



ALCOHOLISM/SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING Certificate

Program Information and Admission Requirements

Application Deadline

Although there is no deadline, students are encouraged to apply early, as space is limited. Students may be admitted to the program any semester, however there is a sequence to certain courses.

Program Description

The Alcoholism/Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate program provides the required courses and fieldwork experience to be eligible for Massachusetts certification as a substance abuse counselor. Program graduates are prepared to take the required certification and state licensing examinations. Students are provided an in-depth knowledge of alcohol/addictions treatment programs and current treatment modalities. Students must take two field placement courses, totaling 300 hours, in an alcohol/addictions treatment facility. This experience allows students to work on the core functions of substance abuse counseling: assessment, treatment planning, case management, crisis intervention, client education and documentation. The program is completed through a one-year, three-semester curriculum, requiring 29 credits.

Career and Transfer Outlook:

Certification as a substance abuse counselor enhances employment prospects in a wide range of human service and human resource careers. Human service professionals who hold a bachelor's degree or advanced degrees may enter the certificate program to obtain state certification or to expand career opportunities. All courses in this program may be applied to the Human Services associate degree.

Program Outcomes:

Graduates of the Alcohol/Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate program are prepared to:

- Describe the resources and required eligibility of the current treatment options of the substance-abuse treatment system.
- Demonstrate effective communications skills, including group and individual counseling skills, oral and written communications, and computer research proficiency.
- Identify and practice ethical standards as set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Certification Boards.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major factors of multicultural diversity and the importance of pluralism in our society.
- Acquire and demonstrate an understanding of relevant theory and research as it applies to clinical practice and service delivery.

Getting Started

Review and follow the Admission Requirements Certification form to ensure that you have met the admission criteria listed below:

- Receive a minimum placement score of ENG 101 on a Middlesex college placement exam or show readiness for ENG 101 through prior coursework.
- Complete an orientation session with the Alcoholism/Substance Abuse Counseling program coordinator.
- Submit a personal essay describing your background, career goals and interest in the program.

Submitting a Complete Application

If you meet the admission requirements, the following forms must be submitted.

- A signed Admission Requirements Certification form along with a personal essay
- A completed Middlesex Community College Application
- Official College Transcripts, if any (required from all colleges attended, except Middlesex Community College).

Criminal Offender Record Information and Sex Offender Registry Information Checks

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in an academic, community or clinical program that involves potential unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, or the elderly, the student may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check. Students found to have certain criminal convictions or pending criminal actions will be presumed ineligible to participate in such activities. The College is authorized by the Commonwealth's Criminal History Systems Board, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 167-178B, to access CORI records. The College shall refer to regulations issued by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 101 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 15.00-15.16, as guidance when assessing student CORI records. Sex Offender checks shall be performed pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 178C-178P.

For more information regarding the College's CORI/SORI check process, please contact MCC's Human Resources Department at 781-280-3532.

Services Available to Middlesex Community College Students

Advising is available in our Academic Planning Centers. Academic advising is a valuable service, since all applicants are responsible for fulfilling the precise requirements of the program in order to be considered for admission. Advising appointments may be made by calling 1-800-818-3434.

Students are encouraged to apply for Financial Aid to help meet the expenses of attending college. The Financial Aid office packages awards for each student, based upon the student's eligibility and financial need, fund restrictions and fund availability. General information is available at the Student Information Centers, or by calling the Financial Aid Offices in Bedford 781-280-3650 or Lowell 978-656-3242.

Alcoholism/Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate Curriculum

Course Title	Course Number	Credits	Prerequisites
Introduction to Human Services	HUS 101	3	Eligible for ENG101 and ENG060 or higher placement
Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment with Groups and Families	HUS 102	3	
Stress Management & Relapse Prevention	HUS 103	3	
Counseling Theory and Process	HUS 151	3	HUS201 or *
Supervised Field Placement & Seminar I	HUS 153	4	HUS201
Supervised Field Placement & Seminar II	HUS 154	4	HUS153 or *
Counseling Skills	HUS 201	3	PSY101, ENG101 or *
Dynamics of Interpersonal Relations I	PSY 160	3	Eligible for ENG101 and ENG060 or higher placement
Alcoholism & Substance Abuse	PSY 162	3	ENG101
Total Credits		29	

Program Coordinator: Joseph Gardner, B.A., Clark University; M.Ed., Boston College