

# MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION SPECIALIST, OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE



## Information

The Mental Health Services program is designed to train mental health technicians and prevention specialists in preparation to meet the requirements for testing as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC). Each program offers a practicum class that allows students to apply classroom skills in a treatment setting.

### Prevention Specialist

We are now offering a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Occupational Certificate. This 20-hour certificate prepares students to apply to be a Texas Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS). The curriculum is approved by the Texas Department of Health Services.

The coursework, combined with the capstone experience at a prevention approved training center enables students to work in the area of drug prevention in a variety of settings that include:

- K-12 schools,
- Juvenile justice settings (alternative schools or youth offender programs),
- Local community coalitions, and
- At-risk programs.

Once coursework is completed, students will need 2,000 hours (1 year) of prevention work experience and pass a state exam to obtain their license as a Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS).

### Mental Health Technician

The Mental Health Technician (Psychiatric Aide/Technician) Occupational Certificate prepares students to work with individuals with psychiatric or substance use disorders following physician instructions and hospital procedures. Psychiatric aides and technicians observe and record patient behavior and present findings to counselors, nurses, and other professional staff. They intervene in crisis situations, actively moderate

client behavior, and assist with feeding, moving, and dressing patients as well as personal hygiene and activities of daily living.

Potential work opportunities include:

- Aides within inpatient/outpatient psychiatric facilities,
- Day treatment centers,
- Counseling centers, and
- Rehabilitation facilities.

### Substance Abuse Counseling

The Substance Abuse Counseling Occupational Certificate and Certificate of Technology prepare individuals to enter the field of human services and provide specialized services to individuals and their families experiencing the effects of substance abuse. Graduates will be able to identify appropriate assessments, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals who are, or have been, engaged in substance abuse. The program, plus 4,000 hours of paid work experience, provides individuals with the necessary educational and employment requirements to become eligible for testing as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC).

Potential Work opportunities include:

- Hospitals,
- Rehabilitation centers,
- Outpatient clinics,
- Veteran's affairs clinics,
- Alternative schools,
- Research facilities, and
- Pain management clinics and counseling centers.

### Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

The combination of the certificates and general education courses leads to an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Mental Health Clinical and Counseling Psychology. Students who do not have an associate degree (or higher) in a behaviorally related field will not be eligible for full licensure in the state of Texas. A student can complete the Certificate of Technology course work, enter the workforce as a counseling intern, and continue course work towards an AAS before receiving his or her LCDC.