

**Human Services Program
Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counseling
Certificate**

Program Review Summit

April 10, 2012

OVERVIEW

- The Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counseling Certificate is one of three certificate programs and one associate degree program within the Human Services Program
- The Human Services Program has been accredited since 1985. The certificate programs are not separately accredited.

The Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counseling Certificate is criteria-based.

Applicants are required to complete three steps in the program application process:

- Attend a Human Services Program Information Session
- Complete and return a brief application form
- Interview with the Program Coordinator or Staff Associate



**This certificate program is competency based
integrating into the curriculum:**

- The Core Functions of Substance Abuse Counselors and
- The National Community Support Skill Standards



The Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counseling Certificate

- Experiential learning
 - The practicums require 180 hours for each of two semesters in a community agency with a primary focus on substance abuse treatment

- Academic coursework

Graduate Opportunities

- Graduates may directly enter the workforce
- Graduates may transfer all credits directly toward the Human Services Associate Degree program. The program is designed to provide a career ladder.

STRENGTHS

Program Faculty

- All faculty have relevant clinical experience and academic credentials
- Faculty represent a range of disciplines (social work, psychology, nursing, etc.)
- Committed professionals dedicated to student success

STRENGTHS

Program Demand

There has been a stable growth in certificate admissions:

- from a low of 13 in AY 02-03 and 28 in AY 03-04
- to 34 in AY 10-11 and 37 in AY 11-12.

Employment Projections for New Hampshire, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the nation all project that substance abuse counselors (and human service workers) will continue to be among the fastest growing sectors.

STRENGTHS

Program Retention

Program retention exceeds that of “all NECC programs”.

Program retention for the certificate program was 57%, 57% and 52% for AY 07-08, 08-09 and 09-10 respectively.

This compared to overall retention for the college during those years of 39%, 38% and 38%.

STRENGTHS

Positive College Outcome

The certificate program compares favorably to the overall NECC college outcomes.

For AY 07-08, 08-09 and 09-10 the certificate program had a positive college outcome of 74%, 77% and 66% in contrast to the college outcomes of 62%, 61% and 63% for those same years.

STRENGTHS

ACTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regularly meets twice each academic year representing a range of client populations, geographic area and services within the greater Merrimack Valley

STRENGTHS

INCREASED PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY TO STUDENTS

All courses for the certificate program are now offered on both the Lawrence and the Haverhill campus, during both the day and the late afternoon/evening.

STRENGTHS

- **SMART CLASSROOMS**

Renovations and updates completed in 2007 have provided internet access, TV, DVD and VCR players in nearly all classrooms

STRENGTHS

**RECOGNITION BY LICENSING AND
CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATIONS**

Licensing and Credentialing

- The graduate is eligible to pursue licensing in both New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of MA Department of Public Health, as a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor
- Graduates are eligible to pursue credentialing as CADACs through the Massachusetts Committee for Voluntary Certification of Alcoholism Counselors Inc.
- The graduate is also eligible to apply for the credential of Human Services Board Certified Professional, offered by the National Organization for Human Services

STRENGTHS

The Human Services Program Manual

Revised annually, available online and at the NECC bookstore, it provides extensive information about the program and its policies and procedures.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Insufficient faculty to adequately advise certificate program majors during the academic year

Enrollment in the program has grown dramatically . Although the staff associate provides some limited availability on the Lawrence campus, there has been no proportionate increase for advising or assistance with practicum coordination. Advising with these students is often time intensive addressing a range of concerns beyond those which are strictly academic.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Inadequate system for addressing applicant and student needs during the semester breaks (summer and winter) which impacts student success

- Advising
- Applicant interviewing
- Registration
- Practicum referral and coordination

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY STUDENTS

Representation within the certificate program is less than that in the total NECC student population

(14%, 15% and 15% for AY 07-08, AY08-09 and AY09-10 respectively as compared to 26%, 27% and 31% of the NECC student population for those same three years.)

*Recent statistics for AY11-12 show an increase within the entire Human Services Program to 26%.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

LOWER RETENTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS AS COMPARED TO MALE STUDENTS (ALTHOUGH OVERALL PROGRAM RETENTION IS GOOD)

(47%, 50% and 47% for females as compared to 67%, 71% and 59% for males for AY 07-08, AY08-09 and AY09-10)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

CLASSROOM FURNITURE

Nature of classroom furniture (large and heavy tables) in many classrooms fosters a traditional, less interactive structure rather than tables and chairs on wheels that would allow for more flexible seating arrangements (small group activities, a large circle, etc.)

THANK YOU!