



WSGCC

Washington State Gambling
Counselor Certification

2023-2026 Certification Updates as of Aug. 5, 2026

The 2026 edition of the Certification Manual is now available.

Changes published in the 2026 Certification Manual:

- 1) Certification **Committee goals** updated for 2026-2028 (page 4).
- 2) Language regarding the requirement for 6 hours of Cultural Competency training for initial certification and subsequent renewals was changed to 6 hours of **"Health Equity and Cultural Humility Training** in alignment with Health Equity continuing education as outlined in RCW 43.70.613" (all instances).
- 3) **Group supervision** limit increased from four (4) to six (6) supervisees (page 8).
- 4) Information regarding **financial support** for applicants and payment instructions added (wherever applicable).
- 5) **ECPG mailing address** updated to 1511 State Ave. NE, Olympia, WA 98506 (all instances).
- 6) Requirement for **1,500 hours** of professionally supervised post-certification or post-licensure (by WA DOH) behavioral health counseling work experience **requirement removed**. This requirement seemed redundant since the Washington Department of Health (DOH) already has a practice-hour requirement to obtain a state certification/licensure and a DOH certification/licensure in good standing is required for the gambling specialty certification (page 6 and 17).
- 7) Requirement for proof of **academic diploma was removed**. This requirement seemed redundant since the Washington Department of Health (DOH) already has an education requirement to obtain a state certification/licensure and a DOH certification/licensure in good standing is required for the gambling specialty certification (page 6, 17, 20). Note that the education requirement for supervisor applicants *does* remain (page 40 and 43).
- 8) **Case Conceptualization** (Exam alternative) added to application checklist (page 17).
- 9) New **Directory Authorization** instructions, form, and on-site supervisor signature page added (pages 31-34).

- 10) International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB) updated to the International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (**IPGGC**) (all instances).
- 11) On the **Case Conceptualization** outline, the sections on “Client Strengths, Resources, and Major Life Impacts” and “Clinical Impressions” were updated with clearer instructions/expectations (page 36-38).
- 12) For **Supervisor** applicants, the requirement that the applicant must have a WA DOH license in good standing for at least five (5) years was changed to **two (2) years** with clarification language on what this means moved to the “Required Coursework/Certifications/Licensure” section from the “Work Experience” section (page 40, 42).
- 13) For **Supervisor** applicants, the section on work experience was changed to read “**Gambling-Specific Work Experience**” (page 41).
- 14) Any terminology referring to “gamblers” or “problem gamblers” was replaced with **non-stigmatizing language** according to context (all instances except Gambler’s Anonymous).

Changes published in the 2023 Certification Manual

- 1) **Allowance of online learning is increased** from 10hrs to 30hrs, as of January 1, 2023.
- 2) **Associate Licensees** can follow the same structure as SUDPT’s to apply for Provisional status while working toward full DOH licensure (see pg. 39 of 2022 manual)
- 3) Clarification language that **supervision should continue** until the Certification Application (either Level-I/II) has been approved.
- 4) **New Directory Authorization form** which collects more information for the Problem Gambling Helpline and Website Directory.

Changes published in the 2022 Certification Manual

- 1) All initial applications and renewals must include at least **6 hours Cultural Competency** training (went effective July 1, 2021). For initial applicants, this can include any Cultural Competency hours received as part of the 30-hour **Gambling Counselor Core Training** program (or other state 30-hour introductory problem gambling counseling training). For renewals, this is in addition to the 4 hours in Ethics, also every 2 years.
- 2) Clarification around requirements and prospective timeline of **SUDPTs** starting the certification process and applying for Provisional Provider status.
- 3) Clarification language that **supervision meetings** with supervisor are in addition to the 100/300 practice hours.
- 4) Case Conceptualization (Exam Alternative) option is now available!
- 5) IGCCB Gambling Counselor Exam registration changes from IGCCB.
- 6) Added a Certification Renewal Checklist
- 7) All references to chemical dependency or CDP, updated to substance use or SUDP.

