The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program, the only graduate-level program of its kind in Arkansas, is administered through the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Arts and Sciences. With a mission to improve the health of Arkansans, the Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program has been providing leadership opportunities to students throughout Arkansas since its inception in August 2001.

The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program is funded by the Arkansas Master Tobacco Settlement Fund and the Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Branch within the Arkansas Department of Health.

Welcome

Welcome to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program. If you are reading this Viewbook, we believe you have made the right choice! The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies is a graduate degree that prepares students for leadership roles in the intervention, prevention, and treatment of addictions. What type of addictions? Addictions studied in this program include (but are not limited to) alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and gambling. With a Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies, you may be building the framework for a successful career in a vast array of counseling, consulting, and advisory positions. Aren’t you ready to get started today?
The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program prepares students for leadership careers in the prevention and treatment (i.e., counseling services) of substance abuse. Students learn to manage addiction facilities and develop new knowledge and skills in response to changing client needs. The courses also help prepare students to become (1) Licensed Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, (2) Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselors (CADC) and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counselors (AODA); and (3) Certified Prevention Specialists and Certified Prevention Consultants.

The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program offers not only services to individuals who are currently employed in the addictions field, but opportunities to people who are new to the field. The program helps to increase the pool of professionals prepared to provide addiction counseling and prevention services that are needed throughout the state and beyond.

How Does the Program Help Improve the Lives of Arkansans?

In 2010 data shows that marijuana, followed by stimulants, is the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in the state.

Mission Statement

The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program, which is the only graduate-level program of its kind in Arkansas, seeks to improve the health of Arkansans.

Purpose

The purposes of the Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies program are:

1) To increase the number and diversity of professionals in the addiction prevention and treatment (i.e., counseling) field.

2) To link theory to practice through classroom instruction and internships.

3) To provide the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for achieving and maintaining professional competence at different points in student careers.

4) To help prepare students for state certification.

5) To provide community-based outreach education, including emphasis on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention and treatment.

After graduation, most of our students choose to live and work in Arkansas. Pictured below are some of our graduates and places where they are working or worked after graduating from the program.

Smoking has had a devastating impact on the health of Arkansans. For example, in the early 2000s, the Coalition for a Healthy Arkansas Today (CHART) predicted that 50,000 kids who begin smoking under the age of eighteen would eventually die unless tobacco consumption was prevented. Additionally, CHART reported that Arkansas had the third highest rate in the nation of adult smokers, the second highest rate of lung cancer, and the 15th highest rate of heart disease. CHART also reported that the state spends about $400 million annually in medical costs for people with tobacco-related illnesses.

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How Are Arkansans Able to Use the Master’s Degree?

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In 1999, the Regular Session of Arkansas’s 82nd General Assembly passed two ACTS: ACT 1588 and ACT 1703. These two acts, along with third-party reimbursement requirements, led to the development of the Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The program helps train and mentor addiction professionals who are able to meet the qualifications established by the two acts and third-party reimbursement requirements. The program is a cutting edge program because it recognized that Arkansas needed a master’s curriculum dedicated solely to the preparation of addiction professionals in both alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention and treatment (i.e., counseling services). Among other things, it also recognized that master’s degree level training is needed to ensure students are adequately prepared to meet licensing standards if they wish to enter into contracts to become recipients of third-party reimbursements.

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Dr. Eugene Herrington (Podium) conducts the inaugural installation of student officers into Delta Pi Beta, a chapter of the Addiction Studies Honor Society International. The Delta Pi Beta is the only honor society of its kind in the United States. Dr. Herrington, while serving as the Distinguished Professor for the Addiction Studies Program (2002-2004), helped to establish Delta Pi Beta and served as its first advisor. The inaugural ceremonies were conducted during the first Annual Addiction Studies Graduate Banquet, which is organized each year by the students to honor Addiction Studies students who are on the brink of graduation.

Delta Pi Beta, a Greek service organization, was officially established at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff on February 17, 2003 as a founding member of the Addiction Studies Honor Society International.

Delta Pi Beta is open to college and university males and females throughout the United States and internationally who seek to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, and excellence in the prevention and treatment of addictions. This emblem for Delta Pi Beta is a legacy of the founding members.


Treasurer, Syrna Lee; Historian, Alice Moss; Secretary, Denise Sanders; Vice-President, Costella Hayes; President, Andrew Beavers; and Advisor, Dr. Eugene Herrington

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Students listen to the 2004 inaugural graduate banquet keynote speaker.
To be considered for admission into the Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program, applicants must do the following:

1. Submit undergraduate transcript from a regionally accredited college or university in a sealed envelope from the registrar’s office or the office of admissions.

2. Submit an official transcript that reflects a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00.

3. Submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. The test must have been taken within the past five (5) calendar years.

4. If applicable, submit from the Test of English as a Foreign Language, a score of 550 or above (paper version) or 213 or above (computer version), if the applicant’s primary language is not English. The test must have been taken within the past two (2) calendar years.

5. Submit an essay, one (1) to three (3) pages in length, that includes a discussion on why the applicant is interested in the prevention and/or treatment of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, and how a master’s degree in addiction studies will impact his or her career or life.

6. Submit three (3) letters of recommendation (one from a former professor, if possible) that includes a discussion of the candidate’s strengths and weaknesses relative to him or her being a professional in the prevention and/or treatment of addictions field.

7. Complete an interview with the Program Director and/or Addiction Studies Graduate Admissions Committee.

8. Write an onsite summary of a journal article similar to what would be required in Addiction Studies courses.

9. Submit a current resume or curriculum vitae.

10. Submit a completed Master of Science Degree in Addictions Studies application.

11. Submit a completed University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Graduate Studies application.

12. Submit an immunization record with proof of two MMR vaccinations (i.e., immunization against measles and rubella, as mandated by Arkansas state law).

13. Enroll in only one graduate degree program at a time.

Team work is the key! This banquet cake symbolized the spirit and dedication exhibited by the 2007 graduating class.

Standing: Harold Duhon II, Verdell Baker, Courtney Jackson, Karen Allmon, and Bruce Horton
Seated: Jackie Ferrell, Melva Trask, Yulanda Robertson, and Chimere Colbert

Members of Delta Pi Beta, the Addiction Studies Honor Society International, pose for a picture at the annual graduation banquet prior to their graduation in 2007.

Community Service

Our students provide community services for local and state agencies while fulfilling their requirements for their internships. Below is a list of some of the agencies where students have been placed:

• Arkansas Cares, East Gate, North Little Rock, AR
• Arkansas Cares, Little Rock, AR
• Arkansas Department of Corrections, Pine Bluff, AR
• Birch Tree Incorporated, Little Rock, AR
• Community Resource Agency, Pine Bluff, AR
• Human Development and Research Services, Inc. - Specialized Women’s Services, Pine Bluff, AR
• Jefferson County Tobacco Free Coalition, Pine Bluff, AR
• Recovery Council, El Dorado, AR
• United Family Services, Little Rock, AR
• Wrightsville Boot Camp, Wrightsville, AR
The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program requires a total of thirty-six (36) semester hours. It is housed administratively in the School of Arts and Sciences. The courses include content emphasizing both the prevention and the treatment (i.e., counseling) of addictions. Listed below are the twelve required courses and a brief description of each. Each course is a three-hour credit course.

1. **GASP 5311: Diagnostics and Statistical Evaluation in Addiction Studies**
   This course includes knowledge and skills used to evaluate practice and carry out research. Major content areas include formulating research questions; research design and methodology; sampling techniques; protection of human subjects; descriptive statistics; data analysis, and research proposal development. The use and abuse of tobacco is a special area of emphasis in this course, including extant research, practice, and treatment applications. This course also includes knowledge and skills in understanding the biopsychosocial model of assessment.

2. **GASP 5312: Clinical Models of Addiction**
   This course will introduce students to counseling theories and techniques applicable to substance related and addictive disorders. Individual and group counseling theories, skills, and techniques will be explored with a focus on cultural and societal contexts. Tobacco treatment protocols will also be reviewed. Introductory ethical issues in counseling will be addressed. Addiction Counseling Core Competencies of Counseling and Treatment Planning, Documentation, and Professional and Ethical Responsibilities will be addressed in the course.

3. **GASP 5313: Alcohol and Alcoholism**
   This course will provide comprehensive instruction on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use. The primary emphasis is on ATOD pharmacology and the effects of ATOD on the human body, and professional vocabulary found in the ATOD profession. Additional emphasis is on current issues in the ATOD profession, models explaining ATOD use, and treating ATOD use. The course will include a focus on Addiction Counseling Core Competencies of Counseling, Clinical Evaluation, and, Client/Family/Community Education.

4. **GASP 5321: Case Management and Prevention Ethics**
   This advanced level course in case management and prevention ethics emphasizes ethical concepts and principles. Professional behavior, confidentiality issues, and advanced management and supervision techniques will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on diagnosis and assessment. Students will explore procedures to identify and evaluate individuals and family strengths and needs in order to develop an effective plan of action. The students will also examine the effectiveness of referrals and coordination as case management tools for retention of clients in prevention and treatment programs.

5. **GASP 5322: Substance Abuse Prevention**
   This course provides a comprehensive study of substance use prevention. Topics include: prevention strategies, program development, social policy and risky protective factors. This course will utilize a variety of approaches to instruct students on how to work with community coalitions, local schools and community agencies to prevent substance use.

6. **GASP 5323: Family Counseling**
   This course provides intensive instruction in the theory and practice of the family counseling in alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment settings. Family dynamics and familial issues confronted by families and families with addictive individuals, along with best practices in counseling families to prevent permanent damage and/or destruction of the family structure will be presented.

7. **GASP 5331: Dual Diagnosis**
   This course will provide a comprehensive study of co-occurring substance use and psychiatric disorders. The course will focus on diagnostic classifications of mental disorders found in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-V), characteristics Documentation, and Service Coordination (consultation). The course will assist in preparing students to become substance use professionals who are able to provide integrated treatment to consumers.

8. **GASP 5332: Planning, Managing, and Evaluating Substance Abuse Programs**
   Human service organizations exist to enhance the quality of life within their communities. Organizations providing substance use services are examples of human service organizations. This course will explore the purposes and processes of human service management, including: planning, design and evaluation of human service program. Supervision, and financial management within human service organizations will also be explored.

9. **GASP 5333: Counseling Special Populations**
   This course examines cultural competencies related to treatment issues and techniques. Knowledge and understanding of the development of programs related to diverse cultures and special populations (e.g., adolescents, the homeless, persons with HIV/AIDS, women, rural Americans, children of alcoholics; and minority groups such as Hispanics, Native Americans, and others) will be discussed. This course builds on prior courses that introduce and examine the basic concepts of addiction within diverse populations. The course examines the role of assessment and offers an examination of the eight practice dimensions of cross cultural addiction counseling. This course will include an examination of specific practice models and their relevance to diverse populations. The course will also revisit some of the twelve core functions of professional practice, including treatment planning and intervention.
10. GASP 5341: Employee Assistance Program in Business and Industry

The course will thoroughly examine employee assistance programs (EAPs) with focus on historical and current perspectives, necessary counselor competencies including: assessment, crisis management, treatment planning, referral, and knowledge of brief therapies. The course will provide in-depth exploration of substance abuse and workforce issues such as problem gambling, the Americans with Disabilities Act, workplace drug screenings, and the role of the EAP professional in substance abuse services. Tobacco cessation treatments will be thoroughly presented including nicotine replacement therapies and behavioral approaches. The 2010 Affordable Care Law and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 42) will be examined in regard to the implications for substance abuse professionals in the 21st Century. Health psychology perspectives will be introduced, and workplace wellness programs and student assistance programs will be reviewed. Parallels between health promotions and substance abuse prevention techniques will be drawn. The importance of cultural sensitivity in the EAP setting will be infused in all course content.

11. GASP 5342: Practicum / Seminar

The Practicum Seminar is designed to assist students who are nearing completion of the Addiction Studies Program apply their education to the substance use workforce. Students will demonstrate competence in the following areas: Ability to apply Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes (KSA's) of substance use counseling in course assignments and internship placements. Ability to apply substance use Prevention Domains in course assignments and practicum placements. Understand and apply various group therapy techniques to course assignments. Student progress toward completion of Prevention Practicum and Treatment Internship hours will be monitored and evaluated by the course instructor.

12. GASP 5343: Research Project

This course is the second of two required research courses for students in the master’s degree program. This course builds on the knowledge and skills developed in the introductory class by teaching students how to carry out a research project relevant to addictions and how to analyze data. This course continues to emphasize the use of ethical behavior in carrying out research, analyzing data, and reporting results. To this end, selected readings on tobacco use and abuse, and treatment of tobacco dependence are special areas of emphasis in this course.

Ms. Maplean Donaldson assists one of the Addiction Studies students with an assignment. The center is located in the Walker Research Center Building.

The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program has its own resource center which is stocked with recent journals, videos, and reference books that deal with different forms of addictions. Faculty and students use the center for research, studying, conducting meetings, and holding classes. The center is affiliated with the university’s main library.

Ms. Donaldson re-shelves journals magazines, and videos in the Resource Center.

Faculty and students often check out videos to use in oral presentations or during class lectures. For some classes, students are required to write critiques of the videos they have viewed. The videos cover a wide range of topics, including alcoholism and the abuse of tobacco and other drugs.
The Master of Science Degree in Addiction Studies Program has an inter-disciplinary advisory council which consists of university faculty, staff, and administrators as well as representatives from local and state substance use prevention and treatment agencies. The Council advises UAPB officials, including administrators and faculty, on matters regarding the preparation and training of addiction professionals in Arkansas. It includes the following people:

1. Mr. Maxie Thomas, Director of Police and Public Safety
2. Mr. Edward Fontenette, UAPB Library Director
3. Mrs. Dianne Williams, UAPB Nursing Chair
4. Dr. William Torrence, Director for Research and Sponsored Programs & School of Education
5. Dr. Jerry Ingram, Interim Program Director
6. Dr. Calvin Johnson, Chair, 15% Set-Aside Advisory Board
7. Dr. Bernita Patterson, Coordinator, UAPB Drug and Alcohol Research
8. Ms. Jessica Hestand, APCB Representative, Arkansas Prevention Certification Board
9. Dr. Andrea Stewart, Dean, UAPB School of Arts and Sciences
10. Dr. Jerry Ingram, Interim Chair, UAPB Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Interim Director for M.S. Program in Addiction Studies
11. Ms. Joyce Bracy Vaughan, UAPB Director of Student Counseling and Testing
12. Mr. Lewis White, Director, Addiction Recovery Services LLC
13. Myra Summers-Wooten, Assistant Director, Residential Services Treatment Arkansas Community Correction
14. Dr. Andrea Stewart, Dean, UAPB School of Arts and Sciences
15. Ex Officio

For additional information contact:
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Learn More. Contact UAPB Today!