

CTAS Frequently Asked Questions

The Certified Therapeutic Adventure Specialist (CTAS) credential is not a training; it is an endorsement that an instructor or supervisor has the core competencies, advanced education, and licensure to call themselves a Therapeutic Adventure(TA) Specialist legitimately.

Most answers to the questions below are outlined in the [CTAS Credentialing Manual](#), which provides quite a bit of additional information. The AEE Certification Council has created this resource to help provide a quick reference for commonly asked questions after an interested party has reviewed the CTAS Credentialing Manual.

What kinds of training can I count towards the Core Elements of TA Training Requirement?

The Core Elements of TA Training document describes the types of training expected of CTAS applicants. The CTAS allows creativity and exploration within the field to be maintained by outlining core competency requirements without prescribing specific training structures. If training falls within the core competencies, it is within the standards of this certification. CTAS applicants are encouraged to align the training received with these Core Elements. CTAS before beginning the application process.

Training should be provided by organizations they work for, institutions of higher education (documented with the course syllabus), or other professional development training. Either provide continuing education certificate or participation certification and course content outlined as evidence of training. If not that is not available, a program packet and curriculum detailing the information reviewed will suffice as evidence.

How do I document my training if I have been a practicing field instructor with many years of training but still need to have a record of all training received?

AEE recognizes that during the initial phase of launching this certification, applicants may need help to reconstruct records of prior training, education, and supervision. In response, AEE invites CTAS candidates to complete this application to the fullest extent possible. In the application, there will be opportunities to explain how the requirements of the CTAS certification have been met and why the candidate cannot provide records as outlined in this application. The CTAS Council will then decide whether there is enough evidence to grant certification. AEE will consider sunseting this option at the end of 2025.

A member of AEE's Certification Council will contact applicants when there is a question about a candidate's TA Training experience. Feel free to include references in your addendum for people who can contribute to the documentation of your training.

What Behavioral Health/Wellness Facilitation Experience is required?

1,000 hours and at least 6 months working with mental health/wellness populations. Must be 21 years old at the time of application.

Additionally, for Applicants Through Education Equivalency: provide adequate documented proof of training in risk management, cultural competency/DEI, Mental Health First Aid, therapeutic facilitation, and conflict de-escalation, **or** provide acceptable documented evidence of all experience hours gained while working in a professional capacity at an AEE OBH Accredited Program.

How many training hours are required?

At least 75 hours of adventure therapeutic adventure-specific instruction covering all components of the “Core Elements of Therapeutic Adventure Training.” A maximum of 25 hours may be virtual or online. This instruction should be provided by institutions of higher education (documented with the course syllabus) or from other professional development training. If the experience was gained in a college course, each semester credit is equivalent to 15 hours of instruction. Please include the number of instruction hours for that course if it differs from 15 hours.

Is the CTAS relevant for TA practitioners outside of the US?

The CTAS designation is available to anyone who would find it beneficial. AEE will not prohibit the availability of this certification nor discriminate against any qualified candidate.

The AEE Certification Council has had many conversations about the complexity of therapeutic adventure programs with so much diversity in the worldwide community. AEE recognizes that the certification process to date has been chiefly influenced by standards of practice in the United States.

What is the cost of the CTAS application?

The credentialing application non-refundable cost is \$90. The annual fee is \$60. The most current pricing information will be found on the actual application.

How do I renew my certification?

To remain in good standing, a CTAS must pay the yearly fee and send proof (a signed letter from the organization will suffice) that they are an employee in good standing at a reputable organization that provides ongoing training, every three years.