Addiction Studies | Major

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia’s Addiction Studies degree was one of the first of its kind in the United States. Students who pursue this major find the subject area extremely relevant, challenging, and rewarding in their quest to understand one of society’s major problems. A degree in Addiction Studies provides both theoretical and practical training for professional roles in prevention and treatment settings. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, it is highly valued by related fields such as criminal justice, mental health, and children/youth agencies. Because of its wide application in the Behavioral Health professions, the degree is designed to expand employment and placement opportunities for its majors upon graduation. Alvernia University offers three areas of credentials for the person interested in Addiction Studies.

**Bachelor of Science Degree in Addiction Studies**
This degree prepares students for entry into the addictions profession, graduate study, or for a career as a specialized caregiver in social work, education, or health-related field.

**Minor in Addiction Studies**
Designed as a complement for students majoring in other programs, this concentration is especially valuable for those majoring in psychology, social work, criminal justice, or human resources and personnel.

**Certificate Program in Addiction Studies**
Designed primarily for people who are, or hope to be, employed in related fields and who wish to obtain formal recognition of their competence in addiction studies.

Many addiction studies courses meet on Saturdays. A degree can be earned at either our Reading or Philadelphia campus. Advisors can let you know whether you can get credit for life experience applied toward your degree.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Various Chemical Abuse Certification (CAC) boards award credit hours for each addiction course taken at Alvernia. The foremost drug/alcohol credential organization in Pennsylvania is the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB). Coursework from Alvernia University’s Addiction Studies program can be used to fulfill PCB requirements for certification and re-certification of addiction counselors. Students from other states should contact the CAC Board in their state for information about requirements and the certification process.

FACULTY

The program’s commitment to excellence is exemplified through its recruitment and faculty selection. The Addictions faculty includes national educators and published professionals, as well as top level administrators who are actively involved with changes occurring in health care. This highly credentialed faculty provides an educationally rich and extremely interesting classroom experience. Students are able to complement their classroom education with two field placements. This practicum field experience gives the Addictions major valuable exposure to work environments prior to graduation. As the need to address problems related to addiction increases, the demand for highly qualified degreed individuals will continue to grow stronger.

CAREER SUCCESS

Addiction Studies graduates find employment with inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation centers, hospitals, corporate employee assistance programs, prevention/intervention centers, and a
wide spectrum of social agencies. The addiction studies program maintains an extremely high employment placement rate. Alvernia's Career Services staff provides assistance with resume preparation, interview skills, and job and graduate school searches.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Addictionologist  
Child Welfare Agencies  
Community Corrections Centers  
Counselor: Alcohol/Drug  
Counselor: Crisis Intervention  
Drug and Alcohol Outpatient Programs  
Employee Assistance Programs  
Half-way House Programs  
Mental Health Worker  
Prevention Programs  
Probation/Parole  
Recovery Centers  
Social Service Administrator  
Student Assistance Programs  
Training and Development Professional  
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor  
Youth Corrections Officer

**CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

**Major Requirements** (45 Credits)
- ADA 201 Foundation of Addiction Studies
- ADA 203 Drugs of Abuse
- ADA 204 Counseling Theories
- ADA 230 Assessment, Evaluation, and Treatment Interventions
- ADA 303 Counseling Techniques I
- ADA 305 Group Counseling I
- ADA 400 Family Counseling I
- ADA 402 Professional Counseling Practices
- 12 credits of Field Experience
- 9 ADA elective credits

**Minor Requirements** (18 Credits)
- ADA 201 Foundation of Addiction Studies
- ADA 203 Drugs of Abuse
- ADA 230 Assessment, Evaluation, and Treatment Interventions
- ADA 303 Counseling Techniques I
- ADA 305 Group Counseling I
- ADA 400 Family Counseling I
- 1 approved ADA elective

**Certificate Program Requirements** (18 Credits)
- ADA 201 Foundation of Addiction Studies
- ADA 203 Drugs of Abuse
- ADA 230 Assessment, Evaluation, and Treatment Interventions
- ADA 303 Counseling Techniques I
- ADA 305 Group Counseling I
- ADA 400 Family Counseling I
- 1 approved ADA elective

**Addiction Studies Elective Courses**
- ADA 102 Substance Abuse and Society
- ADA 220 Prevention and Intervention Services
- ADA 240 When Love Hurts
- ADA 304 Counseling Techniques II
- ADA 306 Group Counseling II
- ADA 308 Spiritual Values and Recovery
- ADA 401 Family Counseling II
- ADA 411 Counseling Special Populations
- ADA 412 Employee Assistance Programs
- ADA 413 Special Issues Seminar
- ADA 414 Differential Diagnosis

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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