

American Academy of Biblical Counselors

Policies & Procedures for Becoming a Certified Training Center

How to Become an AABC Certified Training Center

Thank you for your interest in AABC Certification for your Training Center. The first requirement for certification is successful completion of the AABC Training Center Application. Your Application provides AABC with the information essential to begin our evaluation of training centers eligible for certification.

Why Your Training Center Should Consider AABC Certification

- 1) AABC is creating an international network of trained and qualified counselors. Our goal is to promote the sufficiency of Scripture as a counseling model. As such, AABC promotes excellence in nouthetic (Biblical) counseling in the local church. As an AABC Certified Training Center, your center can help expand this network by equipping counselors for AABC certification.
- 2) AABC serves to promote and standardize the essential methods and theology of Biblical Counseling and Counselor Training. AABC certification conveys that your center is complying with, contributing to, and promoting standards of excellence and ethics that follow to a proven, established, international organization.
- 3) AABC will provide support, fellowship, and accountability to your organization in order to ensure good repute among God's people.
- 4) Once certified, your training center will be featured on AABC's website. This exposure will make your training center more available to those searching for biblical counselor training.

How Your Training Center Can Become AABC Certified.

STEP 1 Complete the Training Center Application Form. Compile all data required by the Application form. Applying centers must offer counseling and counselor training. They must be in full operation for at least one year prior to the date of application.

STEP 2 Send to the AABC / Training Center Certification Board the following (TCCB):

- a) Your completed Application
- b) Your application fee of \$175, payable to AABC.
- c) Supporting documents listed on the AABC Training Center Application. The TCCB may gather data about the center from a variety of people including but not limited to center leaders, authority holders, instructors, counselors, students, and AABC Board Members who have knowledge of the center and its leadership. A TCCB representative, if deemed necessary, may visit the center. An appropriate fee for the representative's time and expenses shall be the responsibility of the applying center.

STEP 3 The application and a detailed report on the center will be evaluated by the TCCB followed by a recommendation; approve or deny. If a center is denied certification the TCCB will communicate with the center regarding the matter(s) in question. Once the matter(s) is resolved a recommendation is submitted for certification.

AABC Training Center Application.

Please list complete contact data for your training center and its supervisor or director. List of Sponsoring Church/Organizations/Institutions. For each, provide title, denomination, contact person, website/contact information, and a brief description of your relationship with the institution. Please include letters of commendation from the leaders of these organizations. AABC will not approve a training center with more than one authority group.

Organizational Information

History of the Training Center

1. Provide the date of the center's inception (must be in existence at least one year before official certification can occur).
2. Chronicle the history of the center's progression of services.
3. Describe the past and current facilities.

Training Center's Relationship to AABC

1. Describe how the center complies with the principles and practices contained in the Statements of Doctrine and Practice. Briefly describe how the center has implemented these principles and practices into the training program.
2. Describe the involvement of your training center and its leaders with AABC.
3. Please list the names of course instructors who are AABC members.
4. At least two-thirds of course instruction must be taught by AABC members or approved exceptions by the certification committee.

Description of the Institutional Authority

1. Prepare a document describing the training center's responsibility to and working relationship with a duly recognized church, group of churches, and/or denomination that ascribes to the Christian values and Statements of Doctrine and Practice.
2. Who is in active authority over the training center? Please list all board members' names, occupations, and church affiliation(s) with position(s) in that church, addresses, and phone numbers.
3. How does the training center answer and report to this authority?
4. What is the authority's philosophy of decision-making in regard to the direction of the training facility?

5. How does this philosophy affect financial decisions? Description of Funding and Financial History of the Training Center

- a. Explanation of center funding including: sources of income, use of funds, and summary of the financial status of the training center including any past or pending legal matters.

Functional Information

Description of the Training Course(s)

1. Provide for each course a syllabus including assignments, books, projects descriptions, and other requirements.
2. Supply a brief synopsis of each course.
3. List the requirements for completing your training program.
4. Describe the counseling observation completed by trainees.
5. For each staff member, please provide name, title, education/training, ministry experience, responsibilities, and AABC membership status.
6. Explain how counselees discover your services and the case volume of the center.

Description of Teaching Methodologies

1. Briefly explain the teaching methodology.
2. Describe concisely the philosophy behind this methodology.

AABC Training Sample Template

The requirements for AABC membership are as follows:

Satisfactory completion of a course of study at a counseling center or educational agency approved by AABC; course of study must include the principles of nouthetic counseling, counseling case studies, marriage and family counseling, observation of counseling, and critical reflection on various theories of counseling and models of integration.

I. Principles and Practices of Nouthetic Counseling (9-14 hours)

A. Basics of Biblical Counseling 7-9 hours

1. The Need for Biblical Counseling
2. The Definition and Goal of Biblical Counseling
3. Progressive Sanctification
4. Process of Biblical Change
5. Qualifications of a Biblical Counselor
6. Getting to Heart Issues

B. Key Elements in Biblical Counseling 3-5 hours

1. Gathering Data
2. Discerning Problems Biblically
3. Establishing Involvement with Counselees
4. Giving Hope
5. Providing Instruction
6. Giving Homework

II. Critical Reflection on Various Theories of Counseling (2-4 hours)

A. Secular and Integration Theories

B. What Makes Biblical Counseling Biblical?

III. Husband and Wife Relationships (5-7 hours)

A. God's Purpose for Marriage

B. Roles of the Husband and Wife

C. Communication

D. Biblical Sexuality

IV. Parent and Child Relationships (3-5 hours)

A. Goal of Parenting

B. Parental Instruction

C. Parental Discipline

V. Frequent Issues in Counseling (7-9 hours)

A. Guilt and Repentance

B. Forgiveness

C. Trials and Suffering

D. Fear and Worry

E. Anger

F. Depression

G. Sexual Sin

VI. Medical Issues in Counseling (2-3 hours)

A. Physical Illness and Biblical Counseling

B. Psychotropic Drugs and Biblical Counseling

VII. Case Studies (2-3 hours)

A. Role Plays, and other Practice Case Discussions

VIII. Counseling Observations (10-15 one hour sessions. NOTE: may be applied toward AABC's required 50 hours/sessions with an AABC mentor)

Grand Total 40-60 hours

Required Reading for Counselors in Training:

1. *Competent to Counsel* by Jay Adams
2. *The Christian Counselor's Manual* by Jay Adams
3. *A Theology of Christian Counseling* by Jay Adams
4. *The Christian Counselor's Casebook* by Jay Adams
5. *Deceptive Diagnosis: When Sin is Called Sickness* by David Tyler & Kurt Grady
6. *God's Funeral: Psychology, Trading the Sacred for the Secular* by David Tyler
7. *Totally Sufficient: The Bible & Christian Counseling* by Ed Hindson & Howard Eyrich
8. *Curing the Heart* by William Hines & Howard Eyrich
9. *The Heart of Addiction* by Mark Shaw
10. *Why Christians Can't Trust Psychology* by Ed Bulkley
11. *Three to Get Ready: A Premarital Counseling Manual* by Howard Eyrich

Continuing certification

1. Once certified by AABC the center Director is responsible to submit an Annual Questionnaire prior to the AABC Annual Conference in April.
2. Certified Training Centers shall pay Annual Dues of \$175. The Annual Dues shall be accompanied by a signed Covenant.

Reciprocal Certification Agreement

1. If you are a certified training center with another authorized certifying agency (ACBC or IABC), you may apply for AABC training certification under the Reciprocal Certification Agreement with the following conditions:
 - a. A copy of your complete application, organizational response and certificate should accompany your abbreviated AABC application (Page 1, Step 1 & 2),
 - b. Submit your abbreviated application with the attached (1, a.) requested documents and a one-time non-refundable \$300 reciprocal application fee to AABC. (Upon approval, AABC Certified Training Centers shall pay Annual Dues of \$175. The Annual Dues shall be accompanied by a signed AABC Covenant).
 - c. The Reciprocal Certification Agreement application must be approved by AABC leadership.

2. The following training centers which are associated with the formation and organizing of AABC shall be grandfathered to certification upon payment of dues of \$175. 00 and submission of the abbreviated application cited in 1b above.

**American Academy of Biblical Counselors
Certified Training Center**

Certified Training Center Covenant

I am in agreement with the Statement of Doctrine and Practice of the American Academy of Biblical Counselors (www.aabiblicalcounselors.org) and hereby affirm my commitment to the sufficiency of the Scriptures in counseling as follows:

The sufficiency of God’s revelation in its entirety; including both Special and General Revelation.

Creation and providence, sometimes referred to as General Revelation and Common Grace do not provide the necessary information for life and godliness. God has chosen to reveal those truths that must be believed and practiced in order to please Him only through Special Revelation as recorded exclusively and completely in the Scriptures.

Neither creation nor providence is or was ever intended to be self-interpreting. Man’s fall into sin only increases his need for Special Revelation. Man actively misinterprets God’s world, exchanging the truth for a lie and suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.

The counselor must build his counseling system, including its presuppositions, principles and methodologies solely from Scripture. His counseling must demonstrate that Scriptural truth, ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit, is sufficient to enable counselees to love God and neighbor.

We deny that secular theories and practices are manifestations of General Revelation or Common Grace. We affirm that they are, in fact, attempts to substitute the “discoveries” of rebellious human thought for the truths revealed in Scripture, and are, therefore, in competition with a proper interpretation of General Revelation and with biblical counseling. They cannot be integrated with Scripture.

Director: _____

Signature _____

AABC Certified Training Center _____

Date _____