Tobacco Treatment Specialist Certification Program

The University of Massachusetts Medical School has been training and certifying Tobacco Treatment Specialists (TTS) throughout the country since 1999. We take pride in the quality and intensity of our evidence-based training and certification program.

UMass offers two levels of certification, (1) an entry level certification which requires 240 hours experience in tobacco treatment in the last 5 years for licensed healthcare professionals* (approximately 4 hours/month) OR 480 hours experience in tobacco treatment in the last 5 years for other healthcare professionals (approximately 8 hours/month), and (2) a Master TTS certification for those tobacco treatment providers who have at least 2000 hours documented experience within the last 5 years.

Required training for both levels of certification:
- Basic Skills for Working with Smokers online course.
- TTS Core Certification training, a 4-day course held in Worcester, MA, two times a year.

For information about either of these courses, including a downloadable registration form, visit www.umassmed.edu/tobacco.

Certification examination:
The TTS exam consists of multiple choice questions, short answers and a case study. It is based on the PHS Clinical Practice Guideline and covers material presented in Basic Skills and Core Certification training. Arrangements can be made for a proctor to administer the exam for non-MAssachusetts residents.

Certification review board:
Once you have passed the exam and acquired the necessary hours to be eligible for certification, you are required to submit a case study. After submitting your case study, UMass Medical School will arrange a convenient time for you to discuss your case with the TTS Review Board. For persons living outside of Massachusetts, this may be done over the phone.

Summary of Certification process:
- Complete Basic Skills and TTS Core Certification trainings
- Pass the TTS written exam
- Apply for certification: For both Umass and Non-Umass trained candidates.
  - For Entry Level Certification (CTTS): 240 hours experience (licensed healthcare professional*) / 480 hours experience (other healthcare professional) within past 5 years
  - For Master TTS Certification (CTTS-M): 2000 hours experience in tobacco treatment within past 5 years
- Prepare and submit case study to the TTS Review Board
- Interview with the TTS Review Board
• The Review Board will issue a 2-year certification upon satisfactory completion of this process

*This category includes certified substance abuse counselors, clinical psychologists, licensed mental health counselors, licensed social workers, pharmacists, RNs, NPs, PAs and MDs.

**What counts as Tobacco Treatment experience?**
• Facilitating or leading group quit smoking classes
• Conducting face-to-face or telephone quit smoking counseling
• Preparing for and documenting smoking cessation sessions/classes
• Providing training to other providers specifically related to tobacco treatment
• Providing supervision to other tobacco treatment providers

**Recertification** is required every 2 years. A total of 15 continuing education credits that relate to tobacco treatment specialist core competencies must be earned during the 2 year cycle and submitted to UMass Medical for recertification.

**Training fees:**
• Basic Skills for Working with Smokers online course: $150
• TTS Core Certification Training: $1000

**Exam and review fees:**
* New candidate: $250
* Recertification fee: $50

**Questions? Need to contact us?**
Denise Jolicoeur at 508-856-5886, denise.jolicoeur@umassmed.edu for additional information about the TTS Training and Certification Program. You can also visit our website at www.umassmed.edu/tobacco

All candidates must be tobacco-free at least six months prior to attending the TTS Core Certification training in Worcester!