



255 Park Avenue Suite 600
Worcester Massachusetts 01609

ADDICTION COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

(1 CEU = 10 CLOCK HOURS)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A. Addiction and Recovery: Core Concepts and Approaches (9 WEEKS) (4.0 CEU)

This course introduces students to the core clinical skills and knowledge areas essential for working with individuals experiencing substance use disorders. Grounded in a recovery-oriented framework, the course explores the history of addiction in the United States, the continuum of treatment, pathways to recovery, and person-centered approaches to treatment. Students will examine topics including professional boundaries, cultural responsiveness, co-occurring disorders, and polysubstance use. Through case examples and practical applications, students will develop a foundational understanding of ethical, compassionate, and effective addiction counseling practice.

B. COUNSELING THE ALCOHOLIC AND OTHER CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT PERSONS (9 WEEKS)(4.0 CEU)

This course provides students with an understanding and application of counseling skills, techniques and strategies as they are applied to the treatment of the alcohol and other drug dependent person. Definitions and etiologies of alcoholism and chemical dependency including the psychology of addictions will be explored and related to the treatment process. The fundamental functions of a counselor will be explored and other special issues such as dual disorders and HIV infection.

C. FAMILY TREATMENT (7 WEEKS)(3.0 CEU)

This course will provide an overview of the role of alcoholism/chemical dependency in the family system and the various intervention and treatment approaches used in assisting families troubled by alcohol and other drugs. Students will explore the functions of self-help groups in the recovery process and how these groups differ from professional helping models. The unique roles played by family members and how these roles relate to recovery will be emphasized throughout the course.

D. SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (4 WEEKS)(2.0 CEU)

This course will explore the relationship between substance use and criminal conduct. The offender, the courts, the correctional setting and substance use treatment services in the criminal justice setting will be addressed, and appropriate strategies to reduce recidivism studied. Explore various philosophies and their impact on the placement of individuals in appropriate treatment. Content will also focus on current practice and policy in the criminal setting.

E. CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (6 WEEKS)(3 CEU)

Course content will focus on assessment and treatment of individuals who present with complex clinical issues of a psychiatric and addictive nature. Students will learn a model of addictions and mental illness, their similarities and differences, their interaction and the issue of differential vs. primary diagnosis. Addicted individuals entering treatment may exhibit symptoms of major mental illness such as depression, suicidal ideation/attempts, anxiety, anger, etc. Determining whether these symptoms are part of addiction or represent co-occurring mental illness is essential for treatment planning.

F. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY (9 WEEKS)(4 CEU)

This course introduces the student to the basic principles of pharmacology, anatomy, and physiology. These principles are applied to an examination of the major classes of psychoactive drugs, including

those commonly subject to abuse.

II. PRE-PRACTICUM (3 WEEKS)(2.0 CEU)

The pre-practicum is an intensive learning experience designed to bridge the gap between the academic knowledge imparted through the core courses and the hands-on experience of the field practicum. Participants engage in role-playing sessions that allow them to practice basic counseling skills found useful in treating alcoholism/chemical dependency.

III. PRACTICUM (30 CEU)

Students enrolled in the practicum work under supervision in licensed alcoholism/chemical dependency treatment facilities with people in need of treatment. The program director helps each student make arrangements for a practicum suited to his or her needs.

A. Practicum Supervision & Ethics for Addiction Counselors (3.0 CEU)

This is available only to students enrolled in the ACE Program. This course facilitates the application of best practices into treatment. Ethics for addiction counselors is a major topic of discussion.

FACULTY

Program Director:

Mark Rebello, MSW, CADC, LADC I

Mark has worked in the profession of SUD for approximately 28 years. He is a Clinician at MM Therapy

Teaching Staff:

Heather Borelli, D.S.L., LADC II, MA PGS II, CPTD

Heather has worked in health and human services for 25 years in a variety of case management, counseling, and facilitation roles. She has worked in addiction treatment since 2020 when she joined Spectrum Health Systems as the Director of Training & Staff Development for the Corrections Division supporting addiction treatment services within multiple county level facilities and the statewide prison systems in Massachusetts and Virginia.

John Finneran Ph.D., LADC I

John is Professor in Health /Addiction Option at Keene State College and a Clinician at McLean Hospital, Naukeag at Prescott, Petersham MA . He has worked with persons with addictive & co-occurring disorders for more than 30 years.

Nicole Pustis, MSN RN CCRN

Nicole is an Oncology Fusion Nurse at UMass Memorial Medical Center and Adjunct Professor at Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Rachel Sasseville, LICSW, LADC I

Rachel has worked in the substance use treatment field for 13 years. She has been employed with Spectrum Health Systems since 2016 and currently serves as the Director of Corporate Training.

Tom Thelin, M.Div., CADIC II, LADC I

Private Practitioner and Clinician with Spring Hill Recovery in Ashby. Tom has received recognition from both State and National Addiction Professional Associations as Clinician of the Year respectively for 2005 & 2006. He has over 28 years of experience in the field of addiction treatment.