

A.S. in Chemical Dependency Counseling

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELING PROGRAM

Upon successful completion of the Chemical Dependency Counseling degree program (Associate of Science), graduates will understand fundamental concepts specific to chemical dependency that encompass historical, political, social and legal factors. They will also adopt critical thinking approaches to attitudes, values, and the ethical and legal aspects of clinical practice and understand risk and protective factors for individuals, families, and communities. Graduates develop competency-based skills in intervening with chemically-involved individuals, families and special populations.

SKILLS

Interpersonal skills. Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors must be able to work with different types of people. They spend most of their time working directly with clients or other professionals and must be able to develop and nurture good relationships.

Listening skills. Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors need good listening skills. They must give their full attention to a client to be able to understand that client's problems and values.

Communication skills. Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors need to be able to effectively communicate with clients. They must express ideas and information in a way that their clients easily understand.

CAREER INFORMATION

Substance abuse counselors and behavioral disorder counselors, also called addiction counselors, work with clients individually and in group sessions. Many incorporate the principles of 12-step programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), to guide their practice. They teach clients how to cope with stress and life's problems in ways that help them recover. Furthermore, they help clients rebuild professional relationships and, if necessary, reestablish their career. They also help clients improve their personal relationships and find ways to discuss their addiction or other problems with family and friends.

Most substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselor positions require at least a bachelor's degree. However, depending on the state and employer, educational requirements for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors can vary from a high school diploma and certification to a master's degree.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Employment of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors is projected to grow 22 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth is expected as people continue to seek addiction and mental health counseling services.

CAREER PATH

The median annual wage for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors was \$44,630 in May 2018. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$28,240, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$72,990.

CAREER COACH – SEARCH CAREER INFORMATION & CURRENT LOCAL WAGE DATA

<https://kingsborough.emsicc.com/programs/chemical-dependency-counseling-as/190619>

INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY: www.cuny.edu/apply or 718-368-4600

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