

# Building and Sustaining your College Addiction Studies Program

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# SCCC Chemical Dependency Counseling (CDC) Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Suffolk County Community College Chemical Dependency Counseling Program is to create and provide a comprehensive program of contemporary, professional education and training in the ethical practice of chemical dependency counseling for students who wish to enter this and related human services fields.

# How does the Program Mission advance the Mission or Goals of the College?

## **Intellectual Discovery**

The CDC program meets the needs of those students who wish to know more about substance use disorder and to enter the field of chemical dependency counseling by offering an approved, recognized, comprehensive, and excellent program of study in chemical dependency counseling.

# Social and ethical awareness

The CDC program provides professional education and training in the ethical practice of chemical dependency counseling as well as serving the greater good of society by preparing professionals who will help individuals and families with addictions. Instructors in the CDC program hold the New York State Credential in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling or other relevant credentials that are recognized by OASAS as qualified health professionals. Each credential must be renewed regularly by attending advanced education classes or seminars in the field.

# Economic Opportunities

The CDC program prepares students to successfully enter into careers in the CDC field on Long Island, in New York State and in other parts of the USA.

# Transforms lives

Adults, who return to school who are in recovery from addiction or whose lives have been touched by addiction and the diversity of students in the program, attest to the program's outreach, appeal and availability to the "nontraditional" student.

## Builds communities

The close association of the CDC program with New York State licensed chemical dependency treatment facilities, the use of graduates and other professionals in its classes, and the clinical skills nature of many of the CDC courses, provide a blend of academic and practical education courses and experiences for the students. The CDC program has an external advisory board that is made up of experts in the field of addiction and behavioral health and directors of agencies that offer internships to our students and employ our graduates. This group helps the program to stay current with the changing needs of the community and the profession.

# Improves Society

The graduates of the CDC program, whether they choose to work professionally in the CDC field or not, offer a well-educated and skilled group of entry-level counselors, parents, students, teachers and human service workers to the professional, community, and home life of the people of Suffolk County, New York. A wealth of anecdotal evidence shows that students who have attended the CDC program are assisting themselves and others in vital ways and on a daily basis in this county and throughout Long Island.

# Program Effectiveness

- We have seen a steady increase in students enrolling and completing the program.
- Faculty have incorporated rubrics for assignments for a number of courses. Faculty are also collaborating to establish consistency in course evaluation measures and rubrics.
- In order to fully prepare students to enter the workforce, the field placement opportunities have increased and a system has been employed for field sites to be re-evaluated to insure that only NYS OASAS licensed treatment programs in good standing would be sites used for interns. Field agencies have also collaborated with faculty to determine student learning needs.
- To that end, faculty have been adjusting curriculum to meet the needs of the students and organizations

# College Catalog CDC Program Description

It is the expectation of this program that all students will respect the unique character of the counseling relationship and as such will reflect seriously upon the way abuse of alcohol and mood-altering drugs would likely affect the quality of professional services offered to chemically dependent clients and families. Prospective students who are in recovery should achieve at least two years of continuous recovery from addiction before being admitted to the CDC program. Professional standards of conduct and adherence to the ethical principles outlined by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) will be required of all admitted students for continuance in this program.

# Admission Procedures

Students must be eligible to take ENG 101 as a prerequisite for admission to the CDC program. Applicants are required to meet with the program coordinator or her professional assistant for an interview prior to admission to the program. Applicants may request provisional admission to the CDC program prior to the admission interview.

Students are admitted fall and spring on a rolling basis.

# Overview of the 10 CDC Courses

## **Class Hand Outs**

SCCC CDC Program Brochure

SCCC CDC Program Course Descriptions

# Recent Changes to the CDC Program 2014-2016

- The CDC program has evolved over the years to meet NYS OASAS standards. Two new courses were approved by the College Curriculum committee and the Grant Campus faculty in the spring 2015. These courses were instituted in the spring 2016, CDC 242 and CDC 252. The college website and most recent catalog has been updated and reflects the current changes. Know your college internal curriculum review requirements!
- The CDC program now has student and faculty portals on the college website as a means for sharing information pertaining to the program and the field of chemical dependency counseling.
- The CDC students also established a CDC Club Facebook page which is used by students for internal networking and collaboration.

# NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

## Education Requirements to become a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC)

<https://www.oasas.ny.gov/mis/forms/pds/documents/PDS-11.pdf>

# What Makes Our Program a Success ?

- Networking and Partnerships with service providers in the field
- Expansion of Field Site Affiliation Agreements
  - It's all about - Location, Location, Location
- Strong Connection to Community Advisory Board Members

# Chemical Dependency Counseling Club

- Engaging Students in Advocacy Activities (Long Island Recovery Association, Suffolk Quality Consortium, Communities of Solution, Heroin Task Force, Fed Up Rally in Washington)
- Club Banner – carry to Rally, build school spirit
- Tee Shirts
- Holiday Toy Drive
- Bake Sales

# US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration Behavioral Health Grant 2013-2016

- How we found out about the grant
- Provides tuition assistance for up to 120 students per year
- Catalyst to help strengthen our CDC Program's attention to how we measure success

# Student success stories

Mike Porter, AAS to BS to MSW (SCCC Grad in 2015)

Francis Valentino, LCSW, CASAC (SCCC Grad in 2006 – now teaches in the SCCC program)

# Other Program Success Strategies

- Field Placement Site Evaluation tool- Hand Out Hard Copy
- Paying Attention to the diversity of students (race, age, ethnicity, veterans and keeping students apprised of resources on campus)
- Promoting the use of Evidence Based Practices - SAMHSA  
Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Informed Care, Co- Occuring Disorders
- Providing Free OASAS training for professionals in field on campus and arranging seats for SCCC students – forum for networking
- Conducting Training for Department of Labor Vocational Counselors- Increase program referrals
- Partnering with Admissions Department and Career Development Office as the program grows
- Internal Program Marketing – Career Focus Article Hand Out

# How to Stay Ahead of the Curve

- Know your State governing authority regulations and program accrediting standards
- Keep up on how the field is evolving (ie: DSM5), NYS creation of the Justice Center – Impact of Criminal Background Check requirements on students – help them to know the resources for people to “clean up their Rap Sheet”
- Consider ways to create an honors track to recognize students who excel (ie: Sue – Field Work & Chancellor’s Award, Roy – Ethics Class)

# Hiring the right faculty – What to look for

- Diversity and background in the field of chemical dependency
- Variety of work experience to build a cohesive faculty team (Levels of Care)
- Availability and interest in teaching more

# Build Consistency in Course Evaluations/Assessments

- Create Standard Test Questions to measure success with different faculty teaching the same courses.
- Use the Getting Ready to Test Book 8<sup>th</sup> Edition – A Review/Preparation Manual for Drug and Alcohol Credentialing Examinations [www.readytotest.com](http://www.readytotest.com)
- Create a DVD Resource List and lending library for faculty

# Recommended Books

- A Common Ground – Patrick Kennedy Biography
- The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood – Sandra Bullock Movie  
Late 1990's
- Post Card From The Edge by Carrie Fisher (on family dysfunction)