

Acronyms you might come across in your work as a community college counselor in the State of Washington

This document originated out of a discussion during the Fall 2006 WCTCCA conference. We were talking about future directions of counselors and rattling off several organizational acronyms. Those in attendance indicated they could benefit from a “cheat sheet” of acronyms. In addition to those listed below, one great place to start is the [NBCC acronym page](#).

ACA – [American Counseling Association](#)

From the website: “Within the American Counseling Association there are 19 divisions. These divisions enhance professional identity and are organized around specific interest and practice areas. The divisions provide professional strength and satisfy the diverse needs of the counseling community.” The 19 divisions are as follows:

- [Association for Assessment in Counseling and Education \(AACE\)](#)
- [Association for Adult Development and Aging \(AADA\)](#)
- [Association for Creativity in Counseling \(ACC\)](#)
- [American College Counseling Association \(ACCA\)](#)
- [Association for Counselors and Educators in Government \(ACEG\)](#)
- [Association for Counselor Education and Supervision \(ACES\)](#)
- [Association for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling \(AGLBIC\)](#)
- [Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development \(AMCD\)](#)
- [American Mental Health Counselors Association \(AMHCA\)](#)
- [American Rehabilitation Counseling Association \(ARCA\)](#)
- [American School Counselor Association \(ASCA\)](#)
- [Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling \(ASERVIC\)](#)
- [Association for Specialists in Group Work \(ASGW\)](#)
- [Counseling Association for Humanistic Education and Development \(C-AHEAD\)](#)
- [Counselors for Social Justice \(CSJ\)](#)
- [International Association of Addiction and Offender Counselors \(IAAOC\)](#)
- [International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors \(IAMFC\)](#)
- [National Career Development Association \(NCDA\)](#)
- [National Employment Counseling Association \(NECA\)](#)

WCA – [Washington Counselor Association](#)

The ACA has affiliated state branches, and the WCA is the Washington State branch of the ACA. Like the ACA, the WCA has several state divisions that are branches of national divisions of the ACA. They are as follows:

- [The Washington School Counselors Association \(WSCA\)](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [The Washington Career Development Association \(WCDA\)](#)
- [The Washington State Association for Counselor Educators and Supervisors \(WSACES\)](#)

[The Washington Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling \(WASERVIC\)](#)

[The Washington Association for Multi-Cultural Counseling and Development \(WAMCD\)](#)

[The Washington Association for Addictions and Offenders Counselors \(WAAOC\)](#)

Washington Counselors for Social Justice (WCSJ)

NCSD – [National Council on Student Development](#)

The mission from the web page: “The National Council on Student Development (NCSD) is an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the only organization solely dedicated to serving the needs of student development professionals in the community college. NCSD is the nation's primary voice for sharing knowledge, expertise, professional development and student advocacy for community college student development professionals.”

One of the interesting hot topics listed on the web page is the role of counseling in community colleges. Read more [here](#).

NBCC – [National Board for Certified Counselors](#)

From the web page: “The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) is the nation's premiere professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling.”

NBCC conducts the credentialing for the [National Certified Counselor \(NCC\)](#) certification.

Organizations within Washington State government

SBCTC – [State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#)

WACTC – Washington Association for Community and Technical Colleges

This is an organization of the Presidents within the community and technical college system. I couldn't find a website, but you can read some of the business minutes [here](#) and also see some of the organizations underneath the WACTC [here](#).

WSSSC - [Washington State Student Services Commission](#)

From the webpage: “The Washington State Student Services Commission (WSSSC) is an organization of Vice Presidents and Deans of Student Services from the 34 Washington Community and Technical colleges.” The WSSSC reports to the WACTC.

The WSSSC has several councils that operate underneath its domain. Of these, the one most historically linked to our organization is the **ACC, Advising and Counseling**

Council. The WCTCCA provides an organizational update at each quarterly meeting of the ACC. The predecessor council to the ACC was titled **CSDAC**, or the **Counseling and Student Development Administration Council**. The council name was changed in 2002 after a request by another state organization, [WAAC \(Washington Academic Advising Coalition\)](#) sought to gain council status.