



Counselors must have a strong desire to help others and should be able to inspire respect, trust and confidence. In the human services field, counselors work in diverse community settings providing a variety of counseling, rehabilitation and support services.

At Ottawa University

The Master of Science in Addiction Counseling degree program prepares learners to pursue careers as addiction counseling professionals, treating individuals with substance abuse/dependency disorders. The curriculum integrates theory, research, and practice. The Master of Science in Addiction Counseling provides students with a foundation for doctoral studies and/or professional practice in addiction counseling, as well as for future study and work in mental health counseling, clinical psychology, social work, counselor education, law enforcement, law and human services.

Careers

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (2018), the employment outlook for substance abuse/addiction counselors is considered as “very bright”. The need for substance abuse/addiction counselors is expected to grow by 16% through 2024. There are numerous areas that counselors choose to work in, including schools, clinics, community mental health centers, family counseling centers, law enforcement, churches, hospitals, and private practice.

Education and Qualifications

A master’s degree is required by most states for individuals seeking the highest level of licensing and/or certification. This degree program meets the educational requirements for licensure in Arizona for the Licensed Associate Substance Abuse Counselor (LASAC). The Addictions Counseling program meets the educational requirements, in most states, for licensure or certification. Licensure or certification requirements vary from state-to-state, therefore, it is the responsibility of the student to contact their state licensure or certification authority to assure that the degree requirements meet their state’s requirements.

The Master of Science in Addiction Counseling program is accredited by the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC). Ottawa University is an Approved Academic Education Provider through the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)

Graduate Master of Science in Addiction Counseling

Foundation Courses

ACG 7000 Graduate Seminar: Clinical and Addictions Foundations

Provides an overview of necessary foundations in the content areas of abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, and theories of personality. Introduces the core functions of addictions counseling from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's Technical Assistance Publication (TAP) 21 series. Other topics include APA style and format.

ACG 7100 Introduction to Addictions

Introduction to patterns, causes, assessment and treatment of addictions. Introduces the core functions of addictions counseling from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's Technical Assistance Publication (TAP) 21 series.

ACG 7200 Multicultural Concerns in Addictions Counseling

Study of social, cultural, and gender differences and issues related to counseling clients with various backgrounds, beliefs, and concerns. Includes a focus on addictions counseling theories and techniques and how they are applied to addictions counseling clients.

ACG 7300 Law and Ethics in Addictions Counseling

Study of the ethical, legal, and professional concerns in the practice of addictions counseling.

ACG 7400 Theories and Practices of Groups in Addictions Counseling

Examines group theories and techniques of observation, assessment and facilitation in therapeutic groups.

ACG 7500 Methods and Models of Research in Addictions Counseling

Examination of the research and application of scientific methods to investigate, analyze, and develop solutions relative to addictions counseling.

ACG 8100 Appraisal, Assessment and Treatment Planning in Addictions Counseling

Preparation for clinical practicum. Students expand their knowledge of the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), diagnostic categories, differential diagnosis, and treatment planning. Emphasis will also be placed on the clinical interview and other initial assessment techniques, as well as skills critical to selecting and evaluating treatment options.

ACG 8200 Psychopharmacology and Addictions Counseling

Study of the pharmacology of drug abuse/addiction concerns with additional examination of the use of medication in treatment interventions.

ACG 8300 Co-Occurring Disorders

Examines the current research on psychopathology and co-occurring disorders to include relapse and recovery, and how they impact addictions counseling.

ACG 8400 Fundamentals of Treatment of Trauma, Abuse, and Deprivation

Introductory course presenting an integrated view of effects on personality development of childhood trauma, abuse and deprivation. Therapeutic interventions examined.

ACG 8500 Addictions Counseling in Family Systems

Examines addiction in the context of the family system, including relapse and recovery. Emphasis on family system theories and techniques of addictions counseling.

ACG 8600 Practicum in Addictions Counseling

Students participate in a seminar led by a faculty member. Provides the opportunity for the student to perform the activities of a regularly scheduled employee in an addictions counseling setting and complete 150 contact hours, of which half will be direct contact.

ACG 8610 Practicum in Addictions Counseling Continued (No Credit)

Continuation of ACG 8600. Students participate in a seminar led by a faculty member. Provides the opportunity for the student to perform the activities of a regularly scheduled employee in an addictions counseling setting and complete 150 contact hours, of which half will be direct contact.