

MENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICE AND ADDICTION COUNSELING - AAS DEGREE

Overview

See Department website and program contacts here (<https://www.mhcc.edu/education-options/degrees-certificates/mental-health-social-service-addiction-counseling/index/>)

The **Mental Health, Social Service, and Addiction Counseling (AAS) degree** is designed for students seeking careers in behavioral health, addiction counseling, social services, and community support settings. The curriculum combines counseling theory, human services knowledge, and practical helping skills to prepare students for employment in a variety of human service environments.

Coursework includes topics such as **counseling skills, group counseling, case management, addictions theory, trauma-informed care, and professional practice**. Students develop practical communication, support, and intervention skills used in mental health agencies, social service organizations, addiction treatment programs, schools, residential facilities, corrections, youth programs, and gerontology settings.

The MHSSAC program is workforce-focused and prepares students for careers in behavioral health and community support services. Students completing the program may pursue certification as addiction counselors after meeting examination and state requirements. Many students also continue their education through transfer to bachelor's degree programs in related fields.

New students are **admitted to the program beginning each fall term**. Students may complete some general education and elective coursework prior to entering the program and are encouraged to work with an advisor regarding educational planning.

Students are encouraged to work with an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to ensure appropriate course selection and program planning based on their educational background and career goals.

Refer to the tabs above for additional information about:

- **Education Plan** – provides a sample term-by-term sequence of courses
- **Career Info** – includes information on potential occupations, employment trends, and earnings

Program Learning Objectives

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate the values and ethics that are intrinsic to the social service profession
- Demonstrate professional interviewing skills
- Demonstrate writing skills appropriate to clinical documentation
- Identify resources for clients within agencies and within communities
- Describe the role of culture and diversity in social service and counseling
- Describe the role of neurochemistry in the addiction process

Education Plan

This sample Education Plan illustrates one possible course sequence. Students should consult an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to create a personalized plan.

General education courses (such as math, writing, health, etc.) can be taken during any term, or before starting the program.

First Quarter

Fall		Credits
HS101	Introduction to Social Services	3
HS107	Careers in Behavioral Healthcare and Social Service	3
HS114	Listening Skills I	2
HS265	Counseling Theories and Interventions I	3
WR121Z	Composition I	4
Credits		15

Second Quarter

Winter		Credits
HS115	Listening Skills II	2
HS135	Case Management: Intake, Assessment, Process and Practice	3
HS150	The Effective Helper, A Personal Skills Approach	3
HS266	Counseling Theories and Interventions II	3
PSY201Z	Introduction to Psychology I (Or Related Elective if PSY201Z is already completed (p. 2))	4
Credits		15

Third Quarter

Spring		Credits
HS291	Practicum Seminar	2
SOC213	Race Relations in the United States 🌐	4
PSY237	Human Development	4
Related Elective (can be taken any term) (p. 2)		3-4
WE280HSD	Coop Ed-Human Services	4
Credits		17-18

Fourth Quarter

Fall		Credits
HS225	Group Counseling	3
HS291	Practicum Seminar	2
WR122Z	Composition II	4
Related Elective (can be taken any term) (p. 2)		3-5
WE280HSD	Coop Ed-Human Services	4
Credits		16-18

Fifth Quarter

Winter		Credits
HS222	Diagnosis and Treatment: Clinical Disorders	3
HS291	Practicum Seminar	2
HS142	Substance Use Disorder Counseling: Prevention, Assessment and Treatment	3
WE280HSD or WE280HSH	Coop Ed-Human Services or Coop Ed-Human Services	4-8

MTH065 or MTH058	Beginning Algebra II (or higher) or Quantitative Reasoning I	4-6
Credits		16-18
Sixth Quarter		
Spring		
HS291	Practicum Seminar	2
SW201	The Field of Social Welfare and Social Justice	3
WE280HSD	Coop Ed-Human Services (Required if student took WE280HSD in winter term)	4
Health and Physical Education (can be taken any term) (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/aas/#health)		3
PSY239	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	4
Credits		16
Total Credits		95-100

Related Electives

Take 9 to 15 credits from the list below to reach 90 credits total. If planning on transferring to a university, please see program adviser(s) before selecting electives.

Code	Title	Credits
MTH105Z	Math in Society (or higher)	4
PSY course level 200+		3-4
SOC course level 200+		3-4
CJA course (CJA230 or CJA231 recommended)		3
Lab Science elective		4-5
Foreign Language electives		12-15

Transfer Schools

- Portland State University (<https://www.pdx.edu/social-work/>)
- Clark College (<http://www.clark.edu/>)
- Oregon Tech (<https://www.oit.edu/academics/degrees/applied-psychology/>)
- Western Oregon University (<http://www.wou.edu/gerontology/>)
- Warner Pacific University (<http://warnerpacific.edu/social-work-program/>)

Awarding Requirements

The following requirement(s) must be fulfilled to be awarded the AAS in Mental Health, Social Service and Addiction Counseling degree:

- All core program courses (HS, WE280HS#) must be completed within five (5) years of starting the program.

Career Information

Explore potential careers related to this program, including typical job roles, employment trends, and projected growth. This information can help you better understand how your education may align with future career opportunities.