

**THE NEBRASKA PROBLEM GAMBLERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**INTRODUCTION TO THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling pays for counseling services for Nebraskans and their families dealing with a gambling problem. Counseling is provided by a network of trained and certified counselors at locations throughout the state.

There are underserved regions of Nebraska for which the Commission seeks new counselors by instituting two pathways by which a counselor can also become a problem gambling expert.

The first step is a formal training program offered by Bellevue University. There are two curricula -- one for students who do not already hold Nebraska licenses to provide mental health counseling, and one for those who do hold licenses but have not completed training in the specialty of disordered gambling. These courses are offered online, continuously throughout the year, with tuition subsidized by the Commission.

Upon finishing the college training, the new counselor is eligible to be certified as a provisional disordered gambling counselor. A provisional counselor who does not already have a license to perform mental health therapy may offer counseling under supervision for a period that varies based on the individual's level of formal education. Those who do have state-issued licenses are required to participate in a series of collaborative interactions with experienced counselors ("clinical calls") but are not under direct supervision while counseling Nebraskans.

The Commission's Certification Advisory Board arranges for clinical supervision or clinical calls, as needed, to facilitate the new counselor's advancement during the provisional period. Provisional counselors are eligible to receive a contract with the Commission, which pays for their counseling service.

Nearby on this website you will find the complete manual of standards for training and certification of counselors; a link to the Bellevue University training site; application forms for provisional certification; and samples of contract documents and other forms used by the Program. For questions, contact the office in Lincoln at (402) 471-4450.