

Addiction Studies Certificate

The Behavioral Health/Human Services (BHHS) curriculum offers a certification process to further develop appropriate and effective professional education and training for jobs as addiction counselors, rehabilitation specialists and case management specialists in the fields of chemical dependency and other addictions such as nicotine and gambling. Students must meet both regular College admission requirements and those of the Behavioral Health/Human Services curriculum. The certificate also may be taken in conjunction with the degree program in BHHS. Individuals working in the addictions field require diverse backgrounds, training and experience. Students come to the program degreed, non-degreed and from various academic disciplines, bringing with them varied levels of understanding and expertise in the assessment and treatment of mental health and substance abuse.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this program graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic set of helping skills (warmth, empathy, reflective listening) needed for entry employment in the addictions field.
- Work as a culturally sensitive ethical practitioner.
- Demonstrate a stronger sense of self resulting from personal growth experiences.
- Use critical thinking and writing skills needed for working with clients.

PROGRAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

The program is open to interested students. New students are required to take College placement tests. Students identified as needing developmental course work must satisfactorily complete the appropriate English courses prior to program entry. Students requiring developmental mathematics courses must complete them in addition to the requirements of their certificate program. Admission to the program also requires that the student attend an orientation session before a decision of acceptance is made. Permission of the BHHS curriculum coordinator is required for admission.

PROGRAM OF STUDY AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

To qualify for the certificate in Addiction Studies, a student must complete 33 credit hours as prescribed and attain a grade point average of 2.0 ("C" average).

CERTIFIED ADDICTION COUNSELOR (CAC) STATUS:

The Pennsylvania Certification Board requires 300 clock-hours of training with appropriate paid experience and a bachelor's degree in a human service field to achieve the credential of Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC). However, persons can become eligible for addiction counselor positions while working on their CAC credential. Pennsylvania Bulletin, v. 26, n. 5 for February 3, 1996 states the following: A person with an associate's degree in human services from an accredited college with a major in chemical dependency and two years of experience is eligible for the position of

addictions counselor. Without experience, the community college graduate, with an associate's degree and a major in chemical dependency, is prepared for the position of assistant addiction counselor. Community College of Philadelphia will help all qualified students apply for AAC I (Associate Addictions Counselor) and AAC II status. Those students with a bachelor's degree will be advised of the procedure for applying for the CAC as well as the necessary educational credits needed to comply with the certification board. It should be noted that three college credit hours is equivalent to 45 clock-hours of training.

ADDICTION STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits
FIRST SEMESTER		
BHHS 121 – Foundations of Addiction Studies		3
BHHS 101 – Introduction to Behavioral Health and Human Services		3
BHHS 111 – Introduction to Helping Skills	BHHS 101, which may be taken concurrently; acceptance into the BHHS curriculum or related certificate program	3
ENGL 101 – English Composition I		3
CIS 103 – PC Applications*		3
MATH 118 – Intermediate Algebra (or higher)		3
SECOND SEMESTER		
BHHS 105 – Introduction to Group Dynamics		3
BHHS 194 – Case Management Practice	BHHS 111	3
BHHS 195 – Practicum in Behavioral Health/ Human Services I	BHHS 111	3
ENGL 102 – English Composition II	ENGL 101	3
BHHS 222 – Assessment and Treatment of Addictive Behavior	BHHS 121	3
MINIMUM CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE		33

* Students with computer experience may apply for credit by exam through the Computer Technologies Department.

For More Information Contact:

The Division of Liberal Studies, Room BR-21, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130, Telephone (215) 751-8450; or the College Information Center (215) 751-8010.