

ASAM Criteria 4th Edition – Training Opportunities FAQ

Background

The ASAM Criteria is the most widely used and comprehensive set of guidelines for placement, continued stay, and transfer/discharge criteria for individuals with substance use disorder and co-occurring conditions.

The ASAM Criteria defines the treatment criteria and levels of care for the treatment of substance-related and co-occurring conditions. The ASAM Criteria structure is the underlying framework for our service codes (billing guides), fiscal assumptions (rates), etc. Licensed Behavioral Health Agency providers are required to use the ASAM Criteria. Additionally, the Managed Care Organizations, Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations, and private insurance plans use the ASAM Criteria as a utilization management tool.

The Adult ASAM Criteria 4th Edition has been released. Per [SB 6228](#), our state will be transitioning to the updated ASAM Criteria in January 2026.

Thanks to legislative support and State Opioid Response dollars, we have partnered and contracted with Train for Change to offer an array of free training opportunities virtually over the next 18 months. Although many opportunities will be offered, we recognize that this training effort may not meet the need fully in our state. Thus, we encourage people to leverage the training opportunities through Train for Change. However, if that is not available or the classes are full, we encourage people to seek other training avenues.

Quick Highlights:

- The Adult ASAM Criteria 4th Edition is now available.
- The State will adopt the ASAM Criteria 4th Edition in January of 2026. Due to all the necessary changes, earlier adoption is not recommended.
- To get ready to use the new version, the state will offer a series of training courses.
- The courses will be held virtually and start in July 2024 through January 2026.
- Trainings will be offered by Train for Change.

Will there be a new ASAM Criteria 4th Edition for youth and young adults?

- Yes, the youth and young adult version is anticipated to be released in 2026.

Who is eligible for training?

The following specialties are eligible for the new ASAM trainings:

- SUDPs/SUDPTs
- Licensed mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers working in SUD BHA settings (including licensed associates level)

Is there a cost?

- There is no cost for the training and materials. Participants are responsible for buying the updated book.
- [The ASAM Criteria 4th Edition book or online version can be purchased online.](#)

What is the training format?

- All trainings will be held virtually.

What are the training dates?

- The trainings will be scheduled between July 2024 and January 2026. See initial training dates below.

Will CEUs be offered?

- Yes, NAADAC CEUs are offered.

How do I sign up?

- For the initial training dates, see the registration links below.

About the ASAM Criteria 4th Edition trainings

The trainings will be offered virtually, via Zoom between July 2024 and January 2026. While there is no cost for the trainings, participants must purchase [The ASAM Criteria 4th Edition book or online version](#).

- **NAADAC CEUs are offered for completing the trainings.**

The trainings are offered in three tiers:

- **Tier 1** is called The Evolution of The ASAM Criteria: What's New in the Fourth Edition. This is a great training for a broad audience who works in the field and wants a consolidated overview of the ASAM updates. The tier 1 training is for anyone and everyone in the behavioral health field.
- **Tier 2** is a prerequisite for the tier 3 training and is called Two-day ASAM Criteria Fourth Edition Skill-building Training. The tier 2 training will benefit clinicians who are newer to the field or are SUDPTs who would benefit from an in-depth course.
- **Tier 3** is called Implementation, Improvement, Sustainability and Coaching of the ASAM Criteria, A "How To," Science Based Approach. The tier 3 training is designed for for clinical supervisors, directors, administrators, and decision makers who play a key role in implementation and ongoing support of adopting the changes within their organization.

A detailed list of initial trainings, dates, and registration links are listed below. To register for any of the trainings below **click on the registration links below**.

An important note about trainings

ASAM Criteria 4th edition trainings will be ongoing. More dates and times will be offered.

Tier 1 –

The Evolution of The ASAM Criteria: What's New in the Fourth Edition

Tier 1 is suited for a broad audience working in the field who want a consolidated overview.

The Fourth Edition of The ASAM Criteria builds on the past 30 years of The Criteria and provides an updated, streamlined, and pragmatic approach to assessment and treatment planning. This 4.5-hour session will provide a consolidated overview, in addition to some of the “why” in relation to the major changes in terminology, levels of care, dimensions, and assessment processes.

Training details

All trainings are limited to 60 participants

CEU's - 4.0 NAADAC credits

- **Monday, July 15**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Tuesday, July 16**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Friday, July 19**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, July 31**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Tuesday, August 13**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, August 14**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Friday, August 30**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, September 4**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, September 11**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Monday, September 30**
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Register](#)

Tier 2 –

Two-day ASAM Criteria Fourth Edition Skill-building Training

Who would benefit? Tier 2 is suited for clinicians who are newer to the field or are SUDPTs who would benefit from an in-depth course. Tier 2, either in ASAM Criteria 3rd or 4th edition, is also a pre-requisite to Tier 3.

This two-day, application focused training will provide participants with an in-depth look at some of the significant changes and improvements in the Fourth Edition. Participants will have opportunities to apply and practice key components of the Criteria, including but not limited to; the six dimensions, level of care assessment, application of Risk Ratings to each of the Five Dimensions, Dimensional Admission Criteria Decision Rules, shared decision making, and an overview of Service Characteristic Standards, Discharge, and Transition Criteria. A copy of the ASAM Criteria 4th edition is highly recommended.

Training details

All trainings are limited to 40 participants

CEUs – 10.0 NAADAC credits

- **Thursday, July 25 to Friday, July 26**
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Wednesday, August 21 to Thursday, August 22**
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Thursday, August 22 to Friday, August 23**
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Thursday, September 5 to Friday, September 6**
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Tuesday, September 24 to Wednesday, September 25**
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)

Tier 3 –

Implementation, Improvement, Sustainability and Coaching of the ASAM Criteria, A “How To,” Science Based Approach

Tier 3 is suited for clinical supervisors, directors, administrators, and decision makers who play a key role in implementation and ongoing support of adopting the changes within their organization.

The field often teaches and expects change without teaching and advising about what to install, how to measure it, how to build the implementation team and what to remove to make space for the new model. We overlook the fact that all programs are perfectly designed to do exactly what they are doing; we need to think more about installation. We essentially teach people how to play the game and never consider if they have the equipment and a field to play on when they leave training. This training goes beyond the single strategy and frequently ineffective belief that more trainers and training creates change.

The training teaches a foundational, straightforward way to implement, improve and sustain fidelity to the ASAM Criteria. Focusing on a science-based foundation for continuous improvement within the organization, not only for The ASAM Criteria but for any improvement or implementation project.

Each participant receives a copy of the ASAM Criteria Implementation Guide and 1 hour of coaching post training. Coaching call must be completed in order to receive a certificate and credits.

Participants must attend all 5 sessions to receive CEU's, sessions cannot be made up later.

Participants must sign up at least two weeks prior to the training date and they must provide the address where they will be attending the training virtually, this is to make sure that all attendees have access to training materials.

Pre-requisites for Tier 3 Training:

- Completion of a 2-day ASAM Criteria Skill Building Training (3rd or 4th Edition)
- Competency with ASAM Criteria
- Possession of the Third or Fourth Edition of the ASAM Criteria

Training details

Training courses are limited to 25 participants and each training includes 5 specific consecutive weekly sessions. Participants must stay in the same five-day cohort.

- **Monday, July 15 to Monday, August 12**
1 to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Group A training dates:**
Session 1: Monday, July 15
Session 2: Monday, July 22
Session 3: Monday, July 29
Session 4: Monday, August 5
Session 5: Monday, August 12
- **Tuesday, July 16 to Tuesday, August 13**
1 to 3 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Group B training dates:**
Session 1: Tuesday, July 16
Session 2: Tuesday, July 23
Session 3: Tuesday, July 30
Session 4: Tuesday, August 6
Session 5: Tuesday, August 13
- **Wednesday July 17 to Wednesday August 14**
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
[Register](#)
- **Group C training dates**
Group 1: Wednesday, July 17
Group 2: Wednesday, July 24

Group 3: Wednesday, July 31

Group 4: Wednesday, August 7

Group 5: Wednesday, August 14

- **Friday, July 26 to Friday, August 23**

12 to 2 p.m.

[Register](#)

- **Group D training dates:**

Session 1: Friday, July 26

Session 2: Friday, August 2

Session 3: Friday, August 9

Session 4: Friday, August 16

Session 5: Friday, August 23

- **Friday, August 2 to Friday, August 30**

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

[Register](#)

- **Group E training dates:**

Session 1: Friday, August 2

Session 2: Friday, August 9

Session 3: Friday, August 16

Session 4: Friday, August 23

Session 5: Friday, August 30

Questions?

On trainings – Contact Train for Change at support@trainforchange.net

On ASAM transition and other related questions – Contact HCA at SUDbhrproviderhelp@hca.wa.gov