



## **ACISTE CERTIFICATION FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS (ACSGC)**

### **APPLICATION, POLICIES, PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS Ver. 8.16.20**

*Please read carefully before applying:*

#### **Rationale for Certification:**

ACISTE asserts that the spiritual needs of many of those who have had spiritually transformative experiences (STers) are often profound. Those needs can often be best addressed by people who share similar spiritual paths, faiths or religions and who can assist STers with questions related to integrating their experiences, helping them with insights and directions *without imposing their own beliefs*. Obtaining ACISTE Certification for Spiritual Guidance Counselors (ACSGC) demonstrates to an STer that

- (1.) a certified SGC is better equipped to understand and provide guidance for his or her spiritual needs
- (2.) their experiences won't be invalidated.
- (3.) newfound perspectives will be explored in a way that honors the individual's experiences
- (4.) the experiencer will be assumed to be on a spiritual path and not be subjected to pressure to convert to a given faith in order to adequately deal with any given experience.

#### **Purpose of ACISTE Certification Program for Spiritual Guidance Counselors**

To provide the highest possible standard of care - based on best known practices and research - for spiritually transformative experiencers dealing with issues that require spiritual guidance, counseling or direction.

#### **Values:**

An ACISTE Certified Spiritual Guidance Counselor is committed to an ethical, high standard of care. Compassion, competency and a personal respect for the diversity of spiritual perspectives and experiences are qualities ACISTE Certified Spiritual Guidance Counselors express. They do not impose their own beliefs, but provide guidance and support.

#### **Prerequisites:**

Applicant must demonstrate work in an official spiritual guidance or cleric capacity with an established faith or religion OR – if non-denominational or not associated with an established faith or religion – be a member of Spiritual Directors International or is a licensed Pastoral Counselor – OR applicant can otherwise demonstrate experience in spiritual guidance for individuals or groups. Prior supervised spiritual guidance or spiritual direction practicum experience highly recommended. Documentation is to be submitted during the application process.

#### **Qualified Spiritual Directors Include:**

Spiritual Directors or Guides  
Chaplains  
Ministers  
Rabbis

Priests  
Imams  
Gurus  
Theologians  
Deacons  
Pastoral Counselors

### **BENEFITS to ACISTE Certified Guidance Counselors**

- included in our website directory for self-referral by STers seeking help and for referral by agencies.
- receive recognition and satisfaction of knowing they are serving in a unique and specialized field and better able to meet the needs of their clientele who are experiencers.
- belong to a unique and supportive team of peers in this area of specialization.
- experience personal and spiritual growth through working with this population.

### **STEPS & PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **1. COMPLETE & SUBMIT APPLICATION**

Candidates wishing to become an ACISTE CERTIFIED SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR (ACSGC) must complete the attached application with supporting documentation.

#### **2. PROCESSING FEE**

A processing fee of \$250 is required prior to attending the Sunday practicum (workshop) portion of the required training at the conference). This fee is NOT a guarantee of certification, nor is it refundable. The fee is paid by registering at the ACISTE conference and adding the Certification component.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aciste-conference-therapeutic-issues-of-spiritual-experiences-tickets-116546647159>.

#### **3. COMPLETE COURSEWORK (ATTEND CONFERENCE) & SUNDAY PRACTICUM/WORKSHOP**

Coursework and Practicum requirements are met by attending our ACISTE Conference (October 9th-10th) Online. More information about the conference and link to registration are at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aciste-conference-therapeutic-issues-of-spiritual-experiences-tickets-116546647159>

#### **4. INTERVIEW & EVALUATION**

An ACISTE committee representative will conduct a phone or in-person interview and evaluation upon completion of the above steps.

#### **5. CERTIFICATION**

Upon satisfactory completion of the above, candidates become ACISTE certified. They receive a digital certificate and digital badge with ACISTE logo to display on their own websites.

#### **6. REFERRAL DIRECTORY**

Certificants will be included in our online referral directory. Each certificant receives a full page which includes a profile describing one's spiritual practice/approach/specialties/background, photo and contact information.

#### **7. SUFFIX/TITLE**

Certificants may use the initials ACSGC (ACISTE Certified Spiritual Guidance Counselor) following their names to indicate their status.

#### **8. PROBATION PERIOD**

Upon certification, the candidate begins a 6 month temporary or probationary period. "Satisfactory" means that ACISTE has received no complaints that violate the values and standards ACISTE represents AND those complaints appear not to be resolvable after talking with the candidate.

#### **9. DURATION of Certification**

If requirements are maintained, certification is valid for 3 years.

#### **10. CONTINUING EDUCATION and PEER CONSULTATIONS**

In order to keep current of new research and information, all certificants are required to participate in a minimum of one annual workshop offered by ACISTE or complete a CEU course in a related area or attend the conference(s) to come. All certificants are required to participate in a minimum of three phone meetings per year (held monthly) with peer certificants. The purpose of the phone meetings is to share cases, and provide or request feedback. **(Peer consultations)**

#### **11. SUMMARY REPORT**

After three years of satisfactory participation, certificants must complete a summary report which would provide information on anonymous case examples that might serve to improve and augment training in the future.

#### **12. RENEWAL**

Spiritual Guidance Counselors may renew their certificates after the three year period for an annual fee of \$75. Required participation in Peer Consultations is reduced to once per year. The requirement for continuing education either by ACISTE or elsewhere is maintained at a minimum of one per year.

#### **13. CAUSES FOR DE-CERTIFICATION**

- Failure to meet above requirements.
- A complaint is filed with ACISTE by a client and after consultation with the ACSD director the grievance was not able to be satisfactorily resolved.

**APPLICATION:  
ACISTE CERTIFICATION FOR  
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS (ACSGC)**

*Please be sure you have read and agree to our Policies, Procedures and Requirements before completing. The \$250 processing fee is not refundable.*

Please complete and sign the application below and bring with supporting documentation to the conference, or send as attachments to [info@aciste.org](mailto:info@aciste.org). Applications sent by mail to the address below must be received no later than **October 15th, 2020**.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**1. Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Use "Ø" to distinguish from the letter O, capitalize L and I to distinguish from 1.)

**4. Telephone Numbers:** Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ex \_\_\_\_\_  
Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell :( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Licenses, certifications, degrees**

**Please list any current and relevant licenses, certifications, degrees, ordainments, etc,**

Name of license, certificate, degree, ordainment, etc.	Issuing Organization, Agency, Company, Affiliation, Church, University or Institution	Year Received

**Please attach evidence of the above.**

**6. Highest Education**

**Please indicate the highest level of school diploma or degree achieved**

Diploma or Degree	School, University or Institute	Year Received

**Please attach evidence of the above.**

**7. Spiritual or Religious Orientation/Experience**

Describe your spiritual or religious orientation and your views toward spiritually transformative experiences. If you have had an STE yourself, please indicate.

If more space is needed, please include and attach on a separate sheet.

**8. Related Experience:**

Please describe any personal, professional, educational experience or work with groups or individuals that you feel supports your application to become an ACISTE certified spiritual director. If more space is needed, please include it on a separate sheet.

**8. Publications, Awards, Positions, Memberships, Etc.**

List here or attach a list of titles of any relevant publications you have written or relevant awards received, positions held, memberships, etc. If more space is needed, please include it on a separate sheet.

**10.** Do you have a physical or mental condition or addiction to any substance that could impair competent professional performance or jeopardize public health and safety?

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attach an explanation for "YES" responses.**

**11.** Have you been subject to an investigation or disciplinary action by a healthcare organization, professional association, governmental entity or regulatory or licensing agency/authority,

and/or have you ever been convicted, found, or entered a plea of guilty, or are you presently being investigated or charged with any felony or misdemeanor directly relating to your or public health and safety?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach an explanation for "YES" responses.**

**12.** ACISTE provides an internet directory which includes CERTIFICANT NAME, CITY, STATE & RELEVANT INFORMATION held. In addition, the directory includes a link to a full page profile, describing your professional background, spiritual orientation and approach along with a current photo. (Profiles are required, but may be submitted at the time of inclusion in the directory and revised at any time.)

Check here if you DO NOT want to be included in our online directory.

By signing, you acknowledge and affirm: (1) that you have carefully read and understand the ACISTE policies, procedures and requirements (2) that you agree to abide by these terms; (3) you recognize that your processing fee of \$250 (payable through conference registration) is not refundable and that participation in the conference and practicum/workshop does NOT guarantee certification; and (4) that you agree to a background check and (5) that the information you have provided in this application and in the attached documentation is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

**PRINTED NAME:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

**PRINT/SIGN/MAIL THIS APPLICATION with supporting documentation to:**

ACISTE  
3213 79th Street  
Lubbock, Texas 79423

Or scan and email to [info@aciste.org](mailto:info@aciste.org)  
Or bring to a conference if at an in person conference.