



Healthier Lives for  
Northwest Indiana



## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Counseling

### Program Overview

Our program is designed to meet the needs of professionals who already work in the general field of drug and alcohol treatment as well as well as others who wish to pursue this profession. Drug and alcohol counselors must gain certification through NAADAC or ICAADA. Counselors can acquire some of the experience necessary to gain accreditation through supervised work experience. However, formal classroom study also plays a role in the certification process. We expect that a part-time student taking only 2 or 3 courses per semester could finish the program in a year and a half.

**Indiana University Northwest**  
**Psychology Department**  
Raintree Hall, Room 141  
3400 Broadway  
Gary, IN 46408-1197  
Phone: 219-980-6680 Fax: 219-980-6756  
E-mail: [psy@iun.edu](mailto:psy@iun.edu)



## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Counseling

The IUN Psychology Department proudly announces the creation of a 27 credit hour Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program in Drug and Alcohol Counseling.

The program is designed to provide drug and alcohol abuse counselors and others who wish to pursue this profession with the knowledge and experience needed to gain certification from organizations such as NAADAC and ICAADA. The program is specifically designed to help candidates master the background information needed to succeed on the ICRC examination.

The program will help students acquire information about psychology, abnormal psychology, psychopharmacology (how drugs affect the brain), counseling, and addiction theory. Students will study different addictions and how they affect the mind, body, and emotions. Students will review how to diagnose various addictions, create treatment plans, and run individual and group therapy sessions.

The program consists of two components, didactic college classroom instruction and “in the field” counseling experience. The program recognizes that drug and alcohol addiction and treatment are complex topics driven by an array of biological, genetic, neural, psychological, social, and cultural forces. The classroom instruction will provide students with a basic understanding of many of these forces, an array of drug and alcohol treatment procedures, theories of drug use and abuse, the addiction process and its mental health connections, pharmacology, core counselor functions, strategies for addressing addiction, and ethical considerations. The in-field training will help students apply this information and to practice all of the core counselor functions including screening, intake, assessment, treatment planning, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, client education, and record keeping.

### Required Classroom Courses (9 Credits)

**P324** *Abnormal Psychology*

**P407** *Drugs and the Nervous System*

**S686** *Social Work Practice: Addictions*

### Required Application/Practica Courses (9 credits)

**B309** *Cooperative Work Experience:* In addition to direct patient treatment and assessment, this course addresses Interviewing Skills, Aggression, and Ethics

**P691** *Practicum in Applied Psychology* In addition to direct patient treatment and assessment, this course addresses applications of research to improve treatment outcomes

**Electives (9 Credits)**– must complete 3 courses

**P393** *Biomedical Ethics*

**P326** *Behavioral Neuroscience*

**P314** *Psychology of Adolescence*

**P401** *Alcohol/Drug Treatment Seminar*

**P425** *Behavioral Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence*

**P430** *Behavior Modification*

**S420** *Topics in Deviance*

*(depending on topic)*

**P390** *Special Topics in Psychology*

*(depending on topic)*

**P495** *Reading and Research in Psychology*

**(Note: See Bulletin for course prerequisites.)**

### Sample Plan of Study

Fall	P324 Abnormal Psychology B309 Cooperative Work Experience (Practicum)
Spring	P407 Drugs and the Nervous System B309 Cooperative Work Experience
Summer I	- Elective
Summer II	- Elective
Fall	P691 Practicum in Applied Psychology Elective
Spring	S686 Social Work Practice: Addictions

### Admission Requirements

Applicants should have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college with a minimum GPA of 2.7. Relevant work experience in a health or human services agency is preferred. If the applicant is a recovering substance abuser, two years of continuous sobriety is recommended.