

Graduate Diploma in Addictions Graduate Certificate in Addictions

Addiction is a complex problem that affects the physical and mental health of individuals and their families and impacts on the wider social environment.

This programme equips students with the knowledge and skills required to work effectively in the addictions field within New Zealand and has been developed to meet national addiction workforce standards

Areas of specialisation include problem gambling, tobacco control, drug, alcohol and substance abuse, health promotion and early intervention and treatment. Students will be prepared for potential employment as addiction support workers or counsellors and will be able to apply for provisional membership with relevant professional associations (depending on previous experience).

AK1014 Graduate Diploma in Addictions (120 Points)

The over-arching goal of the Graduate Diploma is to provide students who have completed a relevant undergraduate major, or equivalent, with the necessary knowledge and skill capacity to advance professional practice in a specific addictions field within the New Zealand context.

AK1017 Graduate Certificate in Addictions (60 Points)

The over-arching goal of the Graduate Certificate is to provide students who have completed a relevant undergraduate major, or equivalent, with the necessary knowledge and skill capacity to commence professional practice in the addictions field within the New Zealand context.

Key skills you will acquire:

Graduates of both programmes will have the following generic knowledge and attributes:

- Relate appropriately to the client or client group and assess, interpret, manage and communicate information effectively.
- Use critical reflective processes to enhance practice.
- Demonstrate skills in identifying priorities for client assessment, treatment planning and intervention within the addictions field.
- Demonstrate ability to be a critical user of evidence to support practice and decision-making processes.
- Provide support and intervention targeted at a specific client population/client group
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with other professionals.
- Demonstrate competence in inter-cultural communication.
- Conduct relationships in ways that ensure ethical and safe (including culturally safe) professional practice.
- Demonstrate competent report writing and oral presentation skills.

The graduate will also gain an understanding of:

- Prevention and harm reduction concepts including protecting vulnerable groups.
- Promoting informed and balanced attitudes, behaviours and policies.
- Public health and psycho educational approaches to addiction issues.
- How to work respectfully and cooperatively with individuals, groups, organizations and communities.

Papers:

567527 Advanced Interventions for Addiction (15)

Develops knowledge and skills in prevention and treatment interventions for use with clients who have substance misuse or problem gambling

567528 Smoking Cessation (15)

Identifies bio-psychosocial factors which contribute to nicotine addiction and develops treatment intervention skills which will assist people to quit smoking.

567529 Tobacco Control (15)

Discusses tobacco control policy and legislation and considers the demographics and prevalence of tobacco use in New Zealand and internationally. Examines the relationship between tobacco use and health inequalities and describes a comprehensive range of population based tobacco control strategies.

567531 Presenting Populations in Gambling (15)

Reviews populations most at risk of gambling related harms and identifies the special needs, pressures, and strategies to minimise gambling related harm within these populations. Examines the impact of new technologies on gambling populations.

567532 Assessment and Intervention in Addiction (15)

Introduces the key concepts and theoretical understandings of assessment, treatment planning and clinical interventions for people who have addictions. Develops fundamental skills in working with these interventions.

567533 Professional Practice in Addictions (15)

Develops knowledge and skills to work professionally with clients with addictive behaviours. Identifies legal and ethical considerations which apply to the field of addictions.

567534 Gambling Studies (15)

Examines the biological, social, psychological, cultural and political components of gambling and problem gambling. Considers a range of prevention and treatment approaches to address problem gambling

567414 Drug and Alcohol Studies (15)

Critically examines models of addiction, explores current interventions and examines the relationship between substance use and mental health.

Other papers may be taken from related programmes subject to the approval of the Board of Studies.

Career Opportunities:

Addiction support workers or counsellors in:

- Non-governmental organisations (NGO) associated with addiction service provision
- Justice sector
- District health
- Public health
- Problem gambling
- Smoking cessation

Entry requirements:

Undergraduate degree, preferably in an associated area, or its equivalent OR at least three years' professional experience working in addictions or a related field together with evidence of ability to succeed at the level of a graduate diploma or graduate certificate.

Preference for relevant work or voluntary experience in the people helping and addictions field.

English language requirements:

Applicants for whom English or Māori is not their first language are required to provide proof of an acceptable pass/grade gained in an accepted English language test.

For further information please contact:

Course Information Centre
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www.authealth.ac.nz

HEALTH
Faculty of Health +
Environmental Sciences