

# What You Need to Know About Certification

The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) sets the standard for quality rehabilitation counseling services in the U.S. and Canada. As an independent, not-for-profit organization, the CRCC has certified more than 30,000 counselors with its widely recognized Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and Canadian Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CCRC) designations.

From time-to-time, however, organizations surface that may not adhere to the same standards as other well-respected organizations such as the CRCC. This is because certification, as opposed to state licensure, is a voluntary process that is not government regulated.

Before you seek certification in the counseling or rehabilitation fields, you should ask the following questions:

## **Is the organization accredited by a recognized accrediting agency such as the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)?**

*The CRCC holds long-standing accreditation by the NCCA. Visit [www.noca.org](http://www.noca.org) for information about NCCA requirements for accredited organizations.*

## **Are there established eligibility requirements for certification that must be met, such as documenting specific education and work experience?**

*The CRCC requires that applicants document their compliance in one of the eligibility categories. These categories are based on research into current practices and requirements in the field.*

## **Is a valid examination offered to measure whether an applicant meets at least the minimum competency standards, based on current research in the field?**

*The CRCC requires that applicants pass its examination in order to become certified. Research is continued at regular intervals to ensure the validity of the exam.*

## **Are certified individuals required to periodically renew their certification by demonstrating that they have continually updated their knowledge?**

*The CRCC requires that individuals renew their certification every five years by documenting the accrual of a minimum of 100 clock hours of continuing education or by passing the examination, which is continually updated based on ongoing research.*

## **Are certified individuals held accountable for their actions through adherence to a professional code of ethics or standard of practice?**

*The CRCC requires that individuals adhere to its Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors. A grievance process has been established to handle complaints brought against certified individuals who allegedly have violated the Code.*

## **Are there written policies and procedures in place to appeal decisions?**

*The CRCC has clearly stated policies and procedures about all aspects of its certification process. These are outlined in the CRC and CCRC Certification Guides.*

## **RECOMMENDED CITATION**

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. (2005). *CRCC What You Need to Know About Certification*. Retrieved [date], from <http://www.crccertification.com/pages/10certification.html>