



## **FRAMEWORK FOR COUNTRY-SPECIFIC NCC CERTIFICATIONS**

In order to further counseling worldwide through standards that lead to growing professionalism and recognition, NBCC International, a division of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. and Affiliates (NBCC), is offering collaboration with professional organizations that are moving toward the establishment of national and regional counseling standards. This collaboration can lead to the development of a credential carrying the internationally respected NBCC brand and logo, plus the name of the country or region issuing the credential, subject to a formal agreement with NBCC International concerning the use of and rights to the logo and brand name.

NBCC International allows flexibility in credential creation based on accepted counseling needs and practices in a specific country, particularly in terms of social, cultural and economic norms. A national credentialing committee formed by the appropriate leadership of the counseling profession will collaborate with NBCC International to create a credential and the process for administering it.

NBCC's licensing of the country-specific credential and logo is based on five universal criteria related to the determination of eligibility of credentialing candidates:

### **1. Education**

Education refers to the completion of a counseling-specific preparation program. While program duration can vary, the curriculum underpinning the training should reflect the practice of counseling in the country where the certification is to be developed.

### **2. Experience**

Prior to certification, candidates must document a period of professional practice under clinical supervision. This supervision involves far more than documentation of completed work. It places emphasis on refining the candidate's counseling skills.

### **3. Assessment**

As part of the credentialing process in each country or region, candidates must be asked to demonstrate at least minimal competence at a predetermined level of skill. Minimal competence, as determined by the national certification committee, should result from skills gathered from the education and/or experience requirements. Assessment methods should match the certification's stated requirements for a level of competence. Assessment may involve paper-and-pencil or computer-based measures, portfolios, work examples or a combination of formats to be scored on a predetermined rubric.

#### **4. Standards of Professional Practice and Conduct**

Each candidate/certificant must be held to a set of standards defining professional practice and conduct, as well as what is deemed a breach of those standards. Some standards are universally accepted. Others must be molded to fit the social, cultural, economic and political realities of a particular country or region. The national credentialing committee is responsible for setting appropriate standards that conform to national norms while also taking into account the universal criteria for professional counseling standards as advocated by NBCC International.

#### **5. Continuing Education**

Continuing education requirements encourage certified counselors to remain abreast of current trends important to their profession. Those requirements should be determined by a certification committee familiar with the goals and purposes of a national or regional counseling certificate. Once certified, counselors should be asked to document a predetermined number of units of continuing education within a specified time period. The penalty for failure to meet continuing education requirements should be revocation of the counselor certification.