

# Substance Abuse Counselor- Assistant

## Career Studies Certificate

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**Length:** Two semesters (one year)

**Purpose:** This career studies certificate program in Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant is designed to meet the educational requirements needed to secure the Virginia Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Assistant (CSAC-A) credential. In order to complete the credential, students must complete specific didactic training, supervised experiential training, and must also take and pass the Virginia State Constructed CSAC-A exam. This certificate program meets the didactic training requirements.

**Occupational Objectives:** Students who complete the program may enter the labor market in jobs which lead to a variety of positions, such as:

- Substance Abuse Counselor- Assistant
- Social Services Liaison
- Case Management Aide
- Client Advocate
- Social Services Para-professional

**Admission Requirements:** A student eligible for admission to the college can normally be considered for admission to the Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant curriculum. Proficiency in high school English and mathematics is required.

Direct enrollment guidelines using either multiple measures or informed placement will determine a student's placement into college-level English and mathematics courses.

*Criminal background or DSS record check may prevent you from participating in a Coordinated Internship, Experiential Learning project, or from obtaining employment in this field.*

*Additional information for those who wish to apply for the Certified Substance Abuse Counselor-Assistant: According to the Virginia Board of Counseling Handbook for CSAC-A applicants, if you have a criminal conviction, The Board requires that you submit a certified copy of all conviction orders (obtained from the courthouse of record); evidence that all court ordered requirements were met (i.e., letter from the probation officer if on supervised probation, paid fines and restitution, etc.); a letter from the applicant explaining the factual circumstances leading to the criminal offense(s); and letters from employers concerning work performance (specifically from Counseling-related employers, if possible).*

**Program Requirements:** All of the courses are designed to provide training in this specialized field of human services in such areas as: substance abuse counseling, safety and ethics, human behavior, crisis intervention and professionalism. Upon completion of the two-semester program, the student will be awarded a Career Studies Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling Assistant.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
<b>First Semester (Fall)</b>				
HMS 141	Group Dynamics I	3	0	3
HMS 258	Case Management and Substance Abuse	3	0	3
HMS 251	Substance Abuse I	3	0	3
HMS 145	Effects of Psychoactive Drugs	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Second Semester (Spring)</b>				
HMS 270	Treatment Systems	3	0	3
HMS 252	Substance Abuse II <sup>1</sup>	3	0	3
HMS 260	Substance Abuse Counseling	3	0	3
HMS 198	Seminar and Project	1	0	1
HMS 230	Ethics in Human Services	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Credits for Career Studies Certificate</b>				<b>25</b>

**Footnote:**

<sup>1</sup>Prerequisite: HMS 251