

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING

(Also see Human Services and Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice)

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The Substance Abuse Counseling program prepares students for employment as alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) counselors. Coursework provides counseling education and training for social services and human resource professionals concerned with addicted individuals and their families.

The curriculum leading to the A.A.S. is accredited by the Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association (IAODAPCA). Completion of the program meets the association's requirements to sit for the CADC (Certified Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor) certification examination.

IAODAPCA certification indicates that the student has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and core functions necessary to provide quality care to individuals seeking treatment of their alcohol and/or other drug abuse or dependence.

In addition to the 60-credit-hour A.A.S., Oakton offers two certificates: Preparatory Substance Abuse Counseling and Advanced Substance Abuse Counseling.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse/Dependency - Family Dysfunction

- Develop a method to educate the family on the aspects of the disease of chemical dependency and information about Al-Anon/Nar-Anon, and FA (Families Anonymous).
- Analyze how alcohol and other drug abuse results in family dysfunction.
- Analyze how chemical dependency affects not only the chemically dependent person, but the family members as well.

2. Pharmacology

- Distinguish the actions of psychoactive drugs as they affect the body.
- Develop appropriate treatment referrals based on patient's assessments.
- Define the routes of administration, methods of ingestion, tolerance, withdrawal and interactions of these drugs with other psychoactive and non-psychoactive drugs.

3. Signs and Symptoms

- Evaluate the signs and symptoms associated with the different classifications of psychoactive chemicals.
- Analyze the concepts of use, misuse, abuse, dependence, withdrawal, and overdose/toxicity.
- Create appropriate treatment approaches necessary to ensure the safety of patients while providing the appropriate level of care.

4. Human Development/Behavior

- Analyze the principles and processes of human physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social development including basic abnormal psychology and effects of chemical usage on growth and development.

5. Historical Perspectives

- Describe the historical development of alcohol and other drug abuse treatment including the history of chemical usage in the United States, development of the various treatment modalities and its relationship to the community at large.

6. Treatment Delivery Models

- Apply the eligibility requirements and criteria for specific delivery models of service.
- Differentiate what services are offered in treatment modalities with applicable regulations and limits of each.
- Differentiate when it is appropriate to make referrals to Outpatient, Detoxification, Residential, and Self-Help Groups.

7. Rules and Regulations

- Identify the applicable Illinois and Federal laws. Emphasis is placed on rules and regulations governing but not limited to:
 - Intake protocol
 - Discharge requirements
 - Confidentiality regulations
 - Record keeping
 - Child abuse reporting act
 - Client and provider rights

8. Core Functions

- Evaluate the core functions of an alcohol and other drug abuse counselor.
- Train the student in the execution of core functions in an AODA (alcohol and other drug of abuse) treatment setting.

9. Professional Ethics

- Evaluate the requirements, core functions and the Code of Ethics of the AODA (alcohol and other drug of abuse) Counselor.
- Professional ethics should include:
 - Code of Conduct
 - Disciplinary procedures
 - Appeals procedure
 - Counselor Assistance Program

10. Special Populations, Women and Adolescents

- Evaluate the differences in attitude and behavior patterns of significant cultures and special needs groups within Illinois' population in order to provide meaningful quality care.
- Identify addiction treatment services for women and/or their families and addiction treatment services for adolescents and/or their families.

11. Clinical Supervision

- Analyze the role of clinical supervision in the AODA (alcohol and other drug of abuse) treatment system.
- Create effective treatment systems through the process of clinical supervision.