

ADDICTION COUNSELOR EDUCATION WORCESTER PROGRAM

A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE

Addiction services agencies have become an important element in our nation's health care delivery system, employing professional managers, counselors and service providers. Those who wish to pursue a career in the treatment of alcoholism/chemical dependency should be familiar with the functions of a counselor and the diverse populations served by a complex network of treatment modalities. They must possess the knowledge, skills and techniques necessary for the successful treatment of individuals and families afflicted by alcoholism and/or other drug addictions. The Westfield State College Addiction Counselor Education Program assists in the professional development of people involved in an important and growing health care service field.

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

Candidates' qualifications are reviewed by the Director of the Addiction Counselor Education Program. Completion of a high school diploma or GED, narrative statement, and personal interview are all considered when an application is reviewed.

All admission materials become the property of the Addiction Counselor Education Program and may not be returned to you or submitted to other parties for any other use.

Admission to the Addiction Counselor Education Program is determined without regard to race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Students may start the program in September.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Application to the Addiction Counselor Education Program consists of the following: (Submit the application, fee, transcripts and narrative together.)

- Application and \$25 non-refundable fee payable to Westfield State College
- Narrative Statement
- High School Transcript or GED
- Personal Interview

ACCEPTANCE

After a candidate submits an application and supportive material, an appointment will be scheduled with the program director. Admission decisions are made on an individual basis; candidates will be notified, in writing, as soon as a decision has been made.

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A. THE USE AND ABUSE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN SOCIETY (9 WEEKS)(3.0 CEUs)

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)(3.0)

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 ALCOHOLISM/CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT (9 WEEKS)(3.0)

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 ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (4 WEEKS)(1.75)

This course will explore the relationship between substance abuse 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 DISORDERS (DUAL DIAGNOSIS) (4 WEEKS)(1.75)

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)(3.0)

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)(1.5)

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 (10.0)

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. Participants seek placements such as detoxification centers, recovery homes, outpatient clinics, court clinics, hospital-based programs and other such facilities. Some students choose management internships in treatment facilities or in federal, state, or independent research organizations.

FACULTY

Program Director:

Linda A. Mullis, M.Ed., LMHC, LADC I, MAC, CCS, CADAC II

Teaching Staff:

John Finneran, Ph.D., LADC I

Assistant Professor in Health Science/Addiction & Substance Abuse Track Keene State College and Consultant to the Passages Program at Community Healthlink

Peter Kosciusko, MA, LADC I, CADAC

State Director for Substance Abuse Services, in the Dept. of Youth Services for the Commonwealth of Mass.

Lynn LeBlanc-Marrone, LMHC, LADC I, CADAC

Director, Outpatient Substance Abuse Services, Community Healthlink, Worcester, MA and Director of Gardner Clinic of Community Healthlink

James McKenna, M.Ed., LADC I, LCSW

Vice President of Marketing and Development, Adcare Hospital of Worcester, Inc., Worcester, MA

Paula M. Morrissette, PsyD, LMHC, LADC I

Clinical Supervisor of Outpatient Treatment, AdCare Hospital of Worcester, Inc., Worcester, MA

Joanne McKenna, APRN, BC, PA, MA, CADC, CADC I, HNC

Medical Staff, AdCare Hospital of Worcester, Inc., Worcester, MA

Thomas Thelin, MS, CADAC, LADC I

Day Treatment Program Coordinator and lead clinician, AdCare Outpatient Services, Worcester MA

7. Work Experience:

8. List previous experience (volunteer, etc.) related to your knowledge on alcohol and other drug issues:

9. How did you hear about the program? _____

10. Please complete and attach a **narrative statement** indicating what motivated your decision to enter the Addiction Counselor Education Program.

- Typewritten (preferred - but not necessary)
- No more than two pages (double spaced - one sided)

TRANSCRIPTS FROM EACH SCHOOL LISTED MUST BE SENT TO:

**WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE/COMMUNITY EDUCATION
ADDICTION COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM
577 WESTERN AVENUE
WESTFIELD, MA 01086-1630
(413) 572-8034**

All application materials are the property of the Community Education Office, Division of Graduate and Continuing Education and cannot be returned to you or submitted to other parties for any other use.

I certify that I have read and understand the general admission information on this application and that the information in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date