1. Applicants may be certified subject to the following education and experience requirements:

**Required Experience** (including paid and unpaid experience)

The applicant must have a total of 3500 counselling hours within 5 years prior to application. The 3500 hours consists of 2 parts:

**PART 1**

1500 hours of client contact with supervision, including:

- A minimum of 500 of these hours must be **direct service** to problem gamblers and/or family members.
- A minimum of 300 hours may be **indirect services** to problem gamblers and/or their family members.
- The remaining 700 hours must be **direct client service hours within the field of addiction and/or mental health**.

**PART 2**

- 2000 hours of **work with a therapeutic purpose**, which includes mental health and/or addictions, including but not limited to case management, record keeping, education sessions and/or therapeutic recreation.

**Required Education**

- An applicant must complete **100 hours of approved gambling specific education** as defined in the core curriculum. (Review Core Curriculum Section A-2).
- This must be completed within 6 years prior to application. Applicants must provide verification of attendance / completion of education hours.
- Education hours may include university or college courses or any approved professional training in problem gambling.
- Courses must meet the content and hour requirement outlined in the core curriculum. (Section A-2)

2. An applicant will be expected to abide by the Canadian Problem Gambling Counsellor Code of Ethics. **See Application Instructions Form for download.**

3. To maintain certification, counsellors must be recertified every two years with evidence of 32 hours of approved and verified continuing education. Eighteen of these hours must be gambling specific and may include education opportunities such as conferences, workshops, webinars, online courses, seminars and post-secondary course work. The remaining fourteen hours may be in related education such as the field of addiction and/or treatment models and techniques.
APPROVED GAMBLING SPECIFIC EDUCATION

Please list the approved education sessions in the area of **gambling specific education obtained** within the last six years immediately prior to date of application (minimum of 100 hours of approved education).

Provide a list for each education session and verification of attendance including title of session, date and number of hours.

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION CREDIT OPTIONS A-3**

**THESIS CRITERIA:**

If the individual designed, researched and presented the thesis, he/she could be granted a maximum of 20% of total education hours. The candidate would be responsible for the submission of a thesis executive summary and proof of completion/graduation from the sponsoring institution.

**ONLINE COURSE/CORRESPONDENCE COMPLETION:**

The individual will provide a course outline stating the number of hours required to complete the course, the form of evaluation, the final grade and a short report on the value of this particular learning. The candidate will then be eligible for a maximum of 1 education hour per approved on line hour to a maximum up to 15% of your total educational hours.

**COURSE/WORKSHOP DESIGN:**

The candidate will submit an outline of the workshop and a report as to the time spent on research and design tasks. The applicant will then be eligible for a maximum of 5% of the total education hours towards certification.

**COURSE/WORKSHOP FACILITATION**

The candidate will submit an outline of the presentation and include a minimum of 5 completed/signed evaluations from participants of this session. The applicant will then be eligible for a maximum of 5% of the total education hours.

**CORE CURRICULUM A-4**

The content listed below must be gambling specific.

1) **Basic Knowledge**

   An understanding of the history of gambling, types of gambling and odds, Relevant definitions and terminology, counsellor values and beliefs, as well as the knowledge of the significant literature in the field.

2) **Screening, Assessment and Referral**

   Knowledge of screening and assessment tools and an understanding of treatment modalities and philosophies to ensure appropriate services to meet the needs of the client.
3) **Treatment Planning & Case Management** 12 hrs
Knowledge on the development of individualized treatment plans, goal setting, contracting, problem solving and management of treatment and/or services.

4) **Individual Counselling** 12 hrs
Effective counselling techniques to establish a therapeutic relationship with the client.

5) **Group Counselling** 12 hrs
Counselling techniques to establish a therapeutic relationship in a group setting to facilitate life skills, problem solving, as well as techniques and knowledge regarding group dynamics.

6) **Family Treatment** 12 hrs
Knowledge of effects on the family and family dynamics and of appropriate interventions and counselling techniques.

7) **Co-Occurring Psychiatric Disorders & Other Addictions** 12 hrs
Knowledge of the signs and symptoms of other addictive disorders such as alcohol and other drugs, eating disorders and co-occurring addictions. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of psychiatric disorders which may coexist with or mask problematic gambling.

8) **Finances & Budgeting** 6 hrs
Knowledge of problem solving strategies and interventions to complement the treatment plan and financial implications for the family.

9) **Legal Issues** 6 hrs
Knowledge of basic legal issues pertaining to problem gambling and the laws regarding confidentiality.

10) **Cultural Issues & Specific Populations** 6 hrs
Knowledge of cultural values and attitudes as it pertains to gambling, problematic gambling, finances or spiritual concerns and knowledge regarding high risk populations.

11) **Counselling Ethics** 4 hrs
Knowledge and understanding of the Personal Code and Ethical Standards for gambling counsellors.
COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS A-5

1. Communication
The gambling counsellor shall be able to communicate in a variety of situations to ensure that the needs of problem gamblers, their families and/or significant others are met and that continuity of care is maintained through case collaboration with other health care providers. Applicants will be able to demonstrate the following:
   a) Speak, read and write with proficiency, to establish communication readily, and to maintain records and written reports.
   b) Document adhering to rules of competency, and confidentiality.

2. Knowledge of gambling, problem gambling, gambling addiction, treatment and recovery
   a) History and social impact of gambling in Canada, as well as the significant literature in the field.
   b) History and theoretical basis for treatment of problem gambling as well as familiarity with current research in the field.
   c) The effect of problem gambling on the gambler, personally, interpersonally, financially and during the recovery process.
   d) Understanding other addictions and a thorough knowledge of addiction, treatment, relapse and the recovery process.
   e) Knowledge of socio-cultural values and attitude systems related to finances, problem gambling and spiritual concerns.
   f) Effective medical, psychological, social service and spiritual management of problem gamblers, as well as the recovery process.
   g) Knowledge of socio-cultural values and effective medical, psychological, social service and spiritual management of the family of the problem gambler.
   h) Knowledge of the effect of problem gambling on occupational and legal concerns.
   i) Knowledge of available treatment modalities and best practices in the field

3. Screening and Assessment
To ensure appropriate services to meet the needs of clients, the ability to evaluate and assess the needs and problem stage of the client in therapy is a requirement.
   a) Knowledge of human growth and development.
   b) Knowledge of family dynamics and interaction.
   c) Knowledge of problem gambling.
   d) Knowledge of the signs and symptoms of substance abuse, process addictions and related mental health issues.
   e) Analytical skills
      1. Case history methodology
      2. Ability to recognize appropriate treatment modalities
      3. Evaluation of client's progress
4. **Treatment Planning**

The gambling counsellor shall be able to actively involve clients in the development of the individualized treatment plan.

a) Share information and assessment results with client and interpret material to those involved.
b) Inform clients of their legal rights, regarding acceptance of and participation in a treatment or recovery program.
c) Inform clients of their right, privileges and limitations regarding confidentiality.
d) Goal setting, contracting and problem solving

5. **Information and Referral**

Clients have a multitude of needs and issues that, at times, require a multidisciplinary approach. Appropriate agencies may be utilized by the counsellor in meeting those needs through an understanding of the principles of information and referral.

a) Knowledge of referral sources most appropriate for clients needs.
b) Skill in interpreting referral sources and their functions to client in relationship to their needs.
c) Ability to follow up and provide advocacy to ensure responsiveness of service providers.

6. **Counselling and Treatment**

The gambling counsellor shall possess skills regarding various counselling techniques. Applicants shall be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and ability to utilize counselling and treatment skills to include the following:

a) Choose appropriate methods of motivating clients
b) Ability to establish a genuine therapeutic relationship with the client.
c) Ability to use counselling techniques to educate, elicit feelings, facilitate self-understanding and motivate the clients.
d) Ability to evaluate outcome of treatment strategy and determine degree of effectiveness of treatment
e) Knowledge and ability to locate and develop basic informational support systems (materials, consultation resources etc).
f) Skill in individual and/or group counselling methods including techniques of working with spouses and families.
g) Ability to coordinate a client’s continuum of treatment and or services.
h) Appropriate utilization of various treatment resources, their rationale as well as benefits and limitations.
i) Understand the steps, traditions and philosophy of Gamblers Anonymous (G.A.) and its relationship to other treatments and Mutual Support Groups.
j) Knowledge of long range rehabilitative processes, including awareness of needs for medical care, post treatment crisis, relapse and problems of readjustment.