HCE 643 Psychopharmacology and Substance-Related Disorders

This course is designed to provide participants from non-scientific backgrounds with a basic understanding of the effects of licit and illicit drugs. In addition, the role of these drugs in distorting brain chemistry and promoting substance-related disorders will be explored. Relationships between substance-related disorders and mental illnesses will be outlined. Interactions among the biological, psychological/emotional, and behavioral aspects of substance abuse will be examined in relation to symptom reduction and identification, intervention strategies, and the treatment of substance abusing clients.

Prerequisite: None
Credit Hours: 3
Course Type: Variable
Ideal Class Size: 25

Relationship to CEHD Core Values
Democracy: The counseling profession honors the concepts of client rights and promotes personal decision-making.
Civility & Caring: The entire counseling profession is centered on caring and civility.
Equity & Diversity: Multicultural perspectives are considered as part of the course content.
Social Justice: Addictions counselors advocate for client resources and services.
Scholarship: Research about effective programming for people with addictions is explored.
Professional Learning & Continuous Improvement: This course is part of the LSAC certificate program.
Ethical Practice: Students sign a Code of Ethics Attestation statement upon entry into the Counselor Education program, and all students are responsible for abiding by the professional Code of Ethics in all course work and activities that represent program outcomes and standards.

Goals

To provide students with a basic understanding of the physiological effects of drug use and implications for counselor assessment, intervention and treatment.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. identify the licit and illicit drugs of abuse and the neurotransmitters and brain areas affected.
2. list the principal relationships between substance use disorders and mental illness.
3. discriminate between substance abuse and substance dependence (addiction) and between these disorders and the process addictions.
4. develop relevant treatment plans and implement effective treatment strategies based on knowledge of drugs' psychological, emotional and biological effects.

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