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## **Understanding Addiction Course Outline**

**Course Description:** This course will provide both an overview and detailed description of the process of addiction, how drugs and alcohol impact the brain, the brain's role in the addiction process, in treatment of addiction and the recovery process. In addition, this course will explore the role of culture and its influence on substance use and conversely, the influence of drugs and alcohol on culture, policies and societal values. Working as a professional addiction counselor means having a thorough understanding of addiction and all of its facets; this knowledge will translate into a professional that is ready to address the many questions addicts and their families will pose.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Student will be able to define Addiction according to multiple sources
2. Student will understand the use of drugs and alcohol from a historical perspective.
3. Student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the chemical processes of the brain as it relates to drug and alcohol use.
4. Student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how addiction impacts the brain and how the brain influences drug and alcohol use and recovery.
5. Student will be able to demonstrate understanding of the theories of addiction and models of recovery.
6. Student will be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of drug and alcohol use.
7. Student will be able to define the risk and protective factors of addiction.
8. Student will be able to define and recognize the characteristics of Substance Use Disorder as per the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Edition 5.
9. Student will be able to identify and understand the specific effects of various psychoactive drugs.
10. Student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the impact of tobacco and its addictive impact on the brain.
11. Student will understand the role and the impact of society and culture on drug and alcohol use, policy and treatment.
12. Student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of effective treatment and recovery from substance addiction.
13. Student will be able to demonstrate understanding of co-occurring disorders from a biological and psychological perspective.