Undergraduate Addiction Counseling



"My favorite thing is seeing someone who comes into recovery for the first time... watching the light come on and seeing some hope come back into their life. With these courses, I'm really able to have a good work, school and life balance."

– Jessica DeVore
Ottawa University Alumni

At Ottawa University

The online Bachelor of Science in Addictions Counseling coursework is focused on the integration of research, theories of addiction, and counseling theories. Students gain understanding of factors that influence the delivery of addiction counseling and substance use disorder services. They also learn how to assist addicted individuals in obtaining long-term recovery through curriculum surrounding screening, intake, assessment, treatment planning, orientation, treatment, case management, crisis intervention, client education, consultation, client referral, and documentation.

The BS in Addictions Counseling academically prepares graduates to meet the licensure/certification requirements in a majority of U.S. states. Because these requirements vary from state-to-state, however, it is the responsibility of the student to contact his/her state's licensure or certification authority to assure that the degree meets that state's requirements.

Upon graduating from Ottawa University's BS in Addictions Counseling program, students have a solid foundation for graduate studies in addiction counseling, mental health counseling, clinical psychology, social work, counselor education, law enforcement, law, and human services.

Careers

Career opportunities include addictions counseling agencies, residential treatment facilities, hospitals, outpatient treatment centers, government agencies, military recovery programs, and criminal justice programs.

Education and Qualifications

Currently, all fifty states require addiction/substance abuse counselors to obtain and maintain certification or licensure to practice in the counseling profession. These requirements differ greatly by state, occupational specialty, and work setting. In addition to licensure and/or certification, many states now require practitioners to have completed a bachelor's degree, while the majority of states require the completion of a master's degree to practice at the independent counselor level.

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Undergraduate Addiction Counseling

Required Major Courses

ADC 30000 - Intro to Substance Abuse Disorders and Addiction Counseling (3)
Examines substance use disorders and process addictions inclusive of compulsive sexual behaviors, eating disorders, and pathological gambling.

ADC 30003 - Human Development and Addiction (3)
Examines theories and research of human growth and development. Includes a focus on developmental diagnostic and assessment tools, strategies, and their application within addiction counseling.

ADC 40000 - Theories of Personality and Addiction (3)
Examine psychoanalytic, behaviorist, cognitive and humanistic theories of personality development. Emphasizes their application within addiction counseling.

ADC 40003 - Psychopharmacology and Addiction (3)
Examines the psychoactive and addictive properties of major drug classifications. Includes psychopharmacology treatment interventions and their application within addiction counseling.

ADC 40006 - Psycho-pathological and Co-Occuring Disorders (3)
Study of biological, psychological, and sociocultural influences contributing to abnormal behavior patterns including substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders. Includes a focus on intake, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and case management of various psycho-pathological and co-occurring disorders.

ADC 40009 - Clinical Addiction Counseling Issues (3)
Examines the processes of client screening, intake, assessment, treatment planning, crisis interventions, case management reports, record keeping, and client education in addiction counseling.

ADC 40012 - Identity and Experience Competencies in Addiction Counseling (3)
Study of patient identities and experiences related to working with people of various backgrounds, beliefs, and concerns. Includes a focus on their application to addiction counseling.

ADC 40015 - Professional Responsibility: Legal and Ethical Issues of Addiction Counseling (3)
Examines addiction counseling professional responsibilities, legal standards, and ethics issues.

ADC 40018 - Special Issues in Addiction Counseling (3)
Examines prevention and harm reduction in addiction counseling. Includes a focus on IV and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS/HIV and Hepatitis C.

ADC 40021 - Families and Addiction (3)
Examines addiction and substance misuse in the family system. Emphasizes client education, prevention, as well as individual and family system approaches to intervention. Includes a focus on issues specific to women.

ADC 40024 - Group Counseling in Addiction (3)
Examines addiction counseling skills required to perform therapeutic group sessions. Focuses on types of groups, client placement, group development, stages of treatment, client confidentiality, client education, and the client referral process.

ADC 40027 - ADC Practicum / Internship (3)
150 hours of clinical addiction counseling work experience in a supervised setting. Fifty percent of the practicum hours must be completed in direct client contact. The practicum is designed to develop addiction counseling skills through practical application in an addiction counseling setting. Students work under the direct supervision of an approved onsite supervisor and a faculty supervisor. Capstone assignments throughout Practicum I and II guide students in the development of an integrative e-portfolio project that demonstrates personal achievement of the learning outcomes in the addiction counseling major. Enrollment requires advisor approval.

ADC 40030 - ADC Practicum / Internship II (3)
(See Practicum/Internship I course description.)

ADC 49000 - Seminar in Addiction Counseling (3)
Capstone course that guides students in the development of an integrative e-portfolio project that demonstrates personal achievement of learning outcomes in the addiction counseling major. Culminates in a major professional portfolio project, guided by licensure standards and includes investigating and discussing a major issue or issues within the field and presented in seminar form in class.

**ADC 40033 Practicum/Internship III and ADC 40036 Practicum/Internship IV may be taken if additional hours are needed for licensure/certification.*

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Program requirements reflected herein are current at time of printing but are subject to change at the discretion of the university. Consult the catalog for any curriculum changes and additional requirements. Some required courses may be met through transfer credit as determined by the advisor in consultation with the registrar. www.ottawa.edu/coursecatalog

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