of the following is NOT one of ACA’s branches?
- a. New York.
 - b. Europe.
 - c. Australia.
 - d. Latin America.

15. Which of the following is a benefit of membership in an ACA state branch?
- Branches are in touch with current issues in particular states so they can find resources, training, and advocacy.
 - Branches facilitate networking of professionals through conferences and workshops.
 - Branches advocate for state legislation in the best interests of professional counselors and counselors-in-training.
 - All of the above.
16. The _____ has supported counselors-in-training by offering monetary awards for essay writing contests.
- American Counseling Association Foundation (ACAF)
 - Chi Sigma Iota
 - American Counseling Association Insurance Trust, Inc. (ACAIT)
 - National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
17. Which of the following is NOT true about the American Counseling Association Foundation (ACAF)?
- ACAF publishes a free weekly column, *The Counseling Corner*.
 - ACAF reached out to counselors and branches affected by hurricanes Rita and Katrina.
 - ACAF is not a professional partner of ACA.
 - ACAF honors outstanding educators and practitioners.
18. To guarantee quality training in counseling, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- promotes high standards.
 - rigorously reviews counseling programs.
 - works with other credentialing organizations.
 - All of the above.
19. The _____ is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental, independent corporation which advances professional counselor credentials.
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
 - American Counseling Association Foundation (ACAF)
 - National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
 - Chi Sigma Iota
20. Which of the following is NOT true about the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)?
- NBCC manages certification examinations.
 - NBCC oversees the national certification process.
 - NBCC recruits non-profit organizations to sponsor certification testing.
 - NBCC manages specialty certifications for clinical mental health and addictions counselors.
21. National certification is defined by

- a. a process of identifying those institutions or programs which meet set standards.
 - b. a method of identifying those individuals who have voluntarily completed pre-determined standards set by professionals within the field.
 - c. requirements for professional counselors in all 50 states.
 - d. None of the above.
22. Accreditation is defined by
- a. a process of identifying those institutions or programs which meet set standards.
 - b. a method of identifying those individuals who have voluntarily completed pre-determined standards set by professionals within the field.
 - c. requirements for professional counselors in all 50 states.
 - d. None of the above
23. The CACREP accreditation process includes
- a. self-study and application.
 - b. on-site visit.
 - c. team report.
 - d. All of the above.
24. Decisions of the CACREP board regarding accreditation of a program can include all of the following EXCEPT
- a. permanent accreditation.
 - b. 8-year accreditation.
 - c. 2-year provisional accreditation.
 - d. denial of accreditation.
25. Requirements for certification from NBCC include
- a. a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university.
 - b. a bachelor's degree that must be at least 36 hours total.
 - c. documented work experience and supervision hours.
 - d. None of the above.
26. In 1976, _____ became the first to institute a professional counseling licensure law.
- a. Massachusetts
 - b. Virginia
 - c. Vermont
 - d. Connecticut
27. Title acts differ from practice acts in that title acts
- a. prohibit individuals from performing the activities associated with professional counseling.
 - b. require individuals to meet state licensure requirements.
 - c. allow individuals to practice the profession of counseling so long as they do not call themselves licensed professional counselors.
 - d. allow graduates of counselor education programs to call themselves licensed professional counselors.
28. The minimum number of supervised clinical hours an applicant must accumulate before applying for a counseling license
- a. is 3,000 hours.

- b. is 4,000 hours.
 - c. is 5,000 hours.
 - d. varies by state.
29. The process by which states reach agreements that allow for out-of-state licenses to be accepted so long as all state fees are paid is known as
- a. credentialing.
 - b. portability.
 - c. certification.
 - d. cross certification.
30. Credentialing
- a. allows individuals to be identified by their professional affiliations.
 - b. protects the public.
 - c. assists in the development of a strong professional identity.
 - d. All of the above.
31. National certification of professional counselors is accomplished by
- a. colleges and universities.
 - b. the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
 - c. the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
 - d. All of the above.
32. Licensure and national certification
- a. support future skill development.
 - b. guide counseling students through their respective graduate programs.
 - c. allow a professional to use their leadership and advocacy skills.
 - d. are costly and sometimes unnecessary.
33. _____ was the final state to issue licenses for professional counselors.
- a. Virginia
 - b. Florida
 - c. California
 - d. Maryland
34. Accreditation identifies educational programs which meet minimum standards for
- a. student services.
 - b. faculty composition.
 - c. curriculum.
 - d. All of the above.
35. The _____ is NOT a professional credentialing organization?
- a. National Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE)
 - b. Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
 - c. National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

- d. American Counseling Association (ACA)
36. Credentialing laws for the counseling profession have been left to the
- a. state legislatures.
 - b. national government.
 - c. county/city legislatures.
 - d. school districts.
37. Which of the following statements is NOT true about credentialing laws for the counseling profession?
- a. Many states accredit graduate school counseling programs in conjunction with national accreditation processes.
 - b. Professional policies and laws, particularly credentialing, are still being established.
 - c. Credentialing laws are established by the national government.
 - d. Credentialing procedures are different from state-to-state.
38. The four levels of credentialing procedures, ranging from least prestigious to most prestigious, are _____.
- a. inspection, licensure, certification, and registration.
 - b. registration, certification, inspection, and licensure.
 - c. certification, inspection, licensure, and registration.
 - d. inspection, registration, certification, and licensure.
39. _____ are provided for those individuals within a given profession who have met higher standards than others within the same professional group.
- a. Certification for title restrictions
 - b. Stipends and extra pay
 - c. Special licensure and certification
 - d. None of the above.
40. Many state licensure laws function as
- a. title acts.
 - b. practice acts.
 - c. Both of the above.
 - d. None of the above.
41. _____ is the ability of professionals to move their licensed status from state to state.
- a. Transferability
 - b. Anonymity
 - c. Portability
 - d. Communicability
42. Which of the following is considered a benefit of licensure and credentialing?
- a. Safeguarding the public
 - b. Third party reimbursement and advertisement
 - c. Increased accessibility of services
 - d. All of the above.
43. In order to be a National Certified School Counselor (NCSC), one must first become a
- a. National Certified Counselor (NCC).

- b. professional counselor, after graduating from a CACREP accredited institution.
 - c. member of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
 - d. All of the above.
44. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of becoming a National Certified Counselor (NCC)?
- a. The NCC ensures portability of a nationally recognized counseling credential should one relocate.
 - b. The NCC advances professional accountability and visibility.
 - c. A professional counselor with an NCC can generate client referrals through CounselorFind, NBCC's referral service linking potential clients to nearby NCCs.
 - d. The NCC promises a tenured position as a professional counselor in one's particular setting.
45. Which of the following statements is TRUE about credentialing?
- a. Credentials serve to protect the public.
 - b. Credentials allow individuals to be identified by their professional group affiliation.
 - c. Credentials encourage development of a strong professional identity among counselors.
 - d. All of the above.
46. Credentialing does NOT include
- a. licensure.
 - b. certification.
 - c. tenure.
 - d. accreditation.
47. _____ protects public interest, ensures that graduate students have met high standards, and identifies educational programs that meet minimum standards for faculty composition, curriculum, and student services.
- a. Licensure
 - b. Certification
 - c. Accreditation
 - d. Maintenance
48. _____ is NOT a level of credentialing procedures.
- a. Inspection
 - b. Accreditation
 - c. Certification
 - d. Licensure
49. In the _____ process, the state legislature passes a law that allows professional groups to document individuals within the profession that have met specific standards.
- a. inspection
 - b. certification
 - c. registration
 - d. licensure
50. Which of the following is TRUE about state licensure?
- a. Licensure regulates title and practice of an occupational group.
 - b. Licensure is the most prestigious credentialing procedure.

- c. Licensure laws exist in every state.
 - d. All of the above.
51. Which of the following is NOT a criterion for state licensure?
- a. 4,000–6,5000 hours of supervision.
 - b. Master’s degree from an accredited university.
 - c. 48-60 hours of graduate education.
 - d. Passing score on the National Counselor’s Exam.
52. Portability allows
- a. the public to know that they are protected.
 - b. professionals to move their license from state to state.
 - c. professionals to use standardized practices.
 - d. a multicultural approach to counseling.
53. A drawback of licensure may be
- a. a lack of research to support its existence.
 - b. the cost of maintaining the license.
 - c. geographical limitations.
 - d. All of the above.
54. Which of the following accomplishments in professional counseling CANNOT be attributed to professional counseling associations?
- a. Licensure of professional counselors.
 - b. Ethical standards.
 - c. Educational laws.
 - d. Third-party reimbursement from health insurance companies.
55. Which of the following statements is true about the American Counseling Association (ACA)?
- a. The ACA has 20 divisions.
 - b. ACA was originally called the American Personnel and Guidance Association (APGA).
 - c. ACA was founded in 1952.
 - d. All of the above.
56. The reason for removing “development” from ACA’s previous title of the American Association for Counseling and Development was
- a. to unite and reflect the common link of counseling between association members.
 - b. because only psychodynamic perspectives deal with development.
 - c. due to a great deal of conflict over the title.
 - d. due to new theories emerging that did not look at development as a part of the counseling process.
57. _____ of the ACA focus on areas of expertise and topics of interest.
- a. Regions
 - b. Passion divisions
 - c. Members
 - d. Branches

58. _____ focus on the various specialties and specific work settings within professional counseling.
- Regions
 - Passion divisions
 - Work setting divisions
 - None of the above.
59. The ACA regions allow
- for members to have a common meeting place for meetings and functions.
 - ACA members who are not members of divisions to have representation through an ACA Governing Council Representative.
 - Both of the above.
 - None of the above.
60. Professional partner organizations provide _____ for ACA members.
- diversions
 - resources
 - a voice
 - competition
61. Which of the following does professional development provide to professional counselors?
- Certification or license renewal.
 - Continuing education.
 - Increased occupational opportunities.
 - All of the above.
62. Members of professional organizations may receive current information through
- journals.
 - web pages.
 - List-serves.
 - All of the above.

Answer Key: 1. c, 2. d, 3. d, 4. d, 5. b, 6. c, 7. d, 8. d, 9. a, 10. d, 11. b, 12. b, 13. a, 14. c, 15. d, 16. a, 17. c, 18. d, 19. c, 20. c, 21. b, 22. a, 23. d., 24. a, 25. c, 26. b, 27. c, 28. d, 29. b, 30. d, 31. b, 32. a, 33. c, 34. d, 35. d, 36. a, 37. c, 38. d, 39. a, 40. c, 41. c, 42. d, 43. a, 44. d, 45. d, 46. c, 47. c, 48. b, 49. c, 50. d, 51. a, 52. b, 53. d, 54. c, 55. d, 56. a, 57. b, 58. c, 59. b, 60. b, 61. d, 62. d.

Extended Response Questions

1. Draw a chart and explain the structure of the American Counseling Association (ACA).
2. Describe the American Counseling Association (ACA) and its functions.
3. Compare and contrast passion and work setting divisions within ACA and provide examples of each.

4. List and describe two examples of journals released by professional counseling organizations affiliated with ACA.
5. List the four regions of the ACA and describe the purposes of regions within the ACA.
6. Describe the purpose of ACA's state branches.
7. Explain the significance of professional development.
8. Describe the benefits of joining professional counseling organizations.
9. What value do accreditation, licensure, and national certification bring to the counseling profession?
10. What is the purpose of having both national certification and state certification?
11. How does national certification differ from membership in counseling organizations?
12. Name the advantages of attending a CACREP accredited counselor education program.
13. How does national certification benefit an individual professional counselor's practice?
14. How do national certification and your state licensure system compare?
15. How does certification or licensure of a professional counselor benefit that counselor's clients?
16. Describe the purposes of credentialing and licensure.
17. Explain the four levels of credentialing procedures.
18. Describe the certification/licensure regulations for professional school counselors.
19. Describe the history of the American Counseling Association (ACA).
20. Describe the purpose of ACA divisions.
21. Choose two ACA divisions and describe each in detail.
22. List ACA's professional partners and describe the purpose of having professional partners.
23. Describe accreditation and list its purposes and examples of credentialing organizations.
24. Explain licensure and the relevance of practice acts to licensure.
25. Describe the usual requirements for state licensure as a professional counselor.
26. Explain license portability and its importance to professional counselors.

Website Links

<http://www.counseling.org/AboutUs/Partners/TP/Home/CT2.aspx>

This is the American Counseling Association page with a list of its related professional partners and organizations.

<http://www.counseling.org/AboutUs/DivisionsBranchesAndRegions/TP/Divisions/CT2.aspx>

This is a link to the American Counseling Association's webpage with a link to all of its professional divisions. These divisions each focused upon a specialty area in counseling.

<http://www.amhca.org/>

This is the official webpage for the American Mental Health Counselors Association. AMHCA provides the knowledge, support and recognition counselors need for professional success.

http://www.guidetopsychology.com/cln_cns.htm

This website describes the different requirements for licensure among mental health professions.

<http://www.nbcc.org/>

This is the official website for the National Board of Certified Counselors. It is the nation's primary professional certification board devoted to credentialing professional counselors.

<http://counselingexam.com/>

This is a user-friendly preparation guide for the *National Counselor Exam* and other credentialing and licensure exams. It provides sample multiple choice questions and other helpful information about professional credentialing exams.

<http://www.counseling.org/Counselors/LicensureAndCert/TP/StateRequirements/CT2.aspx>

This is a link to the American Counseling Association which provides contact information for those interested to contact each state about licensure and credentialing requirements.

