

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

CURRICULUM TRANSMITTAL COVER PAGE

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title Of Course/Degree/Concentration/Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

Change(s) Initiated: (Please check)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closing of Degree            | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Degree or Certificate                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closing of Certificate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Degree: Adding Concentration                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Certificate Proposal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Degree: Deleting Concentration                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Proposal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Prerequisite, Corequisite, and/or Pre/Co-requisite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Course                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Course Designation                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New 82 Course (Pilot Course) | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Course Description                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Course(s)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Course Title, Number, Credits and/or Hours         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Academic Policy                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways Submission:   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Life and Physical Science                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Math and Quantitative Reasoning                              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> A. World Cultures and Global Issues                          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> B. U.S. Experience in its Diversity                          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Creative Expression                                       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Individual and Society                                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Scientific World  |
- Change in Program Learning Outcomes
- Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH MATERIAL TO ILLUSTRATE AND EXPLAIN ALL CHANGES

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Action by Department and/or Departmental Committee, if required:

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature, Committee Chairperson: Richard Fruscione

If submitted Curriculum Action affects another Department, signature of the affected Department(s) is required:

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature, Department Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature, Department Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the attached material/proposal

Signature, Department Chairperson: Richard Fruscione

TO: Spring 2022 Curriculum Committee

FROM: Program Director, Prof. Monica A. Joseph  
Department Chair, Prof. Richard Fruscione  
Department of Allied Health, Mental Health & Human Services

DATE: 03-29-2022

RE: Change in Name of A.S. Degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling

---

The Department of Allied Health, Mental Health & Human Services is proposing a change in the name of the degree for the AS Chemical Dependency Counseling:

**FROM:**

A.S. Degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling

**TO:**

A.S. Degree in Addiction Studies

**Rationale for Change:**

A change in the name of the degree is being requested to bring it in line with national and local efforts to decrease stigma and to provide a more user-friendly educational, prevention, treatment, and recovery-oriented environment, especially in the light of the opioid epidemic.

The term chemical dependency was initially used in the degree's name to convey that a broad array of chemicals/substances can contribute to addiction. However, since potential students and student-facing staff did not always associate the degree's name with addiction studies, this has acted as a barrier to some students being able to readily access the program.

At the State level, as of May 2019, the regulatory body, the NYS-Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) updated its acronym to the Office of Addiction Services and Supports. As detailed in their press release, "The renaming of OASAS to the Office of Addiction Services and Supports is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the stigma of addiction

and better highlight the services and support offered to individuals and families across the state” (<https://www.wnypapers.com/news/article/current/2019/10/29/138930/nys-oasas-announces-name-change-from-office-of-alcoholism-and-substance-abuse-services-to-office-of-addiction-services-and-supports>).

The program’s accreditation body, the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC) has highlighted their receipt of the federal government’s encouragement “to create a single higher education addiction studies . . . accreditation body to assess academic programs in addiction studies at regionally accredited institutions of higher education” ([https://nasacaccreditation.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/nasac\\_flyer03-2021.pdf](https://nasacaccreditation.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/nasac_flyer03-2021.pdf)).

Professional membership organizations have also updated their names to emphasize addiction. For example, the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC), which is one of the primary organizations is now the Association for Addiction Professionals (<https://www.naadac.org/>).

Lastly, research conducted by the American Psychological Association (APA) and others has enhanced the understanding of the nature and etiology of addiction, especially with regard to its neurobiological aspects. As of 2013, a significant change was thus made in the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM V) and the International Classification of Disorders (ICD-10), with gambling being recognized from a diagnostic perspective as an addictive disorder. Since the program has now integrated gambling disorders as one of the core classes, renaming the degree will ensure that we are accurately reflecting the fundamentals of the field.

Changing the degree from the A.S. in Chemical Dependency to the A.S. in Addiction Studies would thus serve the following:

- 1) Make it easier for potential students to identify and access the program.
- 2) Bring us in line with state regulatory guidance, national accreditation, and professional membership identification.
- 3) Accurately link the knowledge-base of the addiction field to the program’s core offerings.
- 4) Advance equity by educating our counselors-in-training to use language that is now recognized as decreasing stigma, and thus removing some of the barriers experienced by persons seeking care for addiction.