

AADC Exam

Blueprint & Content Domain Changes

Current Blueprint (if testing prior to March 16, 2026)		Updated Blueprint (if testing March 16, 2026, or later)	
Domains Content	Weight on Exam	Domains Content	Weight on Exam
1. Screening, Assessment, and Engagement	23%	1. Screening, Assessment, and Engagement	22%
2. Treatment Planning, Collaboration, and Referral	18%	2. Treatment Planning, Collaboration, and Referral	24%
3. Counseling and Education	28%	3. Counseling and Education	30%
4. Professional and Ethical Responsibilities	31%	4. Professional and Ethical Responsibilities and Ethical Considerations	24%

Domain I - Screening, Assessment, and Engagement

Tasks have been reformatted into topics A – L.

Current Content Domains	Updated Content Domains
Task 1 Demonstrate verbal and non-verbal skills to establish rapport and promote engagement with persons served presenting at all levels of severity.	A. Develop rapport and promote engagement with persons served presenting at all levels of severity.
Task 2 Discuss with persons served the rationale, purpose, and procedures associated with the screening and assessment process to facilitate understanding and cooperation.	B. Discuss the purpose, and procedures associated with the screening and assessment process.
Task 3 Assess the immediate needs and readiness for change of the person served through evaluation of observed behavior and other relevant signs and symptoms of co- occurring substance use and/or mental health disorders.	C. Assess the immediate needs and readiness for change through evaluation of relevant signs and symptoms of co-occurring substance use and/or mental health disorders.
Task 4 Recognize the interactions between co-occurring substance use, mental health and/or other health conditions.	D. <i>No change in content</i>

Task 5 Assess for appropriateness of consultation and referral for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use and/or mental health disorders.	E. Assess for appropriateness of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use and/or mental health disorders.
Task 6 Identify screening and assessment tools that are appropriate to the demographics of the person served	F. Utilize screening and assessment tools that are culturally appropriate.
Task 7 Use clinical interviews and assessment instruments to obtain and document relevant bio/psycho/social/spiritual information from the person served and/or concerned others.	G. Conduct clinical interviews to obtain relevant bio/psycho/social/spiritual information.
Task 8 Screen for risk of harm to person served and/or others.	H. Screen and assess for danger to self and/or others
Task 9 Formulate diagnosis(es) based on the signs and symptoms of co-occurring substance use and/or mental health disorders by interpreting observable behavior, objective data, and results of interviews and assessment.	I. Formulate diagnoses based on the signs and symptoms of co-occurring substance use and/or mental health disorders.
Task 10 Utilize the appropriate placement criteria to determine the level of care.	J. <i>No change in content</i>
Task 11 Develop a comprehensive written summary based on the results of screening and bio/psycho/social/spiritual assessment to support the diagnosis (es) and treatment recommendations.	K. Document the screening and assessment results to support diagnoses and treatment recommendations
No task 12	L. Discuss diagnostic results and recommendations.

Domain 2 - Treatment Planning, Collaboration, and Referral

Tasks have been reformatted into topics A – H

Current Content Domains	Updated Content Domains
Task 1 Discuss diagnostic assessment, findings, and recommendations with the person served and concerned others.	A. Formulate mutually agreed upon goals, objectives, treatment methods, and resources
Task 2 Formulate and prioritize mutually agreed upon specific and reasonable short and long-term goals, measurable	B. Identify community resources to support ongoing treatment and/or recovery.

objectives, treatment methods, and resources based upon ongoing assessment findings that address the interactive relationship of each disorder identified.	
Task 3 Identify and facilitate access to community resources to support ongoing recovery.	C. Collaborate to review and modify the treatment plan.
Task 4 Collaborate with the person served in reviewing and modifying the treatment plan based on an assessment of progress and the level of readiness to address substance use and/or mental health goals.	D. Collaborate to strengthen ongoing recovery outside of primary treatment.
Task 5 Develop a plan with the person served to strengthen ongoing recovery outside of primary treatment.	E. Adapt intervention strategies to individual needs, recognizing multiple pathways of recovery.
Task 6 Document treatment progress, outcomes, and continuing care plans.	F. <i>No change in content</i>
Task 7 Adapt intervention strategies to the unique needs of the person served, recognizing multiple pathways of recovery.	G. Document collaboration, consultation and referrals.
Task 8 Determine effectiveness and outcome of referrals through ongoing evaluation and documentation.	H. Maintain a therapeutic relationship with persons served and identified supports.
Task 9 Document all collaboration, consultation, and referrals.	<i>Moved to topic G</i>
Task 10 Collaborate with other professionals.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>

Domain 3 - *Counseling and Education*

Tasks have been reformatted into topics A – M

Task 1 Develop a therapeutic relationship with persons served, families, and concerned others.	A. Evaluate the safety and potential for return to use.
Task 2 Continually evaluate the safety and relapse potential of the person served and develop strategies to anticipate as well as respond to crises.	B. Develop risk management strategies to respond to crises.

Task 3 Apply evidence-based, culturally competent counseling strategies and modalities to facilitate progress towards completion of treatment objectives.	C. Identify culturally sensitive counseling modalities grounded in theory or research to facilitate progress towards completion of treatment objectives.
Task 4 Document services provided and progress toward goals and objectives.	D. Maintain clinical records that document progress towards treatment goals.
Task 5 Educate the person served regarding the structure, expectations, and limitations of the counseling process.	E. Provide education regarding the structure, expectations, and limitations of the counseling process.
Task 6 Utilize individual and group counseling strategies and modalities to match the interventions with the level of readiness of the person served to address substance use and/or mental health goals.	F. Utilize individual and group counseling modalities and techniques to promote therapeutic progress.
Task 7 Adapt counseling strategies to match the unique characteristics and choices of the person served.	G. Educate individuals and/or their identified supports about the effects of substance use.
Task 8 Educate the person served and concerned others about the biological and psychiatric effects of substance use and misuse.	H. Educate individuals and/or their identified supports about the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders.
Task 9 Educate the person served and concerned others about pharmacotherapies for substance use and mental health disorders.	I. Educate about pharmacotherapies for substance use and mental health disorders.
Task 10 Assist families and concerned others in understanding the symptoms of specific disorders, their interactive effects including the relationship between symptoms and stressors, co-occurring substance use and/or mental health disorders, and the use of strategies that sustain recovery and maintain healthy relationships	J. Educate identified supports in the use of strategies that sustain recovery, maintain mental wellness, and promote healthy relationships.
Task 11 Identify and adapt education strategies to the unique needs of the person served and concerned others.	K. Adapt education to communicate the subject matter in a culturally and developmentally appropriate manner.
Task 12 Communicate needed subject matter in a clear, understandable, culturally, and developmentally appropriate manner.	L. Utilize outcome data to adapt counseling strategies.

Task 13 Utilize outcome data to continually adapt counseling strategies and update treatment plan to maximize clinical effectiveness.	M. Apply current professional codes of ethics and standards of practice.
Task 14 Educate the person served and support system about self-efficacy and empowerment.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>

Domain 4 - Professional and Ethical Responsibilities

Tasks have been reformatted into topics A – I

Task 1 Adhere to established professional codes of ethics and standards of practice.	A. Comply with jurisdictionally specific rules and regulations regarding best practices in coordinating and/or providing co-occurring substance use, mental health, and health services.
Task 2 Adhere to jurisdictionally specific rules and regulations regarding best practices in coordinating and/or providing co-occurring substance use, mental health, and health services.	B. Integrate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging into practice.
Task 3 Demonstrate cultural competence.	C. Evaluate implicit and explicit biases and beliefs to minimize impact of these variables in the counseling process.
Task 4 Recognize personal biases, including feelings, concerns, and other issues to minimize impact of these variables in the counseling process.	D. Utilize supervision or consultation.
Task 5 Continue professional development through education, self-evaluation, clinical supervision, and consultation.	E. Integrate relevant research into clinical practice.
Task 6 Identify and evaluate the needs of the person served that are outside of the counselor's scope of practice and refer to other professionals as appropriate.	F. Recognize available technological advances for service delivery (e.g., telehealth, electronic health records).
Task 7 Understand and apply current, relevant research literature to improve the care of the person served and enhance the counselor's professional development.	G. Address unethical practices to protect the integrity of the profession, practitioners, and individuals served.

Task 8 Understand and utilize technological advances in service delivery.	H. Maintain privacy and confidentiality according to jurisdictionally specific rules and regulations.
Task 9 Protect the integrity of the profession and best interests of persons served by identifying, addressing, and advocating for impaired professionals.	I. Prepare clinically accurate reports and records
Task 10 Protect the integrity of the profession and best interests of persons served by identifying and addressing unethical practices.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>
Task 11 Uphold the rights of the person served to privacy and confidentiality according to jurisdictionally specific rules and regulations.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>
Task 12 Obtain required written consent to release information from the person served and/or legal guardian.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>
Task 13 Prepare timely, concise, clinically accurate, and objective reports and records.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>
Task 14 Advocate for and assist the person served in navigating the service delivery system.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>
Task 15 Provide all services in a trauma-informed manner.	<i>Not on blueprint</i>