



Certified Grief Counseling Specialist (CGCS) Certification Standards

1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 State or Nationally licensed professionals as listed below, including associate or provisionally licensed professionals (or equivalent if practicing outside of the United States):

- Psychologist
- Counselor
- Social Worker
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Addictions Counselor
- Alcohol and Drug Counselor
- Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse Counselor
- Advanced Practice Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician's Assistant
- Physician
- Psychiatrist
- Psychoanalyst
- Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
- School Counselor
- Ordained Clergy

OR: A Graduate student in a clinical mental health program who is in the process of or has completed the clinical supervision requirements for licensure. In place of a license, please remit a copy of your unofficial transcript.

Canadian Applicants: Licensed professionals who have met the licensure requirements for Provincial and Territorial Regulatory Bodies are welcome to apply. If you are unsure if your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

International Applicants: Please check for a link to standards specific to your country of practice. If no link is available, please email us a copy of your educational background and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

Health, Wellness or Similar Coaches: Those holding only a health, wellness or similar coaching designation do not qualify for Certification.

1.2 By applying for Certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics, available at www.evergreencertifications.com/codeofethics

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The candidate must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 clock hours of continuing education or professional development training):

- Types of Grief and their implications for treatment/intervention
- Intake assessment of grieving clients, including assessment for depression and suicide
- Interventions and strategies for grief therapy or counseling
- Differentiate between grief counseling vs. grief therapy
- The process of death, dying and mourning
- Regret, forgiveness, and reconciliation
- Special considerations for grief and loss across all developmental and life stages
- Multicultural and spirituality considerations
- Boundaries of professional competence
- Ethical considerations, including working with the terminally ill, minors, families and end-of-life decisions

- Self-Care for the grief professional

2.2 Suitable education sources are approved continuing education or professional development training as documented by certificates of completion from the accredited training organization.

Evergreen Certifications will accept courses that have been completed within 3 years of initial application for Certification.

3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. Documentation of professional status in the form of 1 of the following:
 - a. Licensed professional – copy of your professional license or designation
 - b. Graduate student – copy of your unofficial transcript
2. Copies of completion of training as outline in the Educational Standards
3. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.

4.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification

To maintain Certification, a reapplication is required. The steps to re-apply for a 1-year reapplication are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your professional licensure as well as a completion certificate for six (6) clock hours of grief-focused continuing education or professional development training to info@evergreencertifications.com
2. Payment of re-certification application fee

You can also apply for reapplication for 2 or 3 years. Follow the process above, submitting twelve (12) clock hours of training for a 2-year reapplication, and eighteen (18) clock hours of training for a 3-year application.

Re-certification training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or recertified. Renewals are calculated from the date that your Certification was issued.

If you allow your Certification to lapse for more than 3 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your Certification and instead can reapply for Certification.