Substance Abuse Program

The substance abuse program is designed to prepare students for a career in the substance abuse field and/or pursuit of a four-year degree. Course work includes classroom and experiential activities geared toward:

- understanding the psychological, physical, and sociological aspects of addiction
- understanding the impact of addiction on individuals, families, and the community
- knowledge and skills in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of addiction
- knowledge and skills in the twelve core functions of substance abuse counseling
- understanding the dynamics and treatment of relapse and relapse prevention strategies
- a working knowledge of mutual self-help programs
- development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential to the effective substance abuse professional

Substance Abuse Program Options

Associate Degree in Applied Science (A.A.S.)

The degree is composed of 76 semester credit hours that can be completed in five semesters when attending full time. Many students need to attend part time; thus the curriculum is designed to allow for individual needs and differences. The North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (NCSAPPB) accepts all substance abuse courses. The degree includes 320 hours of clinical supervision.

Certificates

Two 16-semester credit certificate programs are available: Substance Abuse Counseling and Substance Abuse Case Management. Either certificate can be completed in a minimum of three semesters. The certificates are designed primarily to meet the needs of those individuals who already have a degree and are seeking certification or licensure by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (NCSAPPB). Included in the certificate programs are the substance specific hours and clinical supervision hours required by the board.

Career Opportunities

The substance abuse field is rapidly expanding, increasing the need and demand for services. Employers are seeking individuals who are well trained to provide the services necessary to treat consumers with substance abuse-related problems and their families. The degree and certificate programs help prepare students to qualify for positions as:

- Substance abuse counselors
- DWI educators, counselors, and assessors
- Residential and halfway house counselors
- Substance abuse educators
- Case managers
- Other positions in the substance abuse field

Knowledge of substance abuse is vital in many other areas of Human Services work as well. Related fields include:

- Criminal justice
- Mental health
- Homelessness
- HIV/AIDS
- Social work
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse and neglect

“The Substance Abuse program at CPCC seems designed to produce the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to work effectively in this field. Their graduates are well trained and well prepared. I highly recommend this program to anyone seeking a career (or an employee) in substance abuse.”

— employer