

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 4623 Social Work and Substance Abuse

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW program or SOWK 3043 Human Behavior in the Social Environment, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Provide students with the knowledge, skills, and sensitivity to become effective generalist social work practitioners in the area of substance abuse. Focuses on a general overview of the substance abuse field, prominent theories and models used in substance abuse practice.

B. Additional Information

Definition of Generalist Practice: Our generalist social work practice model is characterized by culturally sensitive knowledge, skills, values, and ethics based on the following four principles:

1. Theoretical foundations that include systems, ecological, strengths, and empowerment perspectives, which inform various interventions at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
2. A planned change process that includes intake and engagement, data collection and assessment, planning and contracting, intervention and monitoring, and final evaluation and termination.
3. The profession's core values that acknowledge the uniqueness of the consumer in an effort to improve the consumer's social functioning and/or enriching the consumer's environment.
4. Evidence-based practice to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of services.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify professional and personal challenges when working with substance abusers.
2. Define and apply key terms used in the substance abuse field.
3. Analyze and discuss the traditional concept of addiction.
4. Differentiate and explain the effects of specific drugs on the human body.
5. Analyze models/theories used in substance abuse practice.
6. Demonstrate how to successfully engage substance abusing clients.
7. Employ a comprehensive assessment and write a treatment plan.
8. Discuss the four stage recovery model, general principles that guide substance abuse treatment, treatment planning, specific treatment approaches, and relapse prevention.
9. Examine and distinguish the impact of substance abuse and treatment issues with certain populations at risk.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate a generalist understanding of substance abuse and its impact on human functioning. Students will be able to identify diagnostic categories, treatment interventions related to substance abuse through the use of relevant research and best practices.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will prepare papers and oral presentations concerning substance abuse and treatment interventions.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will analyze ethical dilemmas related to substance abuse treatment, reflecting on standard ethical conduct indicated by the NASW Code of Ethics.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will incorporate cultural diversity, understanding global and cultural perspectives related to substance abuse and treatment.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Drug Use and Abuse
- B. Drug Categories
- C. Treatment Programs