

Course Description**HUS2500 | Issues & Ethics in Human Services | 3.00 credits**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the ethical problems that emerge from counseling the chemically dependent client. Emphasis will be placed on the following: the history and theory of ethics in health care; professionals' and patients' rights and responsibilities; the relationship between ethics and law; confidentiality and truth-telling in clinical relationships; technology; diagnostic testing and treatment; treatment of terminal illness; distribution of scarce medical resources and access to health care and systems payment.

Prerequisite: PSB2442.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will actively engage in familiarizing themselves with the ethical problems that arise when counseling chemically dependent clients, with a focus on the history, theory, and application of ethics in healthcare by:

1. Exploring the history and theoretical foundations of ethics in healthcare, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the ethical principles and frameworks that guide counseling practices in the context of chemical dependency
2. Analyzing the ethical considerations surrounding professionals' and patients' rights and responsibilities in the counseling of chemically dependent clients, examining the balance between autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice
3. Examining the relationship between ethics and law in healthcare, understanding how legal frameworks influence ethical decision-making and professional conduct when working with chemically dependent clients

Competency 2: The student will aim to familiarize with ethical issues related to confidentiality, truth-telling, and the use of technology in clinical relationships with chemically dependent clients by:

1. Evaluating the ethical implications of confidentiality and truth-telling in the counseling of chemically dependent clients, understanding the importance of maintaining privacy while balancing the need for honesty and informed consent
2. Assessing the ethical challenges and considerations that arise from the use of technology in clinical relationships with chemically dependent clients, examining issues such as telehealth, electronic records, and ethical boundaries in digital communication
3. Integrating ethical principles and guidelines into diagnostic testing and treatment processes when working with chemically dependent clients, ensuring respect for autonomy, privacy, and informed decision-making

Competency 3: The student will have a comprehensive understanding of the ethical issues surrounding the treatment of terminal illness, allocation of scarce medical resources, and access to healthcare and systems payment for chemically dependent clients by:

1. Critically examining the ethical dilemmas and considerations involved in the treatment of terminal illness in chemically dependent clients, exploring end-of-life decision-making, palliative care, and the balance between quality of life and sustaining recovery
2. Analyzing the ethical challenges related to the distribution of scarce medical resources and access to healthcare for chemically dependent clients, understanding the impact of socioeconomic factors and advocating for equitable and just healthcare systems
3. Applying ethical principles and considerations to navigate the complexities of systems payment and insurance coverage in the context of chemical dependency treatment, ensuring ethical and fair practices to promote access and affordability for clients in need

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society