



SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS COUNSELOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

A self-paced, online program from UW-Madison

In this UW-Madison pre-certification education program, you'll gain the education that fulfills the educational hours required to become a highly sought-after certified Wisconsin substance abuse counselor (SAC) or clinical substance abuse counselor (CSAC). Available for the first time in the UW Flexible Option format, the [Substance Use Disorders \(SUDs\)](#) Counselor Certificate program features a curriculum developed by University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty in cooperation with industry professionals.

The career outlook for certified SACs and CSACs is excellent. Demand for substance abuse counselors has grown in recent years, driven largely by coverage mandates for substance abuse treatment in Affordable Care Act (ACA)-compliant insurance policies. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects job growth in the substance abuse counseling field to grow 31 percent through 2022—much faster than the average for all occupations.

Personalized, competency-based format

The UW Flexible Option offers a new way to fulfill the 360 educational hours required by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services to be eligible to become a certified Wisconsin substance abuse counselor (SAC) or clinical substance abuse counselor (CSAC), different from both face-to-face classroom instruction and traditional online instruction. As a student in this program, you can:

- » **Start any month.** Earn the knowledge and educational hours required to be eligible for substance abuse counselor certification without being locked into a traditional semester schedule or in-person classes.
- » **Make use of prior learning.** Use your existing knowledge to advance through the program. Study only what you need to learn.
- » **Advance at your own pace.** Move quickly through material you already know, or take more time if you need it.
- » **Receive personalized support.** Get help and guidance from an Academic Success Coach.
- » **Prepare to earn a certification employers value.**

Best of all, you will earn a certificate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an institution that is recognized and respected.

Fulfills state education and training requirements

The UW Flexible Option SUDs program is the only state-approved program in Wisconsin that offers the SAC/CSAC curriculum in a self-paced, fully-online format. Successful completion fulfills the 100-hour Substance Abuse Counselor in Training (SAC-IT) educational requirement set forth by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, as well as the 360-hour educational requirement for Substance Abuse Counselor Certification. Within a six-month subscription period, you can work at your own pace, mastering competencies based on the learning resources provided in the program and by leveraging your existing knowledge.

The UW Flexible Option SUDs program DOES NOT take the place of the Wisconsin state exam or the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) Exam. Rather, the curriculum—designed with input from substance use disorders professionals—fulfills the 360 educational hours required by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to be eligible for Wisconsin state certification.



Who should enroll?

This self-paced program is ideal for:

- » Licensed mental health clinicians who would like to become dually credentialed, but don't have the time to spend in face-to-face classroom courses
- » Students who have not yet completed a degree but are currently enrolled in a behavioral health program (examples include social work, psychology, counseling psychology, nursing, or a related field), with at least 60 credits completed
- » Human services professionals who want to increase their skills and scope of practice, and are interested in greater opportunity for career advancement and increased marketability
- » Practitioners in Wisconsin
- » Motivated, disciplined self-starters who can work independently
- » Busy professionals who don't have time for a traditional face-to-face educational program—this is the only approved online program of its kind in Wisconsin
- » Anyone who desires the prestige and value of a University of Wisconsin-Madison certificate

Areas of study

Upon completion of this program, you will have demonstrated mastery of how to:

- » Identify and analyze an appropriate client diagnosis, treatment, or referral using multiple resources
- » Create a diagnostic assessment and recommendations that initiate the individual treatment plan for a client
- » Identify potential holistic treatments or referrals that meet client needs
- » Recognize and assess individual client needs when evaluating community resources
- » Identify and apply evidence-based counseling practices
- » Identify and conduct the best possible educational practices to provide your clients better knowledge of both their condition and their treatment options
- » Properly document client care, from intake through discharge and beyond
- » Articulate standards of ethical conduct and professional behavior befitting a practicing substance abuse counselor

About the UW-Madison Division of Continuing Studies

The [UW-Madison Division of Continuing Studies](#) supports the "Wisconsin Idea" by extending a University of Wisconsin education to nontraditional students and lifelong learners across the state and nation. Each year, more than 17,000 students attend one or more of the 500 noncredit classes, workshops, and conferences sponsored by Continuing Studies, seeking professional development, personal enrichment, a career transition, or educational advising.



**A UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN DEGREE**
on your busy schedule?

NOW, it's an option.



UW flexible option
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

flex.wisconsin.edu

Would you like to earn a UW degree,
but don't have time for classes?

Have you considered taking courses online,
but worry about quality, credibility, and cost?

Do you have significant skills and knowledge
gained through prior education or work
experience?

THEN THE
UW Flexible Option
WAS MADE FOR YOU!



With the UW Flexible Option, you can:



Earn credit for what
you know (no matter
where you learned it)



Advance at your own pace



Start and stop your
studies when you want



Test when you are ready



Graduate with the skills
employers value

TURN THE PAGE
to see how the UW Flexible Option
lets you earn a respected degree
at a pace that fits your life.

IT'S TIME to flex your **POTENTIAL**

You're smart. Hardworking. You have the potential to go far.
But without a college degree, it's not easy to get ahead. You'd like
to go back to school, but between work and family, how would you
make it fit?

Introducing the **University of Wisconsin Flexible Option**—a more
personalized, convenient, and affordable way to reach your education
and career goals.

Take control of your education

A partnership between University of Wisconsin System campuses and
UW-Extension, the UW Flexible Option is specially designed to fit the
lives of working adults like you.

Its self-paced, competency-based format lets you start any month,
work at your pace, and earn credit for what you already know. With the
Flexible Option, you don't come to campus and you'll never spend time
or money taking courses you don't need.

At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you need to
advance your career—whenever and wherever your schedule allows!

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

IT'S WHAT YOU KNOW

that counts

The University of Wisconsin Flexible Option offers a new way to earn a UW degree or certificate because it awards credit based on competency, not class time. This special difference puts you in control of your education as never before.

In education, the term *competency* refers to the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and abilities that students are expected to master in a field of study. In other words, competencies are learning outcomes—the things you should know and be able to do.

The idea of competencies is not unique to the UW Flexible Option. What is unique is the Flexible Option's competency-based format. Unlike traditional degree programs, the Flexible Option lets you earn credit based on how well you've mastered the competencies that are essential to your chosen degree—not on the number of hours you've spent in a classroom.

Learn at your own pace . . .

By emphasizing competency over credit hours, the UW Flex Option lets you advance toward a UW degree at a pace you decide. As soon as

you can pass an assessment that proves you have mastered a competency—whether it's a test, thesis paper, interview, or hands-on demonstration—you can move on to the next competency and assessment.

. . . and earn credit for what you already know.

A major benefit of competency-based education is that it allows you to draw upon existing knowledge to make progress toward your degree. It doesn't matter where you gained your knowledge—from prior courses, work experience, military training, or other experiences. If you know it, you can use it to pass assessments more quickly—and potentially accelerate your time to graduation.



ACCREDITED PROGRAMS ARE

FLEXIBLE & focused on you

The UW Flexible Option puts you at the center of your college education. Its competency-based format gives you the freedom and tools to earn a respected University of Wisconsin degree at your own pace, whenever and wherever your schedule allows.

Start and stop studies when you want

- » Begin any month
- » Study when and where it's convenient
- » Take breaks when you need to

Advance at your own pace

- » Make progress by passing assessments
- » Accelerate your time to graduation
- » Take more time if you need it

Test when you're ready

- » Take practice assessments
- » Prepare using quality learning resources

Earn credit for what you know

- » Complete assessments using existing knowledge
- » Never spend time or money taking courses you don't need

Get support from an Academic Success Coach

- » Create a personalized learning plan
- » Get help preparing for assessments
- » Plan a schedule that's right for you

Master essential competencies

- » Gain real-world skills
- » Prove your knowledge through rigorous assessments
- » Be prepared to succeed in the workplace

Graduate with a genuine UW credential

- » Receive your degree from a partnering UW System institution
- » UW Flex Option degrees are the same degrees offered by traditional programs

Master the skills employers value

A degree is only as good as the education behind it. That's why distinguished UW faculty draw upon the latest standards in business and industry to identify the essential competencies required for graduation. This ensures that UW Flexible Option students are equipped with the knowledge and skills employers want and need.



move forward **AT YOUR OWN PACE**

WITH HELP FROM A PERSONAL SUCCESS COACH

Earning a UW degree through the Flexible Option format is every bit as challenging as earning a UW degree through traditional means. You'll be expected to meet the same rigorous academic standards for which all UW degrees are known. That's why the UW Flexible Option partners every student with an Academic Success Coach for personalized mentoring and advising.

Your coach will work with you to create a learning plan and timeline customized to fit your goals and knowledge. He or she will also help you prepare for assessments and

point you to the learning resources you need to succeed. These resources can include textbooks, Web pages, and free online resources offered by other universities—as well as credit-based courses, structured internships, service projects, and work and practical experiences.

The UW Flexible Option puts you in control of your own learning, but your Academic Success Coach is always there to help.

Save time and money with flat-rate tuition

The UW Flexible Option offers an affordable way to earn a UW degree or certificate. Instead of paying by course or by credit, you pay a flat rate for a subscription period you choose. Are you highly motivated with lots of experience? Choose the "All-You-Can-Learn" option to move as fast as you are able through your competencies and assessments. Want to study at a slower pace? The "Single Competency-Set" option is for you. Visit flex.wisconsin.edu for details.

Hiring managers prefer public university degrees

When asked their overall opinion of the four major higher education options, hiring managers ranked public universities highest (88% positive) compared with private (82%), community (76%), and for-profit colleges (60%).

Source: Brand Perceptions in Higher Education (US), ipsos OTX, commissioned by Google, fall 2011.

achieve **YOUR GOALS**

WITH A UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION

Where you get your degree is important. The University of Wisconsin System is one of the largest and most widely respected organizations in the country for delivering public higher education. UW Flexible Option programs are created by the same faculty using the same rigorous content and standards as traditional UW programs. That means you will graduate with the same high-quality degree as students who attend class on campus. A degree that is recognized and respected. These are UW degrees, made to fit your schedule—so you can flex your potential!

**IS THE
UW Flexible Option
RIGHT FOR YOU?**

Now's a great time to find out!

Visit flex.wisconsin.edu for more information, including a list of current degree program offerings. Then call **1-877-895-3276** for a personalized consultation to discuss your goals and readiness for this innovative program.



GETTING A UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN EDUCATION

just got more
FLEXIBLE

Built on the long-standing foundation of high-quality University of Wisconsin degree programs, the UW Flexible Option offers busy adult learners a smart new way to earn a degree or certificate. Start anytime, advance at your own pace, and earn credit for what you already know. At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you've always wanted, but never had time to get.



University of Wisconsin-Extension
Office of Student Success
5602 Research Park Blvd., Suite 303
Madison, WI 53719