

Addiction Studies - Tribal Alcohol and Drug Counselor I
Certificate | 15 credits

Campus: Mesabi Range - Virginia

To be eligible for enrollment in this certificate program, a student must be seeking Alcohol and Drug Counselor I (ADC I) Tribal Certification from the Upper Midwest Indian Council on Addictive Disorders (UMICAD) to practice on Tribal Reservations only.

This program will satisfy UMICAD ADC 1 Tribal Certification (150 classroom clock hours). The Practicum (300 hours) for this certificate MUST be completed on tribal lands under a Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy (MN BBHT) Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor or an ADC UMICAD Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

All candidates must pass the UMICAD Written Substance Abuse Examination prior to applying for UMICAD Certification. One year of sobriety/abstinence is required for UMICAD Certification.

FALL SEMESTER 2026 – 15 credits		Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
ADDS 1255 – Introduction to Addiction Studies		(CLR, CLW)	3	
ADDS 2230 – Addictions Assessment		(ADDS1255/1261/1264)*	3	
PSYC 2200 – Intro to Co-Occurring Disorders (MnTC Goal 5)		(CLR)	4	
ADDS 2221 – Practicum 1	(instructor permission and ADDS1255/1261/1264/2230 and 2231 concurrently)*		5	

*(or instructor approval for Addiction Studies – Tribal Alcohol and Drug Counselor I Certificate-only students)

Program Description

This certificate is intended for those students who plan to obtain employment as an UMICAD Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor 1 (ADC 1) with behavioral health units on Tribal Reservations in Minnesota.

This program is designed to provide students with an understanding of addictions and chemical use and substance use disorders on individuals, families, and society. The goal 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/co-occurring disorders. Students will acquire 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.

The counseling competencies of Technical Assistance Publication Series 21 (TAP 21) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is a large component of this curriculum. The program is designed to meet the 150 classroom clock hours of educational requirements (the three core courses, ADDS 1255, ADDS 2230, and PSYC 2200) and the 300 practicum/internship hours (ADDS 2221) to obtain Upper Midwest Indian Council on Addictive Disorders (UMICAD) Alcohol and Drug Counselor I (ADC I) certification.

The UMICAD test for ADC I is based on the six Performance Domains: 1. Assessment, 2. Counseling, 3. Education, 4. Case Management, 5. Professional, Responsibilities, and 6. American Indian Issues and History.

Employment Opportunities

Upon program completion and ADC I Tribal Certification from UMICAD, students are eligible to seek employment to practice on Tribal Reservations in Minnesota. Students are encouraged to continue their education and complete the full, two-year, Associate of Applied Science program in Addiction Studies, as they will then have a wider range of employment opportunities, beyond Tribal Reservations. (All courses in this certificate apply toward that degree program.)

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 twelve core functions of drug and alcohol counseling to create, implement, and evaluate treatment.
5. Engage in practices and techniques that encompass group facilitation, psychosocial assessment, behavioral change and motivating practices working with diverse populations.
6. Utilize a variety of counseling skills and abilities to function effectively as substance use counselors in a variety of settings.
7. Provide counseling integrating an awareness and discernment of co-occurring disorders/dual diagnoses.
8. Demonstrate the ability to adhere to professional ethical standards, including confidentiality, sensitivity when working with diverse populations and responsibility for professional growth.
9. Work together with individuals and groups to assess needs, promote strengths, manage problems, set goals, develop or access resources, implement and assess action plans.
10. Apply appropriate assessment techniques for substance related disorders, and recognition for other mental health disorders that commonly co-occur with addictive disorders.

Other Information

All students will adhere to Tribal Behavioral Health or Tribal Human Services Units policies regarding the Minnesota Department of Human Services background checks in any practicum.

Students may participate in program courses via one of two “modes” of course delivery, either In Person or by Zoom/On Camera delivery at one of three Minnesota North College campuses or tribal reservation Zoom locations. 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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