

Addiction Studies
Associate of Applied Science | 60 credits

Campus: Mesabi Range - Virginia

First Year

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 13 credits (minimum)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 1255 – Introduction to Addiction Studies	(CLR, CLW)	3	
ADDS 1264 – Pharmacology, Medicated Assisted Therapy, and Drug Use		2	
ENGL 1231 – College Composition 1 (MnTC Goal 1)	(CLR, CLW)	4	
HSER 1231 – Introduction to Human Services	(CLR, CLW)	4	

SPRING SEMESTER 2027 – 14 credits (minimum)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 1261 – Counseling Theory and Skills	(CLR, CLW)	3	
ENGL 1232 – College Composition 2 (MnTC Goal 1)	(ENGL1231)	3	
HSER 1232 – Helping Process	(HSER 1231 with C or better)	3	
HSER 1233 – Interviewing	(HSER 1231 with C or better)	2	
PSYC 1215 – General Psychology (MnTC Goals 5 & 7)	(CLR, CLW)	3	

SUMMER TERM 2027 – 4 credits (minimum)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 1262 – Racial, Cultural and Ethical Considerations in Addiction Counseling	(CLR, CLW)	2	
ADDS 1263 – Adolescent Substance Use: Misuse, Addiction, and Prevention	(CLR, CLW)	2	

Second Year

FALL SEMESTER 2027 – 10 credits (minimum)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 2230 – Addictions Assessment	(ADDS 1255/1261/1264)	3	
PSYC 2200 – Intro to Co-Occurring Disorders (MnTC Goal 5)	(CLR)	4	
PSYC 2225 – Group Processes (MnTC Goals 5 & 7)	(CLR)	3	

SPRING SEMESTER 2028 – 11 credits (minimum)	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 2231 – Case Management and Treatment	(ADDS 2230)	3	
ADDS 2221 – Practicum 1	(Instructor permission, ADDS 2230, and ADDS 2231 concurrently)	5	
HSER 2234 – Crisis Intervention	(HSER 1231/1232/1233 and PSYC 2225)	3	

Any Semester – Make choices based on Articulation Agreements and Memorandums of Agreements for transfer; see Transfer and Articulation Agreement section of this document for superscript notation key and more information.

Restricted Electives – 8 credits required	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 2222 – Practicum 2* (instructor permission and ADDS1255/1261/1264/2230 and 2231 concurrently)		5	
BIOL 1215 – Human Biology (MnTC Goal 3) ^{BSU,(UWS),St.S}	(CLR)	4	(3/2)
OR			
BIOL 1300 – Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology (MnTC Goal 3) ^(UWS)			
COMM 1215 – Public Speaking (MnTC Goal 1)		3	
COMM 1220 – Interpersonal Communication (MnTC Goal 1) ^{BSU}		3	
ECON 1200 – Introduction to Economics (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) ^(BSU)	(CLR)	3	
ECON 1215 – Macroeconomics (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) ^{(BSU),(UWS)}	(CLR)	3	
MATH 1215 – Statistics (MnTC Goal 4) ^{BSU,UWS}	(MATH0200)	4	
OR			
Any other college level math course(s)	(see course outline)		
PHIL 1230 – Ethics (MnTC Goals 6 & 9) ^{BSU}	(CLR, CLW)	3	
POLS 1215 – American Government and Politics (MnTC Goals 5 & 9) ^{BSU,(UWS)}	(CLR)	3	
POLS 1320 – State and Local Government (MnTC Goals 5 & 9) ^(UWS)	(CLR)	3	
SOC 1210 – Social Problems (MnTC Goals 5 & 8) ^{BSU,(UWS)}	(CLR)	3	
SOC 1310 – Introduction to Criminal Justice (MnTC Goals 5 & 9) ^(UWS)	(CLR)	3	
SOC 2210 – Human Relations (MnTC Goal 5) ^{BSU}	(CLR)	3	

*Note that the 5-credit ADDS 2221 – Practicum 1 is sufficient for the AAS degree, however students will need an additional 5-credit practicum to meet state permit requirements for the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Trainee (ADC-T) or for licensure (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor-LADC) after a bachelor's degree is obtained. A practicum for five credits is equal to 440 hours of on-site work under a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC).

Program Description

This entry level program is designed to provide students an understanding of addictions and chemical use and substance use disorders on individuals, families, and society. Goals of the program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be able to recognize and treat individuals with substance use and chemical and co-occurring disorders. A graduate will have acquired an understanding of the concepts, principles, skills, methods, and techniques needed to work with those whose lives have been seriously affected by addiction or abuse. A variety of treatment approaches and interventions are studied. Through their coursework and practicum experiences, students are expected to develop competency in the following twelve core functions of an alcohol and drug counselor: screening, intake, orientation, assessment, treatment planning, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, client education, referral, reports, and record keeping, and consultation with other professionals regarding treatment and services. TAP 21 counseling competencies will also be a trust of the program. The program is designed to meet the 270 classroom clock hours of educational requirements and 880 practicum/internships hours for Minnesota temporary permit (Alcohol and Drug Counselor Trainee-ADC-T) after obtaining the AAS degree and full licensure (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor-LADC) after obtaining a 4-year degree in a social or behavioral science, which is recommended.

Occupational Titles

Graduates may seek employment in substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder treatment programs; information, diagnostic, and referral centers; outpatient or follow-up care programs; halfway houses, schools, hospitals, clinics, prisons, social agencies; and programs supported by business, church, and government. A completed AAS in Addiction Studies and 2 full practicum completions will allow the student to apply for a Minnesota temporary permit (Alcohol and Drug Counselor Trainee-ADC-T).

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

1. Integrate and apply theories and models of substance use disorder in the continuum of care and process of change.
2. Incorporate into practice research and knowledge of psychopharmacology associated with addiction and chemical dependency.
3. Provide varied counseling techniques focusing on the inclusion of family, systems, and sociocultural factors.
4. Utilize the 12 core functions of drug and alcohol counseling to create, implement, and evaluate treatment.
5. Conduct assessments of client needs and resources at both the individual and community level, including analysis of social and political barriers that may impede progress.
6. Plan, facilitate, implement interventions and evaluate the outcome of services.
7. Engage in practices and techniques that encompass group facilitation, psychosocial assessment, behavioral change and motivating practices working with diverse populations.
8. Utilize a variety of counseling skills and abilities to function effectively as substance use counselors in a variety of settings.
9. Provide counseling integrating an awareness and discernment of co-occurring disorders/dual diagnoses.
10. Demonstrate the ability to adhere to professional ethical standards, including confidentiality, sensitivity when working with diverse populations and responsibility for professional growth.
11. Seek, find, evaluate, and use information and employ informant technology to engage in life learning.
12. Foster ethical and professional counseling practices incorporating legal and moral principles and a self-awareness of biases, beliefs, and spirit within their work.
13. Develop and maintain effective working relationships with clients, colleagues, and supervisors.
14. Work together with individuals and groups to assess needs, promote strengths, manage problems, set goals, develop or access resources, implement and assess action plans.
15. Examine the relationship between self, community, and environments, evaluating potential impacts and consequences of actions, and making choices and contributions based on that evaluation and evaluation.
16. Identify, analyze, and evaluate rhetorical strategies in one's own and others' writing in order to communicate effectively.
17. Apply/utilize written computer skills to maintain appropriate client and agency reports, records, documents.
18. Employ and interpret clear, concise, and open communications in professional skills including verbal, nonverbal, and written communications in a professional manner.

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19. Gather, assemble, and interpret data through various methods necessary to determine clients' strengths and barriers that interfere with their ability to overcome adversity or achieved valued life goals.
20. Use critical thinking skills to make sound and reasoned decisions regarding common ethical dilemmas encountered in various practice settings.
21. Apply appropriate assessment techniques for substance related disorders, and recognition for other mental health disorders that commonly co-occur with addictive disorders.

Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Graduates are encouraged to obtain a bachelor's degree in a social or behavioral science to obtain full licensure in the State of Minnesota. Mesabi Range campus does have specific transfer agreements with Social Work programs at the College of St. Scholastica and the University of Wisconsin-Superior leading to a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Agreements with other colleges are possible and happen frequently. Other Addiction Studies programs in the state work together for successful transfer.

^{BSU} Restricted Elective recommended courses for students planning to attend Bemidji State University (BSU). An Additionally Recommended course for transfer to BSU is PSYC 1220 Lifespan Development.

^{UWS} Restricted Elective recommended courses for students planning to attend University of Wisconsin – Superior (UWS).

^{St.S} Restricted Elective recommended course for students planning to attend St. Scholastica. Additionally, students planning to transfer here should also complete their Associate of Arts Degree.

Note that superscripts (BSU, USW, St.S) in parenthesis indicate a choice between courses; don't plan on taking all courses marked in parenthesis as they might apply toward the same requirement.

Other Information

It is mandatory that all students must pass a Department of Human Services background check or background check appeal to remain in any practicum. No agency variances will be accepted. Additionally, you must read and sign the Mesabi Range Addiction Studies Department Policy and Agreement upon either admission in the program or to enter any practicum.

Students may participate in program courses via one of two "modes" of course delivery, either In Person at one of three Minnesota North College campuses, or Zoom/On Camera. To promote a constructive educational experience for everyone, students are expected to adhere to requirements established for remote and in person course participation.

Program Faculty Contact

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