



Substance Use Disorder Professional Alternative Training Certificate of Proficiency

Program Overview

Whatcom Community College's offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Substance Use Disorder Professional Alternative Training. This is a 15 credit entirely online program, for eligible students who are interested in becoming a Substance Use Disorder Professional through the Alternative Training pathway. Students must hold an active license in good standing in the following areas of the WAC 246-811-076 (listed below).

The six courses are designed to meet the education requirements of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-811-077) for alternative training. The courses teach to the TAP 21 basic competencies and are focused on preparing students to pass the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) credentialing exam. In addition to coursework, students will be required to complete supervised experience hours as required by the state to receive full Substance Use Disorder Professional credentialing.

Program Highlights

- Expedited educational pathway for dual credentialing, only 15 credits required
- Course offered entirely online, in asynchronous format
- Tuition funds may be available for NSBHO contracted employers
- Additional funding available to cover books, CDPT application fee and NAADAC exam fees
- Courses designed specifically for masters level licensed professionals

Eligible Students for Alternative Training (WAC 246-811-076)

A practitioner listed below who holds an active license in good standing may apply for certification as a Substance Use Disorder Professional using alternative training under WAC [246-811-077](#) or [246-811-078](#):

- Advanced registered nurse practitioner under chapter [18.79](#) RCW
- Marriage and family therapists, mental health counselor, advanced social worker, or independent clinical social worker under chapter [18.225](#) RCW
- Psychologist under chapter [18.83](#) RCW
- Osteopathic physician under chapter [18.57](#) RCW
- Osteopathic physician assistant under chapter [18.57A](#) RCW
- Physician under chapter [18.71](#) RCW
- Physician assistant under chapter [18.71A](#) RCW

Although students who have Associate Licenses are able to apply and take the courses, students must obtain full licensure of their "primary" license (one of the above), before applying for the substance use disorder professional certification through the Alternative Training pathway.

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Refer to Whatcom Community College's website and the Washington State Administrative Code for the most up to date information.

Courses Required

The Alternative Training program consists of six separate courses that students are required to successfully complete at a “C” level or higher (78%) to meet the 15 credits for the Certificate of Proficiency.

Courses Required		Credits
HLTH 280	Survey of Addiction - Alternative Training	3
HLTH 281	Law & Ethics for Addiction Counseling ALT	2
HLTH 282	Pharmacological & Physiological Drug Actions	3
HLTH 283	Family Systems / Adolescent Treatment Addiction	2
HLTH 284	American Society of Addiction Medicine ALT	3
HLTH 285	Addiction Treatment: Individual & Group ALT	2

Total Credits: 15

Course Descriptions

HLTH 280: Survey of Addiction - Alternative Training

This course explores the nature and scope of alcohol/drug use, abuse, and addiction as well as problems with compulsive behaviors. Basic drug categories, symptoms of addiction, disease models, and cross-cultural aspects of chemical dependency are studied. Prevention, intervention and treatment are discussed.

HLTH 281: Law & Ethics for Addiction Counseling ALT

This course provides an overview of industry standards and competencies and provides a framework of laws and regulations for addiction services. Ethics and guidelines for practice will be covered. Students will explore values and beliefs, and apply practice to ethical decision making.

HLTH 282: Pharmacological & Physiological Drug Actions

This course covers information on the physical impact and the response of the human body to alcohol and other drugs of abuse. The fundamentals of pharmacokinetics, neurological functions and current research on prevention, and treatment will be studied with special focus on effective intervention strategies for each class of drug.

HLTH 283: Family Systems / Adolescent Treatment Addiction

This course provides an overview of family history, genograms, boundaries, and rules in addiction counseling. Adolescent development, genetics, environment, and diagnosis and treatment are covered. Evidence based programs and recovery and support are explored.

HLTH 284: American Society of Addiction Medicine ALT

This course introduces the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria. It provides a clinical overview of case management, intake and assessment, withdrawal and intoxication management, service planning and placement, risk ratings, level of care placement.

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HLTH 285: Addiction Treatment: Individual & Group ALT

This course covers evidenced based approaches and systems of care in individual and group addiction treatment. Systems of care, historical models, healthy system recovery, and new peer supports are explored.

Credit Load and Course Work

What Is a Credit?

1 credit = 1 online class hour (50 min) per week

1 credit = 1 online class hour/week + up to 2 hours of study time outside of class

8 credits = 8 hours/week + up to 16 hours of study time outside of class

Cohort Model

When reviewing the following cohort model, consider your work/life balance and availability to schedule time for online courses. Each credit equals 1 hour of time reviewing course content on the computer, not including additional homework time. For example, 5 credit quarter means students will need to complete 5 hours of course work a week, plus up to 2 hours of additional time for homework per credit. These courses often require logging in to the course multiple times a week to complete discussion boards and assignments.

Students will take five credits per quarter, Fall, Winter, and Spring quarter.

Fall Quarter	(September 24-December 13)	Credits
HLTH 280	SURVEY OF ADDICTION-ALTERNATIVE TRAINING	3
HLTH 281	LAW & ETHICS FOR ADDICTION COUNSELING	2
		Total: 5 credits
Winter Quarter	(January 8-March 27)	Credits
HLTH 282	PHARMACOLOGICAL & PHYSIOLOGICAL DRUG ACTIONS	3
HLTH 283	FAMILY SYSTEMS/ADOLESCENT TREATMENT ADDICTION	2
		Total: 5 credits
Spring Quarter	(April 7-June 19)	Credits
HLTH 284	AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE	3
HLTH 285	ADDICTION TREATMENT: INDIVIDUAL & GROUP	2
		Total: 5 credits

Online Program

Whatcom Community College's online courses are hosted through Canvas learning platform. These online classes are not self-paced and require students to participate several days of the week. Review the following questions and consider your personal learning style and situation prior to signing up for an online course.

- Are you able to schedule time to complete online work multiple times a week?

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- Are you able to learn without face-to-face interaction with your instructor and other students?
- Can you create, save, and manage files on your computer?
- Do you have reliable and consistent access to a computer and the internet?

Please visit the [eLearning webpage](#) for links and instructional videos on Canvas (the software used for online classes), the Student Help Desk, eTutoring, eLearning Orientation dates, and login information.

Tuition Cost

Each quarter costs approximately \$619.55 for tuition, for a total of approximately \$1,858.65 to complete the 15 credit certificate program.

Technology Requirements

For online courses, students are required to have access to a computer with internet and speakers. Specific requirements for accessing the online Canvas course are below for maximum compatibility.

Screen Size

- Canvas is best viewed at a minimum of 800x600, which is the average size of a notebook computer. If you want to view Canvas on a device with a smaller screen, we recommend using the Canvas [mobile app](#).

Operating Systems

- Windows 7 and newer (users on Windows 10 need to download the [Windows 10 Anniversary Update](#) to submit Canvas assignments)
- Mac OSX 10.6 and newer
- Linux - chromeOS

Mobile Operating System Native App Support

- iOS 7 and newer (versions vary by device) or Android 4.2 and newer

Computer Speed and Processor

- Use a computer 5 years old or newer when possible
- 1GB of RAM
- 2GHz processor

Internet Speed

- Along with compatibility and web standards, Canvas has been carefully crafted to accommodate low bandwidth environments.
- Minimum of 512kbps

Screen Readers

- Macintosh: [VoiceOver](#) (latest version for Safari)
- PC: [JAWS](#) (latest version for Internet Explorer)
- PC: [NVDA](#) (latest version for Firefox)
- There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome

Credentialing requirements

[\(WAC 246-811\)](#)

Students are encouraged to read the Washington Administrative Codes to become familiar with the full requirements to become a Substance Use Disorder Professional. Students may apply to become a Substance Use Disorder Professional Trainee while completing supervised experience hours.

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Education Requirements

[\(WAC 246-811-077\)](#)

To apply for Substance Use Disorder Certification with Alternative Training an applicant credentialed according to WAC [246-811-076](#) may meet the educational requirements for Substance Use Disorder Professional certification by demonstrating successful completion of fifteen quarter or ten semester college credits in courses from an approved school.

- Course work on each of the following topics specific to alcohol and drug addicted individuals is required:
 - Survey of addiction;
 - Treatment of addiction;
 - Pharmacology;
 - Physiology of addiction;
 - American Society of Addiction Management (ASAM) criteria;
 - Individual group, including family addiction counseling; and
 - Substance use disorder law and ethics.
- Course work must be completed for credit.
- An applicant shall verify course completion by submitting official transcripts to the department. If the course title does not clearly identify the content area, the applicant shall provide the course syllabi.
- An applicant who meets the educational requirements of this section is considered to meet the educational requirements of WAC [246-811-030](#).

Supervised Experience

Students eligible for Alternative Training must complete one thousand hours of substance use disorder counseling. These individuals are credentialed according to WAC [246-811-076](#). The experience must be supervised by an approved supervisor meeting the requirements under WAC [246-811-049](#)(8).

For full description of experience requirements, please review the following in WAC 246-811

- Accumulation of experience ([WAC 246-811-045](#))
- Number of experience hours required for certification as a Substance Use Disorder Professional ([WAC 246-811-046](#))
- Competency—Experience requirements ([WAC 246-811-047](#))
- Supervision requirements ([WAC 246-811-048](#))
- Approved supervisors ([WAC 246-811-049](#))

Examination

[\(WAC 246-811-060\)](#)

Students must take and pass the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor (NAADAC) National Certification Examination for Addiction Counselors or International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) Certified Addiction Counselor Level II or higher examination. The Alternative Training program teaches to the NAADAC exam. The CDP Alternative Training program at WCC prepares students for the NAADAC examination.

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Disability Accommodations

Any student with a disability requiring auxiliary aids, services, or other reasonable accommodations should contact the access and disability services office in the entry and advising center in LDC 116 or call 360-383-3080 or 360-255-7182 (videophone) to make an appointment.

Affirmation of Inclusion

WCC is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the College community feels welcome to participate in the life of the College, free from harassment and discrimination. We welcome people of all races, ethnicity, national origins, religions, ages, genders, sexual orientations, marital status, veteran status, abilities and disabilities. Toward that end, faculty, students and staff will treat one another with respect and dignity; promote a learning and working community that ensures social justice, understanding, civility and nonviolence in a safe and supportive climate; and influence curriculum, teaching strategies, student services and personnel practices that facilitate sensitivity and openness to diverse ideas, peoples and cultures in a creative, safe and collegial environment.

Non-discrimination Policy, Title IX, and Sexual Misconduct

WCC does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, genetic information or age in its programs and activities. WCC's discrimination and harassment policy (policy 615) and the student rights and responsibilities policy (WAC 132U-125) strictly prohibit sexual harassment, intimidation, and violence. Anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct is encouraged to contact a WCC counselor in entry and advising (Laidlaw 116) at 360-383-3080 to receive confidential support and learn about reporting options. Any disclosure of such misconduct shared with another faculty or staff member is non-confidential and requires a report to WCC's

Title IX coordinator, who has been designated to handle such reports. Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination, Title IX, and sexual misconduct policies can be directed to the executive director for human resources, 237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, 360-383-3400.

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