

The American Society of Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH) was founded in 1957 by Milton Erickson, MD. It is an interdisciplinary organization of medical, dental and mental health professionals interested in the clinical use of hypnosis. ASCH promotes understanding and use of hypnosis as a clinical tool with broad applications in medicine, dentistry and mental health. ASCH offers training and certification programs and provides practitioners with ethical and treatment guidelines for the clinical use of hypnosis by trained, licensed professionals. Currently, ASCH has nearly 2,000 members in the U.S., Canada and other countries.

*Mission Statement:*

“To encourage and promote excellence in the use of hypnosis by qualified health and mental health care professionals; to advance scientific research, education and standards; and to educate others about the value, applications and ethical use of hypnosis.”

*Membership:*

To be eligible for membership in ASCH, applicants must hold a doctorate in medicine (MD or DO), dentistry, podiatry (DPM), chiropractic medicine (DC) or psychology, or an equivalent doctoral degree with psychology as the major field of study, or a minimum of a master’s level degree in nursing, clinical social work, psychology, marital/family therapy, or speech-language pathology. In addition, applicants must be licensed or certified in the state in which they practice, be member of a professional society consistent with their degree, such as the AMA, APA or ADA, and have a stated interest in the clinical use of hypnosis. Full membership is granted to those members who have completed twenty hours of ASCH approved training in clinical hypnosis. There is also a Research Member category.

*Training:*

ASCH offers three levels of workshop training (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced) four to six times per year. In addition, ASCH holds an annual scientific meeting and workshops on clinical hypnosis. All workshops conform to ASCH’s *Standards of Training*, which ensures that participants receive quality, comprehensive training. ASCH workshops are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Psychological Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the National Association of Social Workers, and the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

ASCH also approves training programs in clinical hypnosis organized by other groups to ensure that they meet the *Standards of Training*.

Certification:

ASCH administers a program that offers non-statutory voluntary credentialing in clinical hypnosis. Certification provides recognition of the advanced clinician who has met fundamental educational training requirements in clinical hypnosis. While certification does not automatically imply competence, it does indicate that the practitioner has undergone advanced training in his/her profession and has obtained a legitimate advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher learning; is licensed or certified to practice in his/her state or province; has had his/her education and training in clinical hypnosis peer-reviewed, and such training has met the minimum requirements set forth in the Standards of Training; and has been determined to have received the minimum educational training that ASCH considers necessary for utilizing hypnosis.

A higher level of certification, certification as an Approved Consultant, allows practitioners to work one on one with people to prepare them for certification.

Certification in Clinical Hypnosis is renewable every three years, and requirements include completion of an additional 20 hours of approved hypnosis training. Renewal of certification indicates to colleagues and consumers that the certificate holder is committed to their continuing education and professional development in clinical hypnosis.

More than 725 practitioners hold ASCH Certification in Clinical Hypnosis.

Miscellaneous:

ASCH publishes the *American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis*. The *Journal* publishes original, peer-reviewed scientific research and case studies on clinical hypnosis.

There are currently 37 Component Sections of ASCH in the U.S. and Canada. Component Sections are state, regional or local organizations with at least 8 ASCH members. Some Component Sections are small study groups; others are larger organizations that hold workshops and conferences.

Each month, the ASCH website experiences 2,000 requests for referrals of practitioners who have met ASCH's minimum standards for education and training in clinical hypnosis and another 1,800 for certified individuals.

For More Information:

Contact Michael White, Director of Communications & Marketing at 630/980-4740 for more information on the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis.