

## Indiana University Request for a New Certificate Program

**Campus:** IUPUI—Indiana University School of Social Work

**Proposed Title of Certificate Program:** *Addiction* Certification (Level I—Basic *Addiction* Certification and Level II—Practice in the *Addictions*)

**Projected Date Implementation:** Fall, 2009

**TYPE OF CERTIFICATE:** Graduate Certificate

### I. Purpose & Rationale:

This certificate is designed to provide MSW graduates with specialized knowledge and skills specific to substance misuse for social work practice. The faculty coordinating the certificate have expertise in *addictions* that are acknowledged locally and nationally. The funding for the development is provided by the Indiana Alcohol Research Center (IARC) on the IUPUI campus (funded by a NIAAA grant, translational section).

Indiana, like other states, has many individuals who struggle with substance misuse. Social workers provide assessment and treatment for these individuals in a variety of practice settings. In an effort to prepare future practitioners with the knowledge and skills necessary for social work practice, many schools of social work provide graduates with core content specific to the assessment and treatment of individuals and families struggling with substance misuse, *addictions*, that serves to enhance their graduate work and future practice. Additionally, this program will situate graduates of the IU School of Social Work, MSW program, to further explore state licensure (not yet available in Indiana) and/or national certificates related to social work practice with the *addictions*.

The goal is to provide the uniform delivery of concentrated knowledge and skills relevant to *addictions* via six (6) core content e-learning modules. The content is designed to prepare graduate students for practice in a variety of settings in which they will at the very least formulate procedures for practice with individual and families who are struggling with substance misuse. However, many social work practitioners will screen for misuse/dependence as well as assess and provide treatment.

### II. Major Topics/Curriculum Content

The MSW degree is a total of 60 credit hours of course content which provides graduates with skills and knowledge for social work practice. Additionally, the MSW student will be required to complete a series of six (6) e-learning modules that include knowledge specific to social work practice with individuals and families who struggle with substance misuse.

The e-learning core content modules specific to *addictions* practice will build on MSW course content, featuring the translation of Best Practices, Evidenced Based Practices, and promising practices about substance misuse (translational activity to improve interventions). The modules include recommended core content in keeping with the National Association for Alcohol and Drug *Addiction* Counselors (NAADAC):

- basic understanding of substance misuse/dependence as a brain disease

- assessment (for diagnosis and treatment)
- dual diagnosis—integrated treatment
- family dynamics related to substance misuse
- evidence-based treatment (inclusive of pharmacology)
- ethics & client's rights
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Each module will include the following:

- Introduction
- Required and Recommended Readings
- Presentation (Adobe Presentation format—power point with narration)
- Resources
- Quiz (non-graded)

Certificates will be awarded at two levels based on the following:

Level I (Basic *Addiction* Certification) Certificate Requirements (for students who will practice social work in a variety of settings):

The student must complete Pre-Test, the six (6) core content modules; have a passing score of 85% on each of core content areas of the Post-test, and the following:

Completion of MSW Degree (60 credit hours)

Level II (Practice in the *Addictions*) Certification Certificate Requirements (for students who will provide direct assessment and treatment with individuals and families struggling with substance misuse):

The student must complete Pre-Test, the six (6) core content modules; have a passing score of 85% on each core content areas of the Post-test, and the following:

Completion of MSW Degree inclusive of a declared concentration of Mental Health and *Addictions* as well as S686 Social Work Practice in the *Addictions*

### **III. Admission Requirements**

Students must be currently enrolled in the MSW program; therefore they will have met the criteria for admission into the MSW program. They may begin the core content modules after completion of the *Addiction* Certificate Pre-test and the following MSW foundation courses in adherence with current IU School of Social Work academic policies and requirements:

S501 Professional Social Work at the Masters Level: An Immersion

S502 Research I

S503 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I

S504 Professional Practice Skills I

S505 Social Policy Analysis and Practice

#### **IV. Major Student Outcomes**

Upon completion of the MSW program and *Addiction* Certificate Modules, successful students/graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- a. Apply biopsychosocial, including neuroscientific, knowledge of substance abuse/dependence as a brain disease in service to persons affected by substance misuse. (Level I)
- b. Apply research-supported assessment practices and processes in service to persons affected by substance misuse. (Level I)
- c. Provide integrated treatment services to persons affected by dual diagnoses/dual disorders. (Level II)
- d. Apply knowledge of family factors and family dynamics associated with active substance misuse, remission, and recovery processes. (Level I & II)
- e. Identify and apply evidence-based practices, including pharmacological treatment, in service to persons affected by substance misuse. (Level I & II)
- f. Apply knowledge of professional ethics, relevant laws and court decisions, and client's fundamental human and legal rights in service to persons affected by substance misuse. (Level I & II)

#### **V. Assessment of Outcomes (see Matrix, pages 6-7)**

During the spring of 2009, modules will be piloted with MSW students from S686: Social Work Practice in the *Addictions*. A focus group will be conducted with these students (April, 2009) to assist in determining the efficacy (perception of value of core content, difficulty related to content and e-learning, relevancy to practicum experiences, and amount of time devoted to completion) of module content and delivery. Additionally, an ad hoc committee of community stakeholders will be convened for review of the same. Stakeholders invited to participate will be from Drug Free Marion County, Midtown Mental Health, Gallahue Mental Health, National Association of Social Workers, Community *Addictions* Services of Indiana, Fairbanks Hospital and the Department of Mental Health and *Addictions*. The ad hoc committee will be asked to meet up to three times over the next nine months beginning in December, 2008. These processes will provide the *Addiction* Certificate Committee with information which will be utilized to make adjustments in the module core content.

As previously stated, a pre-test will be administered prior to beginning the modules. Upon completion of the modules and at the end of MSW coursework (April or December, depending on their graduation date, for each cohort), a post-test will be administered requiring a passing score of 85% for each core content area. A comparison of pre and post tests will assist in assessing the rigor associated with content as well as the assessment instruments (pre/post tests). This data will be maintained for each cohort of students completing the certificate program for comparisons. Additionally, students will be asked to complete a survey at the end of the modules to provide feedback on module content and delivery. Both of these processes will provide the MSW Curriculum Committee with information for assessing content delivery as well as successful completion of the certificate program based on the post-test scores. The results of the tests scores for each cohort and percentage of students passing will be reported annually to the

MSW Curriculum Committee for review. The MSW Curriculum Committee will utilize these results to make recommendations to the faculty designing content regarding pre/post test instruments, core module content, and e-learning delivery. Additionally, a follow-up survey will be administered to students who have completed the certificate program 1 year post graduation for the first three cohorts of graduates. The survey will be launched in 2010. We will seek information regarding: did the graduate obtain employment in *addictions* treatment, % of time dedicated to working with individuals and families struggling with *addictions*, whether or not the certificate assisted in obtaining employment, the degree to which the certificate prepared the graduate for their employment, and other related information. Survey results will be presented to the MSW Curriculum Committee and the Executive Director of the MSW Program. This information will assist in on-going evaluation of the overall efficacy of the certificate program.

#### **VI. Student Population Served:**

Currently, there are approximately 850 students enrolled in the IU School of Social Work at the graduate level (MSW) and approximately 300 are at the concentration level of their graduate work. It is anticipated based on a survey of graduate students conducted in the summer of 2006, that at least 20% of MSW students would complete the requirements for an *addiction* certificate. However, with continued emphasis on expertise needed for understanding and intervening with individuals and families struggling with substance misuse, the number of students completing this program is likely to increase. Approximately, 150 students are enrolled in the Mental Health and *Addictions* Concentration and it is these students that are the primary target audience for a Level II certificate. These students represent 50% of the students at the concentration level of the MSW program. All of these students will be advised to pursue the Level II certificates.

The number of students enrolled in the MSW program remains steady over the past several years. Those students choosing the Mental Health and *Addictions* concentration remains the preferred concentration of MSW students. Due to the ongoing needs in the mental health and additions community, with social work and more specifically *addictions* practitioners aging out; this enrollment is anticipated to remain steady. Likewise, those students pursuing the certificate will remain strong.

#### **VII. Relationship to School Mission:**

The mission of the Indiana University School of Social Work is to educate students to be effective and knowledgeable professional social workers who are dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all people, particularly the citizens of Indiana. Knowledge and skills provided for completion of the certificate serves to advance the mission of the IU School of Social Work by providing future social work practitioners with expertise to assess, treat, and plan programs specific to those agencies serving individual and families struggling with substance misuse.

#### **VIII. Relation to relevant existing or proposed certificate programs: Non-applicable**

## **IX. Resources:**

Resources are in place to start and maintain the certificate program.

Person designated to as certificate head: Kathy Lay, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, IU School of Social Work; Sherry Gass, Coordinator of Admissions and Student Services

Primary Contributors of Core Module Content:

Kathy Lay, Ph.D., IU School of Social Work, Assistant Professor

James Daley, Ph.D., IU School of Social Work, Associate Professor

David Westhuis, Ph.D., IU School of Social Work, Associate Professor and Executive Director of the MSW Programs

Hea-Won Kim, Ph.D., IU School of Social Work, Associate Professor

Consultation: MSW Curriculum Committee

## **X. Innovative Features**

The requirements for the *addictions* certificate is based on the criteria set forth by National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC). Completing these required MSW coursework and the *Addiction* Certificate modules will prepare students for forthcoming state licensure of *addiction* practitioners as well as national certifications. Licensure and/or certification provide practitioners with a knowledge and skill base which benefits clients they serve.

**PLAN FOR LEARNING & ASSESSMENT**

General Outcomes	Competencies	Learning Strategy/Method	Method of Measurement of Competencies *	Assessment Findings	Utilization of Aggregate Findings
<p>Ability to apply knowledge of substance misuse</p> <p>Ability to apply research supported knowledge for assessment of individuals experiencing substance misuse</p> <p>Understand and apply ethics, laws, clients rights as they are relevant to substance misuse</p>	<p>Apply biopsychosocial, including neuroscientific, knowledge of substance abuse/dependence as a brain disease in service to persons affected by substance misuse.</p> <p>Apply research-supported knowledge and assessment practices and processes in service to persons affected by substance misuse.</p>	<p>Level I: Complete all required coursework for MSW degree inclusive of S682 (required for all MSW students) &amp;</p> <p>Complete 6 core content <i>Addiction</i> Certificate e-learning modules</p>	<p>Post-test: Case analysis and objective questions specific to the biopsychosocial, and neuroscientific, knowledge of substance abuse/dependence as a brain disease</p> <p>Post-test: Case analysis and objective questions applying research-supported knowledge and assessment practices</p>	<p>Successful completion of required MSW coursework in accordance with school policies and a score of 85% in each of the core content areas</p> <p>Compare pre and post-test scores</p>	<p>Evaluate the rigor of pre and post-tests for necessary revisions</p> <p>Evaluate learning pre &amp; post coursework and module completion</p> <p>Evaluate the need for additional content to coursework or modules</p> <p>Continue to revise course and module content based on the latest research</p>
<p>In addition to the above, Level II will:</p> <p>Understand, assess, and apply integrated treatment to persons affected by dual diagnoses/dual disorders.</p>	<p>Apply knowledge of professional ethics, relevant laws and court decisions, and client's fundamental human and legal rights in service to persons affected by substance misuse.</p>	<p>In addition to the above, Level II will:</p> <p>Complete all required coursework for MSW degree inclusive of S682 (required for all MSW students) and</p>	<p>Post-test: Case analysis and objective questions applying knowledge of professional ethics, relevant laws and court decisions, and client's fundamental human and legal specific to persons affected by substance misuse.</p>		

<p>Understand and apply knowledge of family dynamics associated with substance misuse</p> <p>Identify and apply evidence-based practices to persons affected by substance misuse.</p>	<p>In addition to the above, Level II will:</p> <p>Provide integrated treatment services to persons affected by dual diagnoses/dual disorders.</p> <p>Apply knowledge of family factors and family dynamics associated with active substance misuse, remission, and recovery processes.</p> <p>Identify and apply evidence-based practices, including pharmacological treatment, in service to persons affected by substance misuse.</p>	<p>all courses required for the Mental Health &amp; Addictions Concentration, &amp; S686: SW Practice in the Addictions &amp;</p> <p>Complete 6 core content <i>Addiction</i> Certificate e-learning modules</p>	<p>Post-test: Case analysis and objective questions specific to the provision of integrated treatment to persons affected by dual diagnoses/dual disorders.</p> <p>Post-test: Case analysis and objective questions specific to the application of family dynamics associated substance misuse.</p> <p>Post-test: Case analysis and objective questions specific to the identification and application of evidence-based practices to persons affected by substance misuse.</p>		
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\*Successful completion of MSW coursework in accordance with school policies is required.