M.S. in Counseling Program
Substance Abuse Pre-Certification Program

Description

On January 3, 2012 our program was granted approval by the State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), Division of Education and Examinations, to offer a Substance Abuse Counselor Pre-Certification Program. This program is offered as part of a degree in an accredited institution for students accepted and enrolled and as such is designed as a comprehensive, 360 hour program. The program's certification is in effect until January 3, 2017.

In order for students to take advantage of this program, they must be accepted into the Clinical Mental Health concentration, be in good standing, and be actively working on completing their M.S in Counseling degree. Implications for students are as follows:

1. Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration students may apply to the DSPS for their SAC-IT license after the completion of 21 hours in the program, if the 21 hours have included the course requirements preapproved requirements (including completion of CON 600, CON 610, CON 612, & CON 714). Furthermore, you must have an offer of a Practicum/Internship, and form #2770, signed by that agency supervisor. It is permissible to complete all the paperwork, except form #2770, and submit the documents while you wait for a Practicum/Internship offer. Once you have an offer of placement, the final form (#2770) can be submitted. Decisions regarding granting of the SAC-IT are the sole responsibility of the DSPS, Substance Abuse Counselor Board. Decisions regarding the granting of a SAC-IT are the sole function of the DSPS.

2. Once in your Practicum/Internship placement, and after you have been granted your SAC-IT, you must document at least 200 hours of your total 700 hours have been performed (and verified by supervisor signature) in AODA, face-to-face client interaction.

3. After students have completed their degree, they will meet the educational standards for the initial stages of their SAC license, with a potential 2,700 hours towards the 4,000 needed for full SAC licensure application. Students can expect to receive 2,000 hours toward their licensure status upon graduation. In addition, with documented AODA hours in their practicum and internship experience (e.g. supervision at the practicum and internship site must have been provided by a person holding a certificate as a Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor Supervisor), they can request that up to 700 hours of that experience be added to their total hours towards licensure.
4. Before reaching full licensure eligibility, students will need to take and pass the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) counselor exam and the open book examination on the Wisconsin Statues and Administrative Codes. Information regarding this process can be found at http://drl.wi.gov/profdetail.asp?pdetailid=1927&profid=56&locid=0