

Frequently Asked Questions

Advanced Certificate in Co-Occurring Behavioral Health and Wellness

Comparison Chart: MFT vs. LCPC vs. LCADC

Feature	MFT	LCPC	LCADC
Licensing Board	MFT/CPC Board	MFT/CPC Board	Alcohol/Drug/Gambling Board
Primary Focus	Couples/families/systems	General mental health	Co-occurring mental health & substance use
Can diagnose?	Yes	Yes	Yes (with co-occurring addiction)
Can treat substance use?	Yes (with competency)	Yes (with competency)	Yes (specialty)
Private practice?	Yes	Yes	Yes
CASAT courses count?	Some (depends on review)	Yes, fully	Yes, fully

Boards & Credentials

Q: How many licensing boards does CASAT coursework fulfill requirements for?

A: Two separate boards: (1) Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors (MFT and LCPC), and (2) Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors (LCADC, CPGC). These are completely separate boards with different applications, fees, and requirements.

Q: What's the difference between MFT, LCPC, and LCADC?

A: MFT specializes in couples, families, and relational/systemic work. LCPC is general clinical mental health counseling—the most common pathway for school counselors seeking clinical licensure. LCADC specializes in substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.

Q: Do MFT and LCPC have the same scope of practice in Nevada?

A: Yes. Both can diagnose, provide individual/couples/family therapy, work in any clinical setting, and accept insurance. The difference is training focus: MFT emphasizes systemic/relational approaches; LCPC focuses on broader clinical mental health services.

Q: Can I hold more than one license?

A: Yes! Many Nevada counselors hold dual licensure. While MFT and LCPC allow addiction work as part of scope of practice, adding LCADC provides full scope of competence for co-occurring disorders and increases employment opportunities.

Q: Does CASAT's co-occurring focus mean courses only count for LCADC?

A: Absolutely not. CASAT courses are approved by BOTH licensing boards and fully meet requirements for general LCPC licensure. "Co-occurring" means mental health AND addiction together—you learn all standard mental health content plus gain competency in substance use.

Q: I only want to do general mental health counseling. Will these courses work?

A: Yes. CASAT courses meet all standard LCPC requirements. The co-occurring focus means you'll be better prepared for real-world practice, where 50–75% of mental health clients have substance-related concerns. However, if you prefer to avoid addiction content entirely, you may consider other programs at UNR and UNLV.

Q: If I take CASAT courses, do I have to pursue LCADC too?

A: No. You can take CASAT courses and pursue ONLY LCPC licensure. The co-occurring content makes you a more competent clinician but doesn't obligate you to seek addiction-specific credentials.

Choosing Your Pathway

Q: I'm a school counselor. Should I pursue MFT or LCPC?

A: Most school counselors pursue LCPC because their master's coursework aligns more closely with LCPC requirements, meaning fewer additional courses. MFT requires specialized coursework in couples therapy and family systems that most school counseling programs don't include.

Q: What are the advantages of dual licensure (LCPC + LCADC)?

A: Broader scope of practice, more employment opportunities, higher reimbursement from some insurers, competitive advantage in the job market, and full competency to treat co-occurring disorders. CASAT's coursework is specifically designed to support the dual licensure pathway.

Q: Why does CASAT emphasize co-occurring disorders?

A: Co-occurring reflects clinical reality. Most clients seeking mental health treatment have substance-related concerns—their own use, family members' use, or related trauma. Even if you never work in addiction treatment, you'll encounter these issues. CASAT prepares you to address them competently.

Academic Review & Course Requirements

Q: My review only shows a couple of items marked “No.” Do I just need those?

A: Yes. You only need courses marked “No.” Blank items are courses that weren't required for your graduation year. Items marked “Yes” are already completed.

Q: I graduated before 2022. Do I need crisis/trauma and grief/loss even though they're blank?

A: No. Blank items mean those courses weren't required for your graduation year. You only need courses specifically marked “No.”

Q: Do CASAT courses cover the same content as “regular” diagnosis courses?

A: Yes—and more. CAS 759 covers complete DSM-5-TR criteria for all disorders, mental health assessment, substance use disorder assessment, and ASAM criteria. It satisfies the LCPC requirement while also counting toward LCADC.

Q: Will learning about addiction limit my ability to work in general mental health settings?

A: No—it expands it. Understanding substance use makes you more marketable. Every clinical setting needs clinicians who can recognize and address substance-related concerns.

Q: My academic review requires a course CASAT doesn't offer (e.g., Counseling Theories, Human Growth and Development). What do I do?

A: Some board requirements fall outside CASAT's catalog. For Counseling Theories, we recommend Liberty University or Post University. For other courses, work with CASAT advising to identify options. Also consider asking the Board of Examiners to re-review your transcripts—your master's program may have covered the content under a different course title.

Q: Can a course I already took at another institution count toward my certificate?

A: Possibly. Submit your transcripts with your application for a course equivalency review. For example, a course like “Abuse of Alcohol and Controlled Substances” may be deemed equivalent to CAS 674. Both CASAT and the Board of Examiners play a role in determining what counts.

Q: What does “dynamically dated” mean?

A: Most CASAT online courses are 12 weeks long, which is shorter and more intensive than a standard 15–16 week semester. CAS 770 (Internship) is the exception—it runs a full 15–16 week semester.

Application Process & Enrollment

Q: What is the application process?

A: Step 1: Request an academic transcript review from the Nevada Board(s) of Examiners for the license(s) you are pursuing. Step 2: Schedule and advising meeting [here](#). Step 3: Apply to the UNR Graduate School as a degree seeking student and select the Advanced Certificate in Addiction Treatment Services. The Advanced Certificate in Co-Occurring Behavioral Health and Wellness is still moving through the approval process. Your advisor will help you transition to the new certificate, once approved by UNR. See the Application Guide for detailed instructions.

Q: Do I need to apply as a degree-seeking student?

A: Yes. All students pursuing the Advanced Certificate must apply to the UNR Graduate School as a degree-seeking student. This ensures CASAT can advise you, track your progress, create your program of study, and ultimately award the certificate.

Q: What if I'm already taking classes as a graduate special student?

A: You will need to apply to the UNR Graduate School as a degree-seeking student. CASAT does not track or advise graduate special students. Courses you've already completed may count toward your certificate—work with CASAT advising to create your program of study.

Q: Can I just take courses without enrolling in the certificate program?

A: All students should apply as degree-seeking. This is how CASAT tracks your progress, provides advising, and ensures you're on the right path. If you need just 1-2 courses, schedule an advising appointment so we can give you the proper path to pursue.

Q: How many credits is the certificate?

A: The certificate is variable from 9 to 24 credits, depending on what your academic review requires. Your program of study will be individualized based on the courses you still need for licensure.

Q: Do I need to complete all my coursework before starting internship?

A: You must complete the two internship prerequisites (CAS 674 and CAS 759, or their equivalents) before enrolling in CAS 770. Other courses on your program of study can be taken before, during, or after internship.

Financial Concerns & Support

Q: Can I use FAFSA?

A: No. FAFSA does not apply to graduate certificate students. You can pursue private/personal education loans. The UNR Financial Aid Office may know about other funding paths.

Q: Should I still apply if I'm worried about cost?

A: Yes! CASAT occasionally receives grants covering tuition and books. If you're not on their radar, they can't notify you of funding opportunities. Things are always changing with funding availability.

Internship (CAS 770)

Q: How do I apply for internship?

A: Once you have completed your internship prerequisites (CAS 674 and CAS 759 or equivalents), you will complete the CAS 770 Site Approval Application via Formstack. This form asks you to identify your proposed internship site, confirm that the site and supervisor meet all program requirements, and provide your intended enrollment timeline. Note: The counseling demonstration video and self-analysis are part of your application to the Advanced Certificate program, not the internship application. The internship application is focused on securing an appropriate site.

Q: When are the internship application deadlines?

A: The Site Approval Application (Formstack) is due the semester before you intend to begin internship. Site approval decisions are made a minimum of a month prior to the start of the semester. If approved, you will receive instructions for Step 2—completing the UNR Site Partner Form (via DocuSign) and the Supervision Agreement—to be considered for registration in the upcoming term. Connect with your CASAT advisor to get specific deadlines pertaining to the semester you intend to begin internship.

Q: Is site approval guaranteed?

A: No. CASAT reviews each proposed site to ensure it meets all program requirements, including appropriate supervision, client population, and setting. Possible outcomes are Approved, Approved with Conditions, or Not Approved. If your site is not approved, you will receive specific feedback and may propose a different site.

Q: What if my proposed site is not approved?

A: You'll receive specific feedback about why the site did not meet requirements. You may resubmit with a different site or address the identified concerns with your original site and reapply. Starting your site search early gives you time to explore alternatives if needed.

Q: I haven't done counseling since my master's practicum years ago. Can I still apply?

A: Yes—that's common, especially for school counselors. Your counseling demonstration video is part of your application to the Advanced Certificate program, so that readiness is assessed before you reach the internship stage. By the time you're applying for internship, your focus is on finding an appropriate site. If it's been a while

since you've practiced, the prerequisite courses (CAS 674 and CAS 759) will help you rebuild your clinical foundation before you begin seeing clients.

Q: How many hours are required for internship?

A: Each section of CAS 770 requires 200 total hours: 120 direct client contact hours and 80 indirect hours. At least 25% of your direct hours must involve clients with co-occurring substance use and mental health concerns. Hours only count during the semester you are enrolled in CAS 770—hours completed before enrollment or after the course ends do not count.

Q: How many internship sections do I need?

A: Check your academic review. Most students need 1–2 sections of CAS 770 (200 hours each). School counselors often need 2 sections because their previous internship was specific to school counseling, not clinical mental health counseling.

Q: What types of sites qualify for internship?

A: A range of settings may qualify: community mental health centers, residential or intensive outpatient substance use programs, dual-diagnosis or co-occurring specialty programs, integrated behavioral health clinics or FQHCs, group private practices, hospital-based or VA behavioral health programs, correctional or reentry programs, telehealth-based practices, and school-based mental health programs. Solo private practice is not permitted, but group practices with multiple licensed professionals and adequate supervision structure may qualify.

Q: Do I need to find my own internship site?

A: Yes. Students are responsible for identifying and proposing a site. CASAT also has a master list of approved sites that we can provide you with if you are interested. All sites must be preapproved by CASAT before you begin—do not start accruing hours until you have written approval, are enrolled in CAS 770, and are receiving weekly faculty supervision. Start your search early—ideally 8+ weeks before your intended start date. The Agency Information Sheet and Site Search Guidelines will help you evaluate potential placements.

Q: Does my site supervisor need to be an addiction specialist?

A: No. Your faculty supervisor provides the co-occurring expertise through 1.5 hours per week of group supervision. Your site supervisor provides on-the-ground clinical mentorship and must hold an active LCPC, LCSW, MFT, LCADC, or Clinical Psychologist license with at least 2 years of independent experience (not as an intern). Note: School Counselor and School Psychologist are not approved supervisor licenses. A licensed professional must also be physically on-site whenever you are providing direct client services.

Q: Will I need to record my counseling sessions during internship?

A: Yes. Session recording is required via Supervision Assist, a HIPAA-compliant platform, with written client consent. Recordings are used for educational supervision with your faculty supervisor. If recording is not feasible at your site, the site must provide live/direct supervision as an alternative. This is a requirement your site must agree to before approval.

Q: Can I intern at my current job?

A: Possibly, but your internship duties must be distinctly different from your regular job responsibilities—different clients or different services, with hours clearly separated and documented apart from regular work hours. This arrangement requires special approval from CASAT.

Q: Can I split my internship between two sites?

A: This may be possible but requires special approval. Each site and supervisor must independently meet all program requirements.

Q: Do I need liability insurance?

A: Yes. Professional liability insurance is required for the duration of your internship. Your site must also maintain appropriate liability insurance and complete a formal site agreement (MOU) with UNR and CASAT. We recommend securing a membership with the American Counseling Association (ACA) and securing your student counselor liability insurance policy through HPSO – a preferred provider with ACA. This partnership provides you with a discounted rate.

Contact Information

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Nevada Licensing Boards

LCPC/MFT: marriage.nv.gov | 775.688.1610
LCADC: alcohol.nv.gov | 775.684.8922