

Certified Victim Assistance Specialist (CVAS) is a professional designation acknowledging an individual's commitment to education, experience and conduct in victim assistance and recognizes those who specialize in victim services, advocacy and response. Certified Comprehensive Intervention Specialists have both educational and experiential background in a broad array of specialties providing capable interface with campus and community services, law enforcement agents, court officials and national support and research organizations.

**National Advocate Credentialing Program**

Advanced Advocate Credentials: Completion of 40 hours of “A” Series training, a minimum of 20 hours of “B” Series training for *each* area of specialty, a minimum of 20 hours of “C” Series advanced training for *each* area of specialty, a minimum of 15,600 hours (8 years) experience and observation of three (3) or more case interventions. (See description of “A”, “B” and “C” Series below)

The “Comprehensive Intervention Specialist” designation is for service providers working in criminal justice system-based programs or full-service community-based agencies serving multiple target populations.

Recertification requirements: A minimum of thirty-two (32) hours of continuing education are required every two (2) years.

**National Advocate Credentialing - Series Category Listings**

**“A” Series: Foundation (Basic) Training Areas**

Advocacy/Role of the Advocate	Case Management
Civil/Criminal Justice System	Crime Victims compensation
Crisis Intervention	Cultural Sensitivity/Competency
Ethics/Confidentiality	History of the Movement
Trauma of Victimization	

**“B” Series: Specialty Training Areas**

**Domestic Violence:**

Barriers to Safety, Batterers’ Use of Power & Control, Child Abuse & Neglect, Lesbian & Gay Battering, Lethality/Danger Assessment, Domestic Violence Statutes, Post Traumatic Stress disorder, Safety Planning, Stockholm Syndrome, TPO Enforcement/Violations, Responses to Trauma

**Drunk Driving:**

Advocacy with Police, Prosecutors, Judiciary, Probation, Parole; Aftermath of Drunk Driving; Assessment for PTSD; other Counseling Needs; Basics of CJS; Catastrophic Injury Experience; Community Resources/Networking; Court Accompaniment; Drunk Driving Impact Panels; Homicide Survivor Experience; Insurance/Civil Suits/Bankruptcy; Applicable State Statutes

**Homicide:**

Intervention with Homicide Survivors, Grief Process, Dealing with Law Enforcement, Dealing with Medical Services, Death Notification, Applicable State Statutes

**Sexual Assault/Child Abuse:**

Child Sexual Abuse, HIV-STD Information, Interviewing Child Victims, Interviewing Rape Survivors, Sexual Offense Statutes, Police Investigation of Rape, Rape Evidence Examination, Rape Trauma Syndrome, Special Population

**System or Community-Based Victim Services:**

Community Resources, Court Advocacy, Hospital Advocacy, Applicable State Statutes, Specialized Needs, Trauma of Victimization, Trial Preparation, Victims rights Legislation/Statutes, Restorative Justice, Victim/Offender Reconciliation, Victim/Offender Mediation

**“C” Series: Recommended Advanced Training Areas**

**Domestic Violence:**

Alcohol/Addiction and Counseling, Burn Out, Parole System, Probation System, Related Statutes (Aggravated, Criminal, Trespassing., Stalking, Temporary Protection Order Violations, Child Abuse, Child Endangerment), Ritual Abuse, Safety Issues/Planning, Topics from Sexual Assault “B” Series, Suicide Intervention, Support Groups, systems Advocacy, Protective Order Enforcement, Victim Impact Statements, Victims who Resort to Violence, New State/Federal Statutes, New Developments in the Field

**Drunk Driving:**

Adult Siblings, Children’s Grief Process, Complicated Mourning, Crisis Response, Death Notification, Male Grief, PTSD, Rehabilitation, Support for Advocates, Support Groups, Survivor Issues, Vicarious Victimization, MADD Victim Institutes, New State/ Federal Statutes, New Developments in the Field

**Homicide:**

Coroner’s Office Protocol, Dealing with Holidays & Special Occasions, Dealing with the Parole Board, Funeral Directors/Protocol Intervention with Child Victims, Male Grief, Parents of Murdered Children Chapter Network, Post-Conviction Issues, Realities of Capital Murder Cases, Support Groups, Truth in Sentencing, New State/Federal Statutes, New Developments in the Field

**Sexual Assault/Child Abuse:**

Topics from Domestic Violence “B” Series, Topics from Domestic Violence “C” Series, Topics from General Crime Victims “B” Series, Appeals Court, Investigation/Examination, Law Enforcement/Ride-a-Long, Outreach/Education/Prevention, Self Defense (Non-Weapon), Sexually-Oriented Offenders, Supreme Court, Trauma Notification to Significant Others, New State/Federal Statutes, New Developments in the Field

**System or Community-Based Victim Services:**

Burglary/Robbery Victims, Topics from Domestic Violence “B” Series, Topics from Domestic Violence “C” Series, Legal Precedents, Drunk Driving “B” Series, Drunk Driving “C” Series, Homicide “B” Series, Homicide “C” Series, Post Conviction Advocacy, Sexual Assault/Child Abuse “B” Series, Sexual Assault/Child Abuse “C” Series, Testimony Issues, New State/Federal Statutes, New Developments in the Field

## NATIONAL ADVOCATE CREDENTIALING REVIEW COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS

Although NOVA serves as the secretariat for the National Advocate Credentialing Program, representatives from the national victim assistance-related organizations have been invited to participate in the National Advocate Credentialing Review Committee. Those that have chosen to participate may appoint a representative who will serve on a staggered, rotating basis. This committee, comprised of individuals with experience in the field serving domestic violence, child abuse, homicide, sexual assault and other types of crime victims, will review the applications, testing process and results, assist with Observational Training and identify any revisions necessary in the credentialing program to best meet the needs of the field.

### National Advocate Credentialing Program Partners:

MADD National  
National Association of Attorneys General - VAWA Project  
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards  
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators  
National Center for Victims of Crime  
National Organization for Parents of Murdered Children  
National Organization for Victim Assistance  
Ohio Advocate Network  
PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency

## STATE CERTIFICATION CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

### **South Carolina State Certification - Victim Assistance Specialist**

State Certification Requirements: Sixty-eight (68) hours of specialized course work (40 hours in designated core courses; 28 hours in electives); Six thousand (6000) hours (3 years) of applied work experience; Five hundred (500) hours applied supervised work experience.

Recertification: Must complete thirty (30) hours of continuing education every three (3) years, with documentation of training to keep certification current.