

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Addiction Counselor Education Program**

### **When should I begin the application process?**

The Addiction Counselor Education (ACE) program begins in September of each year. It is wise to begin the application process in the winter/spring (January-May) to allow enough time for an interview, and to request your transcripts be sent from previous educational institutions. The program will accept the first 30-35 applicants who meet all the criteria for acceptance and pay the first semester's tuition.

### **When is it too late to apply for September?**

It is too late to apply for September classes once the class is full. Please call the Director, Linda Mullis at (413) 330-9828 to confirm that there is still space in the class if you are interested in a last minute application.

### **May I make an appointment NOW and send in my application tomorrow?**

No. We find that it works better if you send the application first.

### **When do the classes meet?**

The classes always meet once per week on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Classes are held at Independence Hall, Veteran's Inc., 59 South Street, Shrewsbury MA. The practicum has to be arranged to suit your schedule and the needs of the agency where you find placement. It may be nights, days, weekends or weekdays, whatever you arrange with the practicum site. The practicum consists of 300 hours that are completed in addition to the Wednesday night classes. To provide supervision from Adcare Education Institute during your practicum, you will be required to attend Supervision classes approximately every three weeks from late February to mid August. There will be two days available for the student to choose from (Thursday evening & Saturday mornings). Again, this is in addition to the Wednesday night classes.

### **What is the cost of the program?**

The total cost, including registration, tuition, books, and fees is \$4200. Payments can be made on a Quarterly Basis with the first payment due 2 weeks before classes begin. Books are factored into the cost and will be distributed on the first day of the course.

### **How long does it take to complete the program?**

The program is designed to be completed in 12 months (September to August).

### **Is there financial aid to help with tuition & fees?**

Unfortunately, traditional financial aid does not apply to this program because it is a noncredit program. Individuals who meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission may receive support if eligible. See How to Finance your Education (under another link).

### **Do students get help finding a Practicum placement?**

Yes, during the first semester you will talk about it in class. Our instructors are familiar with local agencies so they can offer guidance. You will need to think about what population you would like to work with—factors such as youth or adults, men or women, dual diagnosis or substance use disorders. Adcare Educational Institute will provide you with letters of introduction and the Director will be working with all students to offer assistance. There is no guarantee that you will locate a practicum experience. It is highly competitive to find and secure a field placement.

### **What about job placement after you finish the program?**

This is a growing field and with it change often occurs. It is exciting to see new programs opening and unfortunately some closing. There is opportunity at all levels of the treatment continuum for all levels of educational backgrounds. Programs often contact the ACE program with job openings and this is passed on to our graduates by the Program

Director. It is a good idea to keep in touch with the ACE program director when looking for employment opportunities, either before or after completing the ACE Program.

**I've already taken a course in Addictions at another college. Can I receive credit for it so I don't have to take it over again?**

You may speak to the director about your individual case, but generally we find that the curriculum is not close enough to ours to qualify for credit.

**Will I be certified upon completion of the Addiction Counselor Education Program?**

You will not be certified or licensed upon completion of the ACE program. You will have obtained a Certificate upon completing all the requirements of the ACE program. However, upon completion, you will be eligible to apply to the Massachusetts Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification and/or the Licensing Unit of the Commonwealth of Mass, Dept. of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services to take the State Exam. Once you have passed the exam you will then be required to have a minimum amount of work experience before being fully credentialed. You will be considered Registered with the Board. More information regarding Licensing and Certification will be given during the ACE program.