

## **What is Expected of AASECT Certified Diplomates**

In order to become an AASECT Certified Diplomate, and to maintain Certification, and to Renew Certification, the member is required as follows:

1. To maintain membership with AASECT in good standing as defined in Article III, Section G of the AASECT Bylaws at [www.aasect.org](http://www.aasect.org).
2. To adhere to the AASECT Code of Ethics posted at [www.AASECT.org](http://www.AASECT.org).
3. Only licensed individuals can move to Diplomate status after a minimum of 5 years certification as a Certified Therapist. (If the member is not licensed and/or licensure is not needed for the member to practice, he/she should provide an appropriate explanation of such). AASECT reserves the right to decline to offer or decline to renew Diplomate certification to otherwise qualified Members who do not hold licenses in the jurisdiction(s) in which they practice. Inaccuracy will require immediate corrective measures, including possible revocation of certification.  
The Diplomate should have demonstrated additional service to the field of sexology and to AASECT.
4. To respond to and provide full and accurate information about pending or actual actions against any license or surrender of a license that serves as a partial condition for certification.
5. To respond truthfully, accurately and completely to any and all questions on initial and renewal applications.
6. To stay up-to-date on new developments in the field of sexuality and sex therapy.
7. To earn a minimum of 20 AASECT approved Continuing Education credits/hours every five years.
8. For those Diplomates who wish to supervise candidates for AASECT certification as Sex Therapists or Sexuality Counselors, application for Supervisor status is recommended. When no Certified Supervisor is available in a given area, a Certified Diplomate may act as a supervisor provided the Executive Office has approved the Supervision Agreement in advance of commencement of supervision.

Failure to comply with any of the above may result in actions against the Certified Professional's membership. The AASECT Board reserves the right to investigate and take actions against Certified Professional's membership/certifications when other complaints (not listed above) are introduced against an AASECT certified Diplomate.

Falsification of information provided in an application, or any other information related to certification (e.g., continuing education credits earned) shall be grounds for either action against a membership/certification or report to a licensing board. Inaccuracy will require immediate corrective measures, including possible revocation of certification.

Any person may, in good faith, lodge a complaint with AASECT against a certificate holder, as long as it is in writing, signed, and with an agreement to be contacted by AASECT to provide any necessary clarification or supporting documentation available.

A complaint may allege that a certificate holder has violated either the requirements for certification or the Code of Ethics of AASECT or the Bylaws.

Any complaint will be reviewed by AASECT for substance. The name of the member shall be known only to the Directors or other appropriate body designated by the AASECT Board or Executive Committee. AASECT will make an educational advisory regarding any ethical or practice issues or Bylaw violations regarding the case, which shall be shared with the Member. The Member will be required to read and respond to the advisory giving assurance that it was understood, and that the Member will only practice in accordance with its recommendations.

The Board of Directors may also consider action against a certificate holder if it learns in any manner (e.g., national clearinghouse) about an action against the certificate holder's license. The Board may take action against a certificate holder who has received an educational advisory from AASECT if AASECT later learns that problematic practices identified therein persist.

If the Board of Directors decides to pursue a complaint, both the certificate holder and the relevant licensing board shall be contacted to ascertain, in writing, if any action is pending or has been taken.

If action is pending before a licensing board or other similar body, the Board of Directors may choose to await the decision of the licensing board or other agency of authority before considering further action. The relevant body and/or the certificate holder shall be contacted on a reasonably regular basis to determine the status of the case.

If action is taken against a license, the Board of Directors shall consider parallel action. A license revocation should result in an automatic revocation of a certificate (and possibly AASECT membership as well). A license suspension should result in a suspension of a certificate(s). Depending on the sanctions imposed by the licensing board, the Board of Directors may impose additional requirements for reinstatement if deemed appropriate (e.g., education, supervision).

If a serious complaint is lodged against a certified therapist or a flagrant violation is reported, the member's certification status is considered "Pending" until the time the inquiry or complaint is satisfactorily resolved, or there is a 2/3 vote by the Board of Directors to utilize the Pending status. This constitutes a limited abridgment of good standing in AASECT.

A Pending status implies that the member may not renew any certification within AASECT until the status is resolved. The Pending status will prohibit the member from running for AASECT elected or appointed positions, or from displaying the AASECT Therapist or Diplomate certification, or having referrals made by AASECT to the Pending status until the status is resolved. AASECT Office will maintain a list of all certificate holders who are assigned Pending status.

The Pending status has no authority to prevent the member from practicing as a therapist in their licensed state or for practicing another profession which AASECT does not certify.

Confidentiality of the member is respected and only the Board of Directors is aware of the circumstances surrounding the Pending status. The responsibility for resolving the Pending status rests on the member.

If action against a certificate holder's license is neither pending nor has been taken, the Board of Directors may choose to initiate a complaint to a licensing board based on direct evidence at its disposal. (It should be noted here that most if not all states grant immunity from liability to anyone participating in a Board case in good faith.)

If conditions warrant (such as, failure to meet CE requirements or falsification of CE information), the Board of Directors may choose to take action against a certificate holder whether or not action has been taken against his or her license. Such actions could include probation with conditions for reinstatement (e.g., education, supervision), suspension, or revocation. A 2/3 vote by the Board is required in order to revoke membership in AASECT.

The AASECT website and other appropriate documents state clearly what conditions are expected of a certificate holder to earn or retain said certificate, and what procedures may be followed if a client/patient or other individual feels that the standards of AASECT may have been violated. Procedures described could include the possibility of lodging complaints with AASECT and/or the relevant licensing board.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and agree to the above terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Member's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)



american association of sexuality educators, counselors and therapists

## **DIPLOMATE IN SEX THERAPY APPLICATION FORM**

The Diplomat in Sex Therapy is AASECT's highest credential for sex therapists. Diplomates have achieved a level of experience and expertise in sex therapy that qualify them as specialists in the assessment and treatment of sexual dysfunctions. They have earned this credential by demonstrating substantial clinical experience, broad knowledge of human sexuality, high ethical standards and leadership in the field. Designation as a Diplomat requires

- the demonstration of credentials and experience as stated on this form
- two letters of recommendation from colleagues
- write-ups of two cases treated by the applicant
- passing an oral examination that would include a discussion of the case write-ups, as well as the AASECT Code of Ethics

**1. CERTIFIED SEX THERAPIST REQUIREMENT.** Only AASECT-Certified Sex Therapists with five additional years' experience are eligible to become Diplomates.

- When were you first certified as a sex therapist? \_\_\_\_\_
- Please attach a photocopy of your initial certificate.

**2. CLINICAL REQUIREMENT.** A Diplomat candidate must have conducted 2000 patient/hours of sex therapy *since being certified as a sex therapist*. Clinical experience should involve treating a variety of dysfunctions, working with both male and female patients, and seeing patients in both individual and couple formats. Up to 400 of the 2000 hours can be spent treating sexual problems that are not sexual dysfunctions (e.g., sex addiction/compulsivity, transgender concerns). Documentation of the 2000 hours is not required, but candidates with less experience are likely to have difficulty passing the oral exam.

- I have spent at least 2000 patient/hours treating sexual dysfunctions \_\_\_\_\_  
(initial)
- Please provide a brief description of the settings in which you have treated sex therapy patients and the approximate number of hours in each:
- Please list 3-5 texts that have significantly influenced your clinical thinking and treatment approach:

**3. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT:** A Diplomate candidate must have completed 250 hours of continuing education and self-education *since being certified as a sex therapist*. A minimum of 50 hours must consist of AASECT-sponsored or AASECT-approved CE's. Up to 50 of the additional hours can be for educational activities not specifically about sex therapy but relevant to it (e.g., hypnosis, EMDR, cognitive behavioral therapy).

Please list your continuing education in the following categories:

- AASECT-sponsored and AASECT-approved CC. Please provide documentation for at least 50 of the hours claimed in this category.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of hours claimed in this category.

- Other CE. List titles of courses. Documentation is not required.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of hours claimed in this category.

- Books read:

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of hours claimed in this category.

- Journals read or consulted.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of hours claimed in this category.

- Consultation about, or supervision of, the candidate's sex therapy cases. Please list supervisors. If a supervisor is not an AASECT-Certified Supervisor, please provide a statement of the supervisor's credentials.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of hours claimed in this category.

- Other continuing educational activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of hours claimed in this category.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of continuing activities claimed in all categories.

**4. SERVICE TO THE FIELD REQUIREMENT.** A Diplomate candidate must have provided 100 hours of service to the field of sexology *since initial certification as a sex therapist*. The work may have been performed either *pro bono* or for pay. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the kinds of activities that can be counted toward the requirement:

- Teaching about sex, sexual dysfunction, or sex therapy at a high school, college, graduate, or post-graduate level. Hours may include a reasonable amount of preparation time in addition to the time spent teaching.
- Supervising sex therapy in a sex therapy program or other clinical setting (including private practice)
- Doing research on a sexual topic.
- Writing popular or scholarly articles and books.
- Consulting on sexual issues for a public or private organization or business.
- Public speaking or lecturing
- Serving as an expert on sexuality in public forums such as TV shows, magazine articles, etc.
- Working on a committee or as an officer of a sexology organization.

If you are uncertain if an activity of yours would count toward this requirement, please contact the AASECT office.

Please list your activities that constitute service to the field. For each activity include the name of the organization, a brief description of your role, and the approximate number of hours claimed.

### **CASE WRITE-UPS**

Please attach to this application the write-ups of two cases you have treated.

CASE WRITE-UP: The write-up should be of two CHALLENGING cases, cases that you believe are indicative of an advanced level of practice; a successful outcome is not required. The write-up should include an analysis and discussion of why particular interventions were selected and why they were or were not successful.