

# MA Problem Gambling Specialist (MA PGS) Certification

## Tracks & Requirements

Please refer to the table to identify which MA PGS certification you are eligible to apply for, in accordance with the requirements for each track.

Additional details for each certification category are outlined below the table. Please reach out to us at [MTAC@hria.org](mailto:MTAC@hria.org) with any questions!

MA PGS	MA PGS I	MA PGS II
<b>Education &amp; Professional Requirements</b>		
High School diploma or Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree or Master's degree or Doctoral degree  <i>*Licensure not required</i>	Master's degree or Doctoral degree  <i>*Must be licensed in Massachusetts (e.g., LMHC, LADC I, LICSW, LPCC)</i>
<b>Prior Experience &amp; Supervision Requirements</b>		
Associate's degree + 2.5 years of addiction- related, supervised experience* or High School Diploma + 3 years of addiction- related, supervised experience*	2 years of addiction-related, supervised experience*	1 year of addiction-related, supervised experience*
<i>*Addiction-related, supervised experience must be within 5 years of application submission</i>		
<b>Ongoing Supervision Requirements</b>		
N/A	N/A	Proof of current clinical supervision relative to problem gambling treatment is required.  <i>*This requirement is not applicable to clinical supervisors and/or independent practitioners in private practice.  **If the applicant is not receiving clinical supervision relative to problem gambling treatment, submission of a letter confirming ongoing supervision for other addiction-related casework is required.</i>
<b>CE requirements</b>		
<b>Initial certification:</b> 30 CE credit hours of M-TAC training/coursework <b>Renewal certification:</b> 15 CE credit hours of M-TAC training/coursework  <i>*Re-certification is required every 2 years for all tracks.</i>		
<b>Certification Costs</b>		
<b>Initial certification:</b> \$50 <b>Renewal certification:</b> \$25 <b>Lapsed renewal:</b> \$75		

## Additional Details

*Applications for certification, including all documentation, must be submitted through the [online application form](#).*

### Education and Professional Requirements

**MA PGS** – open to professionals with an associate’s degree or high school diploma who are working in the recovery/addiction support field.

**MA PGS I** – open to bachelor’s degree counselors or master’s/doctoral degree non-licensed clinicians who are working in the addiction treatment field.

**MA PGS II** – open to licensed clinicians with a master’s/doctoral degree. The licensure to achieve this level must be directly related to providing clinical treatment.

### Prior Supervision Requirements

*This is a requirement for both first-time applicants and renewals.*

Please provide a letter from your current or past supervisor stating that you have received the required amount of addiction-related supervision.

### Ongoing Supervision Requirements (MA PGS II only)

\*\* This requirement is not applicable if the applicant currently works as a clinical supervisor or an independent practitioner in private practice. In this case, please provide a letter from your place of employment certifying your role, or a copy of your independent license showing that you are in good standing.

\*\*\* If the applicant is not receiving clinical supervision relative to problem gambling treatment, submission of a letter confirming ongoing supervision for other addiction-related casework is required.

### What to include in the supervision letter:

- A description of the applicant’s direct contact with supervision related to gambling disorder and/or addiction cases. Group or individual supervision is applicable, however time spent in staff or administrative meetings will not be considered.

- A description of the supervised work position and work setting/program during the clinical supervision.
- The supervisor's signature and/or sign-off on the supervision.
- The supervisor's professional qualifications.

## CE Requirements

### PLEASE BE ADVISED:

**Training, coursework, and continuing education (CE) credits external to the M-TAC and PBU programs will not be accepted toward the fulfillment of MA PGS certification requirements. \***

Applicants cannot count repeated courses for credit (e.g. attending the same course multiple times).

CE credits must be earned within 2 years from the time of application. The field is rapidly changing, and it is therefore critical for professionals to have current information.

*\*CE credits received from attending the DPH Office of Problem Gambling Services (OPGS)'s Annual Conferences are applicable and will be accepted toward the fulfillment of certification requirements.*

## Cost

### LIST OF FEES:

- \$50 – Initial Certification
- \$25 – Renewal
- \$75 – Lapsed Renewal

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The M-TAC team thanks you for your interest in the MA Problem Gambling Specialist Certification and for uplifting gambling treatment in your communities!

Please reach out to us with any questions at [MTAC@hria.org](mailto:MTAC@hria.org).