



EAST  
CAROLINA  
UNIVERSITY

College of Allied  
Health Sciences

## Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling E-NEWSLETTER

Department of Rehabilitation Studies, Substance Abuse & Clinical Counseling Program  
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

252-744-6300 <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/rehb/certificates.cfm>

### What is Blackboard?

Blackboard is a course management system used by East Carolina University. In face to face classes it may contain just instructor information and syllabus. In distance learning class it is your link to instructor and instruction. Instruction material may include PowerPoint's, files, images, audio recordings, links to course specific sites, and video links to the lecture.

Blackboard may also include interactive tools such as discussion boards, blogs, wikis or journals. Distance learners also take tests, conduct research, and submit term papers via Blackboard. It can be an all-encompassing location for your learning experience. For more specifics on Blackboard read the *How To's* at <http://blog.ecu.edu/sites/blackboard/student-support/> or contact Jean L. Merenda, MS, when you're a distance student in the certificate program. Jean is a past distant learner and is now an Educational Technology Specialist at ECU.



Blackboard

### The Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling E-Newsletter. You are now one of 1,489 who have expressed interest in or have taken courses for this Certificate since its inception. At this point there are 125 in the program; the third largest certificate program in the College of Allied Health Sciences. Congrats to the 25 students who completed all 4 courses!

The criteria for applying to the Certificate Program have changed. Applicants now need at least a 2.7 undergraduate GPA and a letter of intent. A 3.0 GPA is still needed to graduate. The courses are Introduction to Substance Abuse, Treatment, Prevention and Contemporary Issues; all of which are including more information on behavioral addictions. The Graduate School has changed its policy a few months ago such that all these courses need to be taken through ECU and can't be transferred in from another institution.

If you have questions or comments please contact Dr. Mary Crozier, Assistant Professor and Coordinator Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate, 252-744-6299, [crozierm@ecu.edu](mailto:crozierm@ecu.edu)

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/rehb/crozier.cfm>



### Breaking into counseling as a second care

Securing employment after earning a counseling certificate can prove challenging for many students. This is especially true for those with little to no counseling experience. The key to making an attractive resume is highlighting education and transferable skills. Listening, mediating, exploring, asking probing questions, and consulting are all important skills for counselors to have no matter if they were obtained from volunteering, tutoring, un-paid work, mentoring, or case management. Being creative with your resume and using a mixed style to highlight qualifications instead of job titles will also downplay unnecessary aspects of a student's history while highlighting relevant skills.

Being flexible and patient after graduation will be key to prevent frustrations. Budget cuts within treatment centers, school districts, and mental health facilities also make finding employment difficult. A student will need to network within the desired field and learn what is available. Holding a second or temporary job may also be necessary until that "dream job" is secured.

Fletcher, D. (May, 2011). Breaking into counseling as a second career. *Counseling Today*, 53(11), 14-15.



Ready to graduate from the Certificate Program? You have to apply, like all ECU students, to receive a paper, suitable for framing certificate. Contact the Registrars' Office at least two months before finishing your last course. Complete the "Graduate Certification Graduation Application" form found in the Frequently Requested Forms link on the Registrar's page (<http://www.ecu.edu/registrar/>). They will mail it to you after your last semester.

What makes a professional competent to provide substance abuse counseling services? What schools are qualified to educate students effectively? How does a degree and/or certificate qualify someone to provide services? These and other questions have been on the minds of professionals, employers, and the general public for years. In order to provide the counseling community with a professional identity, to delimit scope of practice, and to answer many of these inquires, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) created stringent standards in 2009. Graduating from a CACREP accredited program allows the individual and his/her future employer to know more definitely their academic parameters-course content and learning experiences.

The Substance Abuse and Clinical Counseling Program, which includes the Certificate Program, in the Department of Rehabilitation Studies is completing its CACREP application under the leadership of Dr. Sias. The review process could take a year-you'll be notified when it's complete.

Bobby, C. & Urofsky, R. (2011). CACREP perspective: Counseling students deserve a strong identity. *Counseling Today*, 53(11), 52-53.

