



California SUD Counselor Certification

Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor  
Credential

Candidate Handbook

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## **Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential**

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient’s needs.

Research shows that a combination of medication and therapy can successfully treat these disorders, and for some people struggling with addiction, MAT can help sustain recovery. MAT is also used to prevent or reduce opioid overdose.

The experiential-based Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential (MATCC) supports the certified Substance Use Disorder Counselor to highlight their education, knowledge, and experience in medication-assisted treatment.

The Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential is available to individuals with an underlying addiction professional license or certification from a State-approved or recognized, or nationally recognized, licensing or certification agency, when they meet the MATCC standards and document their eligibility.

### **Why Obtain the Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential?**

- Recognition of your education and experience in medication assisted treatment.
- Recognition of your commitment to advancing your knowledge and skills in the treatment of Substance Use Disorder.
- Recognition of your commitment to continuing your education in medication assisted treatment through bi-annual credential renewal.
- Recognition of the value you bring to interdisciplinary work and integration between types of addiction treatment.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) professional license or certification from a State-approved or recognized, or nationally recognized, licensing or certification agency.
- 3-years of general SUD counselor experience.
- 1-year experience designated as a MAT counselor (experience providing SUD primary treatment and case management services or primary services to those in a MAT program will be acknowledged or counted toward the experience criteria).
- Completion of 40-hours of medication-assisted treatment specific education. MAT education should include, at a minimum, the MAT educational topics listed in the next section.

## **Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential Educational Topics**

- Opioid addiction and treatment.
- History of opioids and opioid treatment.
- The science and rationale for opiate agonist treatment, pharmacology, pharmacotherapy, screening, admission, assessment, and behavioral pharmacology of methadone.
- Counseling and referral, counseling services in MAT programs.
- Stages in MAT from a counseling perspective, counseling issues in methadone maintenance treatment, take home medication issues.
- Co-occurring mental health issues, working with people with disabilities, and MAT and pregnancy.
- The opioid maintenance, effectiveness of methadone as a medical treatment for opioid addiction, a review of outcomes in methadone treatment, and ethical considerations in MAT.

## **Required Application Content**

1. Copy of current Substance Use Disorder professional license or certification.
2. Documentation of 3-years of verifiable experience providing client services as an SUD Counselor.
3. Documentation of 1-year of verifiable experience providing client services specific to Medication-Assisted Treatment. The 1-year of MAT experience can be within the 3-years of general experience but must be specifically noted within the work experience.
4. Documentation of 40-hours of medication-assisted treatment specific education which includes the required topics.
5. Completed Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential application, including the required supporting documents and the non-refundable application fee.

## **Fees**

- Initial application Fee: \$75.00
- Renewal fee every two years: \$25.00

Upon application approval and subsequent renewal, the counselor will receive a MATCC digital badge and credential via email and a hard copy certificate via USPS mail.

## **Bi-annual Medication-Assisted Treatment Counselor Credential Renewal**

Credential renewal is required every 2 years and requires the following:

1. Copy of current Substance Use Disorder (SUD) professional license or certification from a State-approved or recognized, or nationally recognized, licensing or certification agency.
2. 8 hours of continuing education related to Medication-Assisted Treatment.
3. Renewal application and payment of renewal fee.

Note: MATCC continuing education hours may also be utilized within the 40 hours required for the bi-annual renewal of your SUDCC Certification.