Professions eligible for participation

- Acupuncture
- Architecture
- Athletic Training
- Audiology
- Certified Shorthand Reporting
- Chiropractic
- Clinical Laboratory Technology
  - Clinical Laboratory Technologists
  - Cytotechnologists
  - Clinical Laboratory Technicians
- Dentistry
  - Dentists
  - Dental Hygienists
  - Certified Dental Assistants
- Dietetics-Nutrition
- Engineering
- Interior Design
- Land Surveying
- Landscape Architecture
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Physics
- Mental Health Practitioners
  - Creative Arts Therapists
  - Marriage and Family Therapists
  - Mental Health Counselors
  - Psychoanalysts
- Midwifery
- Nursing
  - Registered Professional Nurses
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Licensed Practical Nurses
- Occupational Therapy
  - Occupational Therapists
  - Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Ophthalmic Dispensing
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
  - Physical Therapists
  - Physical Therapist Assistants
- Podiatry
- Psychology
- Public Accountancy
  - Certified Public Accountants
  - Public Accountants
- Respiratory Therapy
  - Respiratory Therapists
  - Respiratory Therapy Technicians
- Social Work
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Veterinary Medicine
  - Veterinarian
  - Veterinary Technician

The Professional Assistance Program

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The Office of the Professions
New York State Education Department
University of the State of New York
You’re not alone!

A professional license is no protection against chemical dependency. Alcoholism and other drug dependencies are the number one personal health problem that you and your professional colleagues will likely face. Statistics show that at least 10% of adults abuse alcohol or other drugs. The incidence may be higher among licensed professionals—particularly those with access to drugs. Fortunately, alcoholism and other chemical dependencies are treatable.

Your colleagues may need help

Most professionals know someone who has a problem with alcohol or other drugs. Lack of treatment can mean physical deterioration; increased dependency; and loss of family, friends, and employment. Timely intervention from concerned friends, family members, or colleagues can help prevent this from happening.

Professional Assistance Program

New York State has a confidential program for licensed professionals who abuse alcohol or other drugs, but haven’t harmed a patient or client. The Professional Assistance Program provides an opportunity for licensed professionals to get proper treatment and maintain their professional status. Professionals can temporarily surrender their licenses while undergoing treatment. Acceptance into the PAP is determined by the Committee for Professional Assistance, which advises the New York State Board of Regents and State Education Department. Committee members are professionals from several disciplines, and most of them have expertise in treatment of alcoholism or other drug dependencies. All inquiries are confidential!

An alternative to disciplinary action

Successful participation in the PAP may be an alternative to the possibility of losing one’s license through the disciplinary process. Professionals who enter the program agree to:

- Participate in a treatment program acceptable to the committee;
- Remain abstinent from all mood and mind-altering substances;
- Accept monitoring of professional practice for a minimum of two years.

Monitoring is designed both to help the individual recover and protect the public. As soon as the professional and the treatment provider feel the professional is able to resume active practice, they petition the PAP committee for reinstatement of the license.

Save a life – save a career

Now’s the time to help yourself or your colleagues. Several professional associations have committees to help impaired colleagues. For further information contact the PAP:

Professional Assistance Program
80 Wolf Road, Suite 204
Albany, New York 12205-2643
518-474-3817, ext. 480 (voice)
518-485-9378 (fax)
Email: pap@mail.nysed.gov

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