

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



Introduction to Substance Use Assessment and Treatment
SWRK 310 (3 credit hours) *Fall 2025*

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WEB: BITERM: 08/18 to 10/10

Course Description:

Examines substance use disorders and the theories, techniques, and practices of substance use assessment and treatment. Students will learn to utilize assessment instruments, analyze/ interpreting data, document assessments and make appropriate treatment recommendations. Learning how to adapt best practices to serve marginalized populations will be addressed. The different levels of care options will be reviewed, as well as harm reduction and peer support programs.

Required Reading

No text is required for this course. Below are the substantive reading materials required.

Some of the following publications can be downloaded free of charge, online at SAMSHA [Search SAMSHA Publications and Digital Products | SAMSHA Publications and Digital Products](#)

1. Substance Use Guide for Screening: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64820/>
2. Screening and Treatment of substance use for Adolescents:
3. https://store.samhsa.gov/product/screening-treatment-substance-use-disorders-among-adolescents/pep20-06-04-008?referer=from_search_result
4. Guide to Screening and Treatment: https://store.samhsa.gov/product/A-Guide-to-Substance-Abuse-Services-for-Primary-Care-Clinicians/SMA12-3581?referer=from_search_result
5. What are Peer Support Services: <https://www.samhsa.gov/resource/ebp/what-are-peer-recovery-support-services>
6. Evidence Based Interventions in Substance Use Cultural Adaptations: [Adapting Evidence-Based Practices for Under-Resourced Populations \(samhsa.gov\)](https://www.samhsa.gov/practice/evidence-based-interventions-in-substance-use-cultural-adaptations)
7. Referral to Treatment: https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Finding-Quality-Treatment-for-Substance-Use-Disorders/PEP18-TREATMENT-LOC?referer=from_search_result

Video, Podcasts, Policy Text

Your computer requires compatibility with Adobe, Windows Media Player, Firefox browser.

Recommended Text:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Substance Use Professional Certificate: 18 Credits

The Substance Use Professional Certificate (SUPC) is designed to prepare individuals with the skills necessary to become a substance use counseling professional. Courses in this certificate meet partial requirement for state certification as a certified alcohol and drug counselor (CADC, CADCA Level I and CADCA Level II). According to the Kentucky Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors, the CADC designation is a substance use credential for professionals with a bachelor's degree (in any field) who assess, develop, and provide substance abuse treatment services and plans. The CADCA Levels I and II require a High School Diploma. This certificate program is beneficial to students in sociology, social work, psychology, criminology, pre-med, nursing, and any closely related human service field. In addition, this is a stand-alone certificate serving professionals that are seeking continued education.

Courses in the program focus on assessment, treatment, counseling skills, field practice, and documentation. Students will be exposed to ethical protocols and multicultural treatment with diverse populations.

*It is the student's responsibility to ensure a specific credentialing organization approves of courses to count as continued education.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the epidemiology of substance use disorders (ex. signs and symptoms).
2. Execute the application of screening tools for substance use.
3. Describe the continuum for care in substance use treatment.
4. Identify cultural adaptations needed in substance use treatment.
5. Explain knowledge of appropriate referrals to treatment for substance use.

UNITS OF STUDY

Unit I Introduction: Substance Use Signs, Symptoms, and Progression

- Introduction to the major classification of addictive substances
- The physiological and psychological effects of substance use and dependence.
- Introduction to Substance Use Disorders DSM 5 criteria
- The impact of substance use disorders on self and family
- A review of the stigma associated with substance use disorders.

Discussion Board Assignments: 2

QUIZ

Unit II Assessment of Substance Use

- Introduction of substance use interviewing skills
- Introduction to the stages of change model
- Application of screening tools (DAST, AUDIT, CRAFFT)
- Review the Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual Assessment
- The universal use of substance use brief intervention to treatment (SBIRT).

Discussion Board Assignments: 2
QUIZ

Unit III Levels of Treatment for Substance Use

- Introduction of treatment models for substance use (medical, psychological, socio-cultural)
- Introduction to the continuum of treatment approaches for substance use treatment (Minnesota Model, Outpatient, Residential Treatment Communities, and Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Referral to treatment approaches and resources

Discussion Board Assignments: 1
QUIZ

Unit IV Culturally Relevant Treatment Approaches

- Assessment and application of cultural humility to culturally.
- Introduction to culturally responsive services
- Ethnic and racial considerations in substance use treatment
- Cultural adaptation of evidence-informed practices

Discussion Board Assignments: 1
QUIZ
Book Review Assessment Paper

Grading Scale:

Assignments	Points
Course Participation (6-Discussion Posts)	60
Quizzes (4)	200
Book Review Assessment Paper	100
Total	360

Discussion board participation – 60 points (10 points x 6)

Course learning methods will stress student discussion. Students are expected to respond to discussion questions that integrate learning outcomes from readings/videos. Each discussion question is worth 10

points. A rubric for discussion boards is posted on blackboard. You are to answer the questions posed and **respond to at least two other** student postings.

You have 48 hours to post your two responses to posting from the discussion board due date. Late work will not be accepted without point penalty. YOU MUST HAVE RELIABLE WIFI DURING THIS COURSE

Quizzes- 200 points (4x50=200)

There are four (4) unit quizzes in this course. Each quiz focuses on the content included in the prospective unit. They are comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and one short answer.

Book Review Assessment Paper – 100 points

Students will select a biography based on addiction and treatment from the list provided. Students may select a book not included but must seek instructor approval. The paper will assess the character using the questions outlined below. Students will use information provided in this course as a reference in responding to the required questions (at least three references). In APA format, students will write a review in APA format including a cover page, in-text citations, organizational headings, and a reference page. The paper should be five (5) to six (6) pages in length, not including the cover page and reference page.

Requirements for assessment include:

- a. A brief description of a major character in terms of age, personality, race, class, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, religious preference, and gender (discuss what is known about the character). Discuss their environment (family, friends, neighborhood-as it relates to alcohol/drug use).
- b. A description of the progression of addiction (onset of use to full dependency) by including symptoms, situations, and crisis' that relate to addiction.
- c. A description of the treatment approaches the character received and the treatment outcomes.
- d. A description of the similarities and differences between you and the chosen character in terms of human development, values, educational and vocational opportunity, family of origin, supports, and environment.
- e. A discussion of the challenges that you would face in *confronting your own biases*, assumptions, and values, if this character were a client assigned to you. What treatment would you prescribe and why. Use the materials in this course to address this question.
- f. Discuss policy implications as it relates to the story (criminalization, treatment access, stigma, location specific stats- where is the character from, what is the alcohol/drug problem like in this area).

No late papers will be accepted for full credit. One day late is a 50% reduction.

Course Requirements, Policies, & Expectations:

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the policies set forth by the University with regard to academic integrity. <http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/process-for-academic-dishonesty.php> The department does not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. A student found to be engaging in such illegal and unethical conduct may receive a failing grade in the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary proceedings, including a referral to Judicial Affairs. Any assignment or exam that lacks honesty will be given a grade of zero (0). Falsifying your service learning is considered cheating.

A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic offenses; such as plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty, may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

Questions about the complaint procedure should be directed to the Student Ombudsman Officer at (270) 745-6169.

Academic Dishonesty—Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

Plagiarism—To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism.

Cheating—No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

Other Type of Academic Dishonesty—Other types of academic offenses, such as the theft or sale of tests, should be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs at (270) 745-5429 for judicial sanction.

AI or CHATGPT—No use of AI interface is allowed to complete assignments in this course.

Academic/Student Support

Most of us find that we need some academic support and direction during our time in the university. WKU offers many resources that can help you be successful in this course. These are listed below.

- **INCLUSION STATEMENT**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a

sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

- **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Individual counseling is at the heart of the services offered by the Counseling Center. Our staff provides individual counseling typically during hour long weekly sessions. Most students come in for under six sessions and return if their difficulties persist. There are some students who come in for longer treatment while others come in for a single session and are referred out for additional services. <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>

- **TITLE IX DISCRIMINATION AND HARRASSMENT**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

- **STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SERVICES**

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. The phone number is 270-745-5004.

Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

- **WRITING CENTER ASSISTANCE**

The Writing Center is located in Cherry Hall 123 on the Bowling Green campus and also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions on the web site of [The Writing Center](#) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (also listed on the website) for help scheduling an appointment.

- **OFF CAMPUS LIBRARY SUPPORT** The Extended Campus Library Services Office will copy citations and pull library books for students at extended campuses and send them through the mail. There is no cost to students (although you do have to pay to return the library

books). WKU also has a courier service to extended campuses. For further information, go to: http://www.wku.edu/library/dlps/ext_camp.htm Turn-around time can be anywhere from a few days to two weeks, so plan ahead.

Regular and Substantive Interaction

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning](#) webpage.

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Weekly synchronous sessions with faculty and students,
- Faculty participation in weekly discussion boards,
- Weekly announcements, and
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission.

Disclaimer Instructor reserves the right to change dates for activities and assignments as needed.

References

- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. A Guide to Substance Abuse Services for Primary Care Clinicians. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 1997. (Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 24.) Chapter 2—Screening for Substance Use Disorders. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64820/>
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Screening and Treatment of substance use for Adolescents (2012). US Department of Health and Human Services. www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Guide to Screening and Treatment. (2010). US Department of Health and Human Services. www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Guide to Screening and Treatment. (2021). US Department of Health and Human Services. www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Peer Support Services: TIP 64. (2014). US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Evidence Based Interventions in Substance Use Cultural Adaptations: Adapting Evidence-Based Practices for Under-Resourced Populations. (2022). US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Addiction Counseling Competencies: TIP 21, US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Detox Treatment: TIP 45, US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Group Treatment in Substance Use Counseling: TIP 41, US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Comprehensive Case Management in Substance Use Treatment: TIP 27, US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Peer Support Services: TIP 64, US Department of Health and Human Services, www.samsha.gov.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Screening and Treatment of substance use for Adolescents (2012). US Department of Health and Human Services. www.samsha.gov.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) #57, Chapter 6 (2014), pps. 137-150 (pps. 151-155 optional) Bernardy, Hamblen, Friedman, & Kivlahan (2011), pps. 242-250 (pps. 251-261 optional)

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Treatment Improvement Protocol #42, Chapter 5 (2023), pps. 101-111, 116-118, 125-134 (remainder of chapter optional)

NIDA Research Report Series – Comorbidity: Addiction and other Mental Illnesses (2020) NIDA DrugFacts – Treatment Approaches for Drug Addiction (2016) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, COCE - Overview Paper #1 (2006)

Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders: TIP 42, US Department of Health and Human Services. www.samsha.gov.