

Community Service Worker with Addictions Worker Specialty

Diploma

Program Introduction

With the aging population, the tremendous advancements in technology, and our demand for the best quality of life, the healthcare industry is facing a growing shortage of well-trained personnel. Throughout the North American healthcare industry, there is an acute need to increase the size of the workforce and raise the skill level of that workforce.

A well-trained Community Service/Addictions Worker (CSW/AW) is equipped with a flexible, adaptable career. Social and community service addictions workers administer and implement a variety of social assistance programs and community services specializing in addictions. They assist clients to address personal and social problems. They are employed by social service and government agencies, mental health agencies, group homes, shelters, substance abuse centres, school boards, correctional facilities, and other establishments.

Admission Requirements

- Clear Criminal Record Check *with* Vulnerable Sector Check
- 19 years of age or older (varies, depending on province-specific ministry requirements)
- Grade 12 or equivalent, or Mature Student Status with successful completion of CAST testing
- Completion of Wonderlic SLE admission test with minimum score of 18
- Adequate level of physical health to be able to fulfill job requirements
- Other medical tests (e.g., TB Test) or proof of vaccinations (e.g., Hepatitis B) may be required by industry prior to placement
- Good command of the English language – both written and oral
- Completion of standard registration form
- Completion of all ILS courses in the CSW/AW program

Program Objectives

This program provides students with the basic knowledge, skills, and work experience required to become permanently employable in a CSW/AW setting. Skill development is delivered in three areas:

- Comprehensive community service and addictions worker knowledge, including psychology, sociology, family life, mental health, addictions, criminology, dealing with at-risk populations, case management, counselling, ethics, business communication, report writing, and government and social services, an overview of drugs (past and present), alcohol and familiar drugs, and the prevention and treatment of addictions
- Full range of computer and office skills, including current software applications, keyboarding skills, and personal and professional development
- On-site work experience through participation in a 160-hour placement at an approved CSW/AW facility

Of Interest To

This program is of interest to individuals with a strong desire to work as an integral part of a CSW/AW team who also:

- Enjoy performing a variety of responsibilities in a caring, gracious, and professional manner
- Place a high value on confidentiality, discretion, support, and detachment
- Have a keen interest in attaining knowledge in the Community Services and Social Worker fields
- Demonstrate a strong personal and professional commitment to achieving excellence in a CSW/AW capacity

Program Notes

- Financial assistance may be available to qualified students
- Graduation requirements: students must achieve a minimum program mark of 75% to obtain a diploma, as well as the successful completion of a 160-hour placement



Career Opportunities

Graduates of this program are qualified to work in a wide variety of CSW/AW settings and occupations. Job titles vary per location, but graduates are an integral part of many settings, including:

- Rehabilitation centres
- Public and private addiction counselling clinics
- Addiction and drug awareness agencies
- Mental health centres
- Healthcare and social assistance
- Nursing and residential care facilities
- Youth centres
- Individual and family services
- Youth protection services
- Public administration
- Civic and social organizations
- Social advocacy organizations
- Grant-making organizations
- Provincial government
- Out-patient care centres
- Local Community Service Centres (LCSC)
- Vocational rehabilitation services
- Educational services
- Hospitals
- Community food and housing
- Emergency relief services

Program Breakdown

Part A: Computer and Business Office Skills

- Introduction to Keyboarding
- Keyboard Skill Building Level 1
- Microsoft Windows Level 1
- Microsoft Word – Level 1
- Microsoft Excel – Level 1
- Microsoft Access – Level 1
- Microsoft Outlook – Level 1
- Strategies for Success (or Thought Patterns)
- Job Search and Résumé Writing

Part B: CSW/AW

- Psychology Fundamentals
- Sociology and Family Life in Canada
- Introduction to Mental Health and Addictions
- Life-Span Development
- Criminology and At-Risk Populations
- Case Management, Counselling, and Ethics
- Business Communication and Report Writing

- Government and Social Services
- Introduction to Occupational Health & Safety
- Addictions Worker Level 1
- Addictions Worker Level 2
- Addictions Worker Level 3

Part C: Worksite Externship

Placement