

National Certification Board for Alzheimer Care



NCBAC Mission

To offer a national certification program that promotes the public good by providing credentialing and registry services for those who care for people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

NCBAC also grants support and educational resources as well as acknowledgment and recognition to those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.



NCBAC Goal

Those who provide dementia care training are Certified Alzheimer Educators (CAEd)

There is at least one Certified Alzheimer Caregiver (CAC) per shift in facilities offering dementia care

TEST DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

April 2004 – February 2008

April 2004

Discussion about Dementia Care

A chance conversation between Janis Deets Nowak and Donna Surges Tatum after class at the University of Chicago on a spring night in 2004 sparked a grassroots movement to create a national certification board for dementia care and training.

May 2004 – September 2004

Research Dementia Care

Literature and Document Review; Observations and Interviews

- Visit various types of facilities such as home healthcare providers, day service centers, assisted living and nursing homes in geographically diverse areas
 1. What sorts of tasks comprise the job of caring for persons with Alzheimer's and related disorders?
 2. Is there a distinct Body of Knowledge required to perform the job?

October 2004

Feasibility Meeting

- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) gather to discuss the need for a national credential and decide to move forward
 1. Certified Alzheimer Caregiver (CAC)
 2. Certified Alzheimer Educator (CAEd)
- SMEs given training workshop in how to properly write items (test questions)

November 2004 – January 2005

Create Interest

Network/Contact Organizations; Attend Conferences

- Recruit SMEs for Test Development Committee or as External Item Writers
- Pearson VUE pledges support

February 2005 – December 2005

Test Development Meetings

SMEs write and submit items; Develop Reference List

- SMEs review and revise items
- SMEs conduct logical Job Task Analysis
 1. Review references, documents, websites
 2. Focus Groups
- SMEs create TaskList/Content Outline and Test Plan

January 2006 – April 2006

External Review

Submit Packets to Prominent External SMEs

- External SMEs evaluate the NCBAC test development process and provide feedback
 1. Task List/Content Guideline – review, revise, edit
 2. Test Plan – fill in percentages
 3. Items – review, revise, edit
 4. General comments, suggestions

May 2006 – July 2006

Test Development Meetings

Collate External SME feedback

- Committee SMEs review and incorporate feedback
 1. Finalize Task List/Content Guideline and Test Plan
 2. Review, revise items
 3. Standard Setting – establish Pass Point for pilot tests

August 2006 – January 2007

Pilot Testing

Administer CAC and CAEd tests

- Candidates from across the country take exams and provide feedback

February 2007 - April 2007

Test Development Meetings

Analyze pilot test data; SMEs write and submit items

- Review data analyses
- Review, revise items
- Standard Setting – review and revise Pass Points for exams
- Establish Eligibility Requirements for CAC and CAEd

May 2007 – November 2007

Continue Pilot Testing/Create Program Structure

Administer CAC and CAEd tests

- Additional candidates take exams and provide feedback
- Analyze results; revise items

Create Policies and Procedures

- Write Candidate Handbook

Create Candidate Management System

- Design databases
- Create online applications for CAC and CAEd

December 2007 – January 2008

Test Publishing

Prepare exams for computer based testing; Final editorial review of items

February 2008

Launch Exams at Pearson VUE Professional Testing Centers



NCBAC would like to acknowledge the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy for providing meeting space to our Test Development Committee.