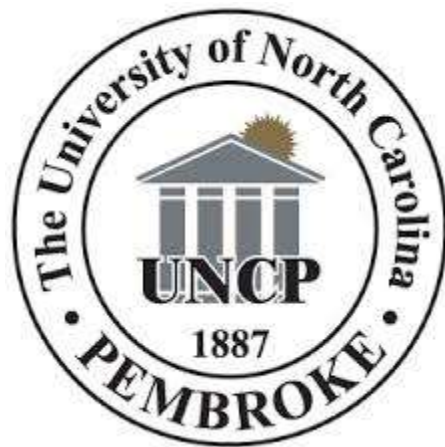


**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADDICTIONS
COUNSELING HANDBOOK
2023-2024**



**The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
School of Education
Department of Counseling and Leadership**

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Graduate Certificate of Addictions Counseling Coordinator



Stephanie Robinson, PhD, LCMHCS, LCAS, CCS, AADC, NCC

School of Education Building, Office # 341

910.521.6663

stephanie.robinson@uncp.edu

[GCAC Webpage](#)

Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling

Consistent with the mission and goals of UNCP, the aim of the Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling (GCAC) program is to prepare students for addiction-related professional careers, leadership roles, and social advocacy roles in a variety of community settings. The 12-credit hour addictions certificate prepares addiction professionals to meet the increasingly complex needs of individuals and families dealing with addictive use disorders. The curriculum, which is completed exclusively online, includes coursework in areas of substance-related and addictive disorders, co-occurring disorders, methods and theories of addiction specific assessments and interventions, psychopharmacology and addiction, family impact of substance disorders, and current issues and special populations in addiction.

The courses offered through the GCAC meet the educational requirements for the Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) application offered through the [North Carolina Addiction Specialists Professional Practice Board \(NCASPPB\)](#). As a designated Criteria C school through the NCASPPB, students who are currently enrolled in UNCP's counseling program can also complete an addictions-specific field placement experience to satisfy the practicum required for the LCAS licensure.

Admission Requirements

The GCAC is offered to currently enrolled UNCP students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, graduates of qualifying UNCP graduate degree programs, and community applicants who hold or are enrolled in a master's degree in a relevant field from an accredited educational institution. Applicants who hold or are enrolled in a master's degree in a relevant field from an accredited educational institution should contact the NCASPPB to ensure the degree is a qualifying degree. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

The School Counseling degree is not a qualifying degree for the LCAS application per the NCASPPB. Currently enrolled Professional School Counseling students can take GCAC courses **if** there is space after all GCAC students are enrolled. Applicants who already possess a School Counseling degree or another degree that is not recognized by the NCASPPB will not be admitted to the GCAC.

Currently enrolled UNCP graduate students from qualifying degree programs must complete the [GCAC Student Application](#) and notify their advisor of their intentions to complete the GCAC.

Applicants who are not currently UNCP graduate students (community applicants) must apply through the [UNCP Graduate School](#). To be eligible for the GCAC program, applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to a GCAC program and submit official transcripts from all universities and colleges attended.

GCAC students who wish to withdraw from the GCAC program must notify their academic
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advisor and complete the [GCAC Withdrawal Form](#).

Program Requirements

To earn the GCAC, students must successfully complete 12 credit hours of approved GCAC courses. GCAC students cannot earn less than a grade of a B- in any of the GCAC courses to remain in the certificate program and obtain the certificate. Any student who earns less than a B- in any GCAC course will be removed from the GCAC program.

For currently enrolled counseling students, the 12 credit hours will be applied to both the certificate and clinical mental health counseling degree (subject to approval of the Program Director), and the certificate will be awarded when all the requirements for both the certificate and the degree have been met (i.e., at graduation). For community students who already possess a qualifying master's degree, the certificate is awarded when the student has completed all required GCAC courses. Students are responsible for submitting the [GCAC Completion Certificate](#) to the Graduate School when applying for graduation. Community student should submit this form to the Graduate School at midterm during CNS 5890.

Required Courses

Students enrolled in the GCAC must take all four of the addiction-specific courses from UNCP's GCAC. All GCAC courses are offered exclusively online. The courses offered are:

CNS 5900: Issues in Addictions for Counselors [Prerequisite]

Offered in the Spring & Summer

The focus of this course will be on the assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse related disorders and process addictions across the lifespan. Students will learn about the intersection of addictions issues with mental health issues from diagnostic and intervention perspectives. Current research and evidence-based practices in the treatment of addictions will be emphasized. The course will address ethical, legal, and cultural aspects of addictions counseling. Students will become familiar with practices, philosophies, and treatment modalities related to the field of addictions counseling. Students will develop an understanding of the impact of various addictions on all clinical and educational settings. **GCAC students must take CNS 5900 in either their first spring or first summer semester.**

CNS 5860: Contemporary Issues and Special Population in Addiction

Offered in Summer I

This course provides an overview of contemporary issues in addictions counseling and research. This course will also explore the unique addiction-related issues and treatment needs of special populations with addictive use disorders.

CNS 5870: The Family and Addiction

Offered in Summer II

This course will examine the impact of chemical and process addictions on the family system. Course work will focus on the integration of assessment, theory, and technique. Related sociocultural implications of assessment and treatment will be discussed.

CNS 5890: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Psychopharmacology in Addiction

Offered in Fall

The focus of this course is to examine the procedures for assessment and diagnosis of substance-related and addictive disorders. Students in this course will gain a basic understanding of addiction neurobiology, psychopathology, and psychopharmacology. Emphasis is placed on the role of the counselor as a member of a treatment team who helps facilitate client treatment compliance and monitors the efficacy of psychotropic treatment, while helping to integrate other non-pharmacological modalities. An overview of biopsychosocial case conceptualization, psychological tests and assessments, and treatment planning related to substance abuse and other addictions is provided. **GCAC students must take CNS 5890 last in the GCAC course sequence.**

Transfer Credits

In order to obtain the GCAC from UNCP, all required certificate courses must be taken at UNCP. If you are currently enrolled in or a graduate of UNCP's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, we will accept all addiction courses taken through the Department of Counseling if they were completed within the last 5 years

Evaluation of Student Progress

Students are required to adhere to the ethical and legal implications outlined in the Department of Counseling Student Handbook, this GCAC handbook, and the ACA Code of Ethics. Students are also required to comply with all requirements outlined in the syllabi for each of the required courses. Students enrolled in the GCAC must adhere to UNCP's grading policy, the Counseling Department's grading policy, the course grading policy, and the Internship evaluation policy.

GCAC students will be administered the Addiction Counseling Professional Disposition and Competency Scale during the first week of CNS 5900: Issues in Addictions Counseling and at the end of the semester in CNS 5890: Diagnosis, Psychopharmacology, and Treatment in Addiction Counseling. It is imperative that GCAC students and advisors follow the GCAC course sequence so that this scale can be administered and analyzed appropriately.

Ethical and Legal Conduct

The UNCP Department of Counseling and the GCAC strive to foster and facilitate ethical behavior of students engaged in field placement experiences. Students are expected to comply with the [American Counseling Association Code of Ethics](#) as well as the [North Carolina Addictions Specialists Professional Practice Board Ethical Principles of Conduct for Substance Abuse Professionals](#). Students are also required to comply with the [UNCP Code of Conduct](#):

Nondiscrimination

Discrimination based on a person's status as a veteran or an individual with a disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or national
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origin is strictly prohibited by The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.
<https://www.uncp.edu/resources/title-ix-clery-compliance/non-discrimination-statement>

The Following Information is for Currently Enrolled UNCP Clinical Mental Health Counseling Students Pursuing the GCAC through the Department of Counseling

Addiction-Specific Field Placement Policies & Procedures

The field placement experience is for currently enrolled UNCP Clinical Mental Health Counseling students only and is designed to meet the field placement experience required for the Criteria C LCAS-A application through the NCASPPB. GCAC students currently enrolled in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Degree program at UNCP are required to adhere to the ethical and legal implications outlined in the CMHC Field Placement Manual. The GCAC field placement experience allows for enhanced counseling skills development and exposure to professional and ethical practices specific to addictions counseling in a supervised setting. Currently enrolled students can satisfy this requirement through one of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Internships. Currently enrolled counseling students must adhere to both the Counseling Department's Field Placement Manual and this GCAC Handbook.

Addiction Specific Field Placement Setting and Hours

The addiction-specific field placement experience is required to take place in a setting appropriate to the addictions certificate program of study and must be approved by the CMHC Field Placement Coordinator and the GCAC Coordinator. Field placement requirements are to be completed in North Carolina. Students work with the CMHC Field Placement Coordinator to obtain an appropriate field placement site one semester in advance of enrollment. Students may only have one field placement site at a time. Students should complete the Addictions Contract in Tevera indicating they are enrolled in the GCAC and intend to register for the addiction-specific internship.

Students must complete a minimum of 300 clock hours at a field placement site that provides addiction treatment under the direct supervision of an approved supervisor as outlined in the Counseling Department's Field Placement Manual. The counseling services provided must align with the Twelve Core Functions associated with addictions counseling.

Students may not begin accruing hours on site until they have submitted their liability insurance to their university supervisor. Students cannot accrue hours for practicum or internship between academic semesters. Hours accrued in one semester cannot be applied to a future semester.

Students can elect to complete the GCAC field placement experience over the course of one internship, two internships, or over their complete practicum and internship experience.

Addiction Specific Supervision

In addition to satisfying the counseling department's field placement supervision requirements, GCAC students interested in applying for the LCAS are also required to receive a minimum of 30 hours of addiction specific supervision from a NCASPPB approved supervisor. **GCAC students will receive this addiction-specific supervision during their addiction-specific internship from their university supervisor. GCAC students do not need to secure a field placement site that provides addiction-specific supervision.** Please note, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that their academic advisor, the Field Placement Coordinator, and the GCAC Coordinator are aware of their intentions to enroll in the addiction-specific internship to receive this supervision. GCAC students in Pembroke must enroll in the addiction-specific internship during their fall internship. Wilmington GCAC students must enroll in the addiction-specific internship during their spring internship.

GCAC students completing the addictions specific field placement experience are required to abide by both the policies and procedures of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Field Placement Manual and the GCAC handbook.