

Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant

Career Studies Certificate

(Pending SACSCOC Approval) **SACSCOC Approval Received**

Program Coordinator: **frztyx** -739-2493
 Length: Two semesters (one year)

Purpose: This career studies certificate program in Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant is designed to meet the educational requirements needed to secure the Virginia Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Assistant (CSAC-A) credential. In order to complete the credential, students must complete specific didactic training, supervised experiential training, and must also take and pass the Virginia State Constructed CSAC-A exam. This certificate program meets the didactic and experiential training requirements.

Occupational Objectives: Students who complete the program may enter the labor market in jobs which lead to a variety of positions, such as:

- Substance Abuse Counselor- Assistant
- Social Services Liaison
- Case Management Aide
- Client Advocate
- Social Services Para-professional

Admission Requirements: A student eligible for admission to the college can normally be considered for admission to the Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant curriculum. Proficiency in high school English and mathematics is required. Students who are not proficient in English or mathematics will be required to correct their deficiencies in developmental courses.

Criminal background or DSS record check may prevent you from participating in a Coordinated Internship, Experiential Learning project, or from obtaining employment in this field.

Additional information for those who wish to apply for the Certified Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant: According to the Virginia Board of Counseling Handbook for CSAC-A applicants, if you have a criminal conviction, The Board requires that you submit a certified copy of all conviction orders (obtained from the courthouse of record); evidence that all court ordered requirements were met (i.e., letter from the probation officer if on supervised probation, paid fines and restitution, etc.); a letter from the applicant explaining the factual circumstances leading to the criminal offense(s); and letters from employers concerning work performance (specifically from Counseling-related employers, if possible).

Program Requirements: All of the courses are designed to provide training in this specialized field of human services in such areas as: substance abuse counseling, safety and ethics, human behavior, crisis intervention and professionalism. The remaining coordinated internship course is designed to give the student specialized training for the particular career area which he/she has chosen. Upon completion of the two-semester program, the student will be awarded a Career Studies Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling Assistant.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
First Semester (Fall)				
HMS 141	Group Dynamics I	3	0	3
HMS 258	Case Management and Substance Abuse	3	0	3
HMS 251	Substance Abuse I	3	0	3
HMS 145	Effects of Psychoactive Drugs	3	0	3
Total		12	0	12
Second Semester (Spring)				
HMS 270	Treatment Systems	3	0	3
HMS 252	Substance Abuse II ¹	3	0	3
HMS 260	Substance Abuse Counseling	3	0	3
HMS 290	Coordinated Internship	3	0	3
HMS 230	Ethics in Human Services	3	0	3
Total		15	0	15
Total minimum Credits for Career Studies Certificate				27

Footnotes:

1. Prerequisite HMS 251