



5 Northampton Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01605

ADDICTION COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

I. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A. THE USE AND ABUSE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN SOCIETY (9 WEEKS)(4.0 CEU)

This course surveys the broader problems caused by the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs in modern society. It draws upon intra- and inter-cultural comparisons in emphasizing the magnitude of alcohol and other drug addiction problems, and presents and analyzes normative data. Part of the course is given to a study of the physiological consequences of abusive drinking and drug use. The course will also consider poly-drug abuse, the family of the alcoholic or substance abuser, Alcoholics Anonymous and other self-help/12-step groups, and the relationship of the criminal justice system to alcoholism/chemical dependency rehabilitation.

B. COUNSELING THE ALCOHOLIC AND OTHER CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT PERSONS (9 WEEKS)(4CEU)

This course provides students with an understanding and application of counseling skills, techniques and strategies as they are applied to the treatment of the alcohol and other drug dependent person. Definitions and etiologies of alcoholism and chemical dependency including the psychology of addictions will be explored and related to the treatment process. The fundamental functions of a counselor will be explored and other special issues such as dual disorders and HIV infection.

C. FAMILY TREATMENT (7 WEEKS)(3.0 CEU)

This course will provide an overview of the role of alcoholism/chemical dependency in the family system and the various intervention and treatment approaches used in assisting families troubled by alcohol and other drugs. Students will explore the functions of self-help groups in the recovery process and how these groups differ from professional helping models. The unique roles played by family members and how these roles relate to recovery will be emphasized throughout the course.

D. SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (4 WEEKS)(2.0 CEU)

This course will explore the relationship between substance use and criminal conduct. The offender, the courts, the correctional setting and substance abuse services in the criminal justice setting will be addressed, and appropriate strategies to reduce recidivism studied. Explore various philosophies and their impact on the placement of individuals in appropriate treatment. Content will also focus on current practice and policy in the criminal setting.

E. CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (6 WEEKS)(3 CEU)

Course content will focus on assessment and treatment of individuals who present with complex clinical issues of a psychiatric and addictive nature. Students will learn a model of addictions and mental illness, their similarities and differences, their interaction and the issue of differential vs. primary diagnosis. Addicted individuals entering treatment may exhibit symptoms of major mental illness such as depression, suicidal ideation/attempts, anxiety, anger, etc. Determining whether these symptoms are part of addiction or represent co-occurring mental illness is essential for treatment planning.

F. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY (9 WEEKS)(4 CEU)

This course introduces the student to the basic principles of pharmacology, anatomy, and physiology. These principles are applied to an examination of the major classes of psychoactive drugs, including those commonly subject to abuse.

II. PRE-PRACTICUM (3 WEEKS)(2.0 CEU)

The pre-practicum is an intensive learning experience designed to bridge the gap between the academic knowledge imparted through the core courses and the hands-on experience of the field practicum. Participants engage in role-playing sessions that allow them to practice basic counseling skills found useful in treating alcoholism/chemical dependency.

III. PRACTICUM (30 CEU)

Students enrolled in the practicum work under supervision in licensed alcoholism/chemical dependency treatment facilities with people in need of treatment. The program director helps each student make arrangements for a practicum suited to his or her needs.

A. Practicum Supervision & Ethics for Addiction Counselors (3.0 CEU)

This is available only to students enrolled in the Practicum. This course facilitates the application of best practices into treatment. Ethics for addiction counselors is a major topic of discussion.

FACULTY

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