

Addictions Worker

Certificate

Program Introduction

With the aging population, the tremendous advancements in technology, and our demand for the best quality of life, the healthcare industry is facing a growing shortage of well-trained personnel. Throughout the North American healthcare industry, there is an acute need to increase the size of the workforce and raise the skill level of that workforce.

A well-trained Addictions Worker (AW) is equipped with a flexible, adaptable career. Social and community service workers administer and implement a variety of social assistance programs and community services specializing in addictions. They assist clients in addressing personal and social problems. They are employed by social service and government agencies, mental health agencies, group homes, shelters, substance abuse centres, school boards, correctional facilities, and other establishments.

Program Objectives

This program provides students with the base knowledge and skills to become permanently employable in an AW setting within the CSW industry. Skill development is delivered in three areas:

- Comprehensive addictions worker knowledge, which includes an overview of drugs (past and present) as they pertain to the Community Service and Social Worker industry.
- Exploration into the world of addictions. Topics include alcohol and familiar drugs, like tobacco and caffeine, as well as natural health products and over-the-counter drugs.
- Exploration into the world of addiction treatment and prevention. Students learn about both the prevention and treatment of addictions, including organizations, like AA, which focus on rehabilitation.

At the end of the program, students will be able to:

- Accurately describe the characteristics and the physical, psychological, and emotional effects of stimulants, amphetamines, depressants, inhalants,

psychotherapeutic drugs, alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, natural health products, and over-the-counter drugs.

- Recognize and accurately identify addictive behaviours that present in clients during the intake process.
- Produce correctly formatted, grammatically correct, and accurate documents (e.g., reports, letters, and e-mails) that reflect an awareness of the target audience and include appropriate, industry-specific terminology.
- Communicate clearly and effectively with colleagues and a wide range of healthcare professionals both orally and in writing in an addictions work context.
- Outline how addiction prevention initiatives may be effectively promoted when interacting with individuals, groups, and/or the local community.
- Proactively identify and address emotional, personal, and health-related problems that may affect their health, well-being, and professional capabilities by establishing and maintaining clear boundaries, conducting regular self-checks, and respecting personal values and professional ethics.

Program Notes

Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.

Graduation requirements: students must achieve a minimum program mark of 75% to obtain a certificate.

Method of Delivery

Combination of:

- Online training supported by Academy of Learning College Facilitators or Online Instructors; or
- Instructor-led courses.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of this program are qualified to work in a wide variety of CSW/AW settings and occupations. Job titles vary per location, but graduates are an integral part of many settings, including:

- Rehabilitation Centres
- Public and Private Addiction Counselling Clinics
- Addiction and Drug Awareness Agencies
- Mental health centres
- Healthcare and Social Assistance
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Youth Centres
- Individual and Family Services
- Youth Protection Services
- Public Administration
- Civic and Social Organizations
- Social Advocacy
- Grant-Making Organizations
- Provincial Government
- Out-Patient Care Centres
- Local Community Service Centres (CLSC)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Educational Services
- Hospitals
- Community Food and Housing

Admission Requirements

- Clear Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check
- 19 years of age or older (varies, depending on province-specific ministry requirements)
- Grade 12 or equivalent, or Mature Student Status with successful completion of CAST testing
- Adequate level of physical health to be able to fulfill job requirements (as stated in self-assessment)
- Other medical tests (e.g., TB test) or proof of vaccinations (e.g., Hepatitis B) may be required by industry
- Good command of the English language – both oral and written
- Wonderlic SLE admission test with a minimum score of 18
- Completion of standard registration form

Program Prerequisites

- A Community Service Worker (CSW) diploma from Academy of Learning College within the last two years
- A Community Service Worker diploma from another accredited institution within the last two years
- Two years of current and relevant work experience within a CSW-related field may be considered as equivalent pre-requisite skill and knowledge.

Of Interest To

This program is of interest to individuals with a strong desire to work as an integral part of a CSW/AW team who also:

- Enjoy performing a variety of responsibilities in a caring, gracious, and professional manner
- Place a high value on confidentiality, discretion, support, and detachment
- Have a keen interest in attaining knowledge in the Community Services and Social Worker fields
- Demonstrate a strong personal and professional commitment to achieving excellence in a CSW/AW capacity

Course Breakdown

- Addictions Worker Level 1
- Addictions Worker Level 2
- Addictions Worker Level 3