

Expand your scope of practice to help address the substance abuse crisis

Earn the University of Wisconsin-Madison Substance Use Disorders Counselor Certificate offered through the UW Flexible Option

We've all seen the headlines—Wisconsin's substance abuse crisis continues to impact scores of families and communities around the state. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over the last five years, deaths by drug overdose in Wisconsin have continued to increase. Clinics, agencies, treatment facilities, and counseling centers—especially in rural communities—are struggling to hire licensed substance abuse counselors to address this crisis.

This Substance Use Disorders Counselor Certificate program is a state pre-approved, 100% online program that fulfills the 360 specialized educational requirement for becoming a Substance Abuse Counselor (SAC) in Wisconsin. Designed and awarded by UW-Madison, this certificate uses the competency-based format of the UW Flexible Option

to help you efficiently and affordably meet these state requirements. You'll build on your existing human services knowledge and experience, and master the competencies expected of an effective substance abuse counselor.

Finding the time to travel to a program—commonly a few counties away—just isn't realistic when you're already trying to balance your work and personal life. This program, which you'll complete in 24 weeks—or less—is fully self-paced and 100% online. You complete the coursework on your schedule. And after completing the first third of the program, you're eligible to apply for a Substance Abuse Counselor-In Training (SAC-IT) certification. Earning your SAC-IT gets you one step closer to full certification, which means you're well on your way to getting into the field and working with clients who need your help.

“Research shows that most people who participate in substance abuse treatment not only stop using, but also experience improved financial, social and health outcomes. Yet Wisconsin continues to have a shortage of treatment services, especially in rural areas. According to the Wisconsin State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Employee-Workforce Substance Use Prevention Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations, it is estimated that 378,000 adults are diagnosed with a SUD in Wisconsin; in 2017, only 31% of those in need of treatment received it. The UW Flexible Option Substance Use Disorders Counselor Certificate can help close this gap.”

— Kristi Obmascher, Director, Behavioral Health Team Non-Credit Programing, Division of Continuing Studies, UW-Madison

Fulfills State of Wisconsin Requirement for 360 Hours of Specialized Education

With the UW-Madison Substance Use Disorders Counselor Certificate you will earn the hours you need to fulfill the specialized educational requirements for becoming a highly sought-after certified Wisconsin Substance Abuse Counselor (SAC) or Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC).

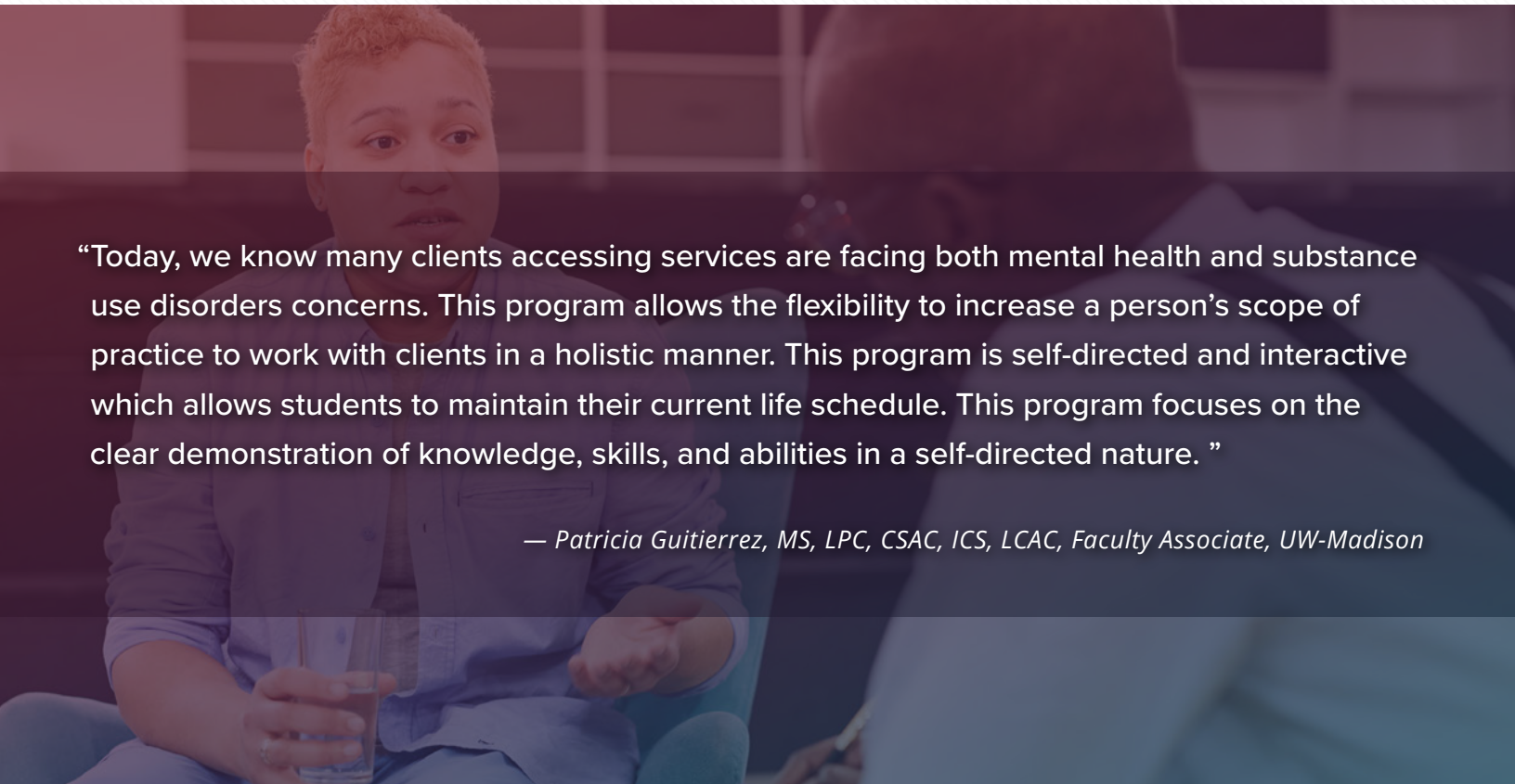
Upon completion of this program, you will have demonstrated mastery of how to:

- » Identify and analyze an appropriate client diagnosis, treatment, or referral using multiple resources
- » Create a diagnostic assessment and provide 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
- » Use best practices to educate your clients, providing them with better knowledge of their condition and 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

In addition, the program offers 360 continuing education hours as 36 continuing education units (CEUs) upon completion.

Growing Demand

Demand for substance abuse counselors has grown in recent years, as the substance abuse crisis in both Wisconsin and nationwide continues to impact communities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the field will grow by 22% over the next eight years as demand continues to increase.



“Today, we know many clients accessing services are facing both mental health and substance use disorders concerns. This program allows the flexibility to increase a person’s scope of practice to work with clients in a holistic manner. This program is self-directed and interactive which allows students to maintain their current life schedule. This program focuses on the clear demonstration of knowledge, skills, and abilities in a self-directed nature.”

— Patricia Guitierrez, MS, LPC, CSAC, ICS, LCAC, Faculty Associate, UW-Madison



The UW Flexible Option advantage

Save time and money

Designed for working adults, the 100% online UW Flexible Option breaks free from rigid semester schedules. There are no traditional classrooms or class time requirements. You can start any month, advance at your own pace, and test whenever you're ready. This program is designed to be completed in 24 weeks—or less if you move faster—which can help save you time by finishing your certificate on your schedule.

Earn a respected UW-Madison Certificate

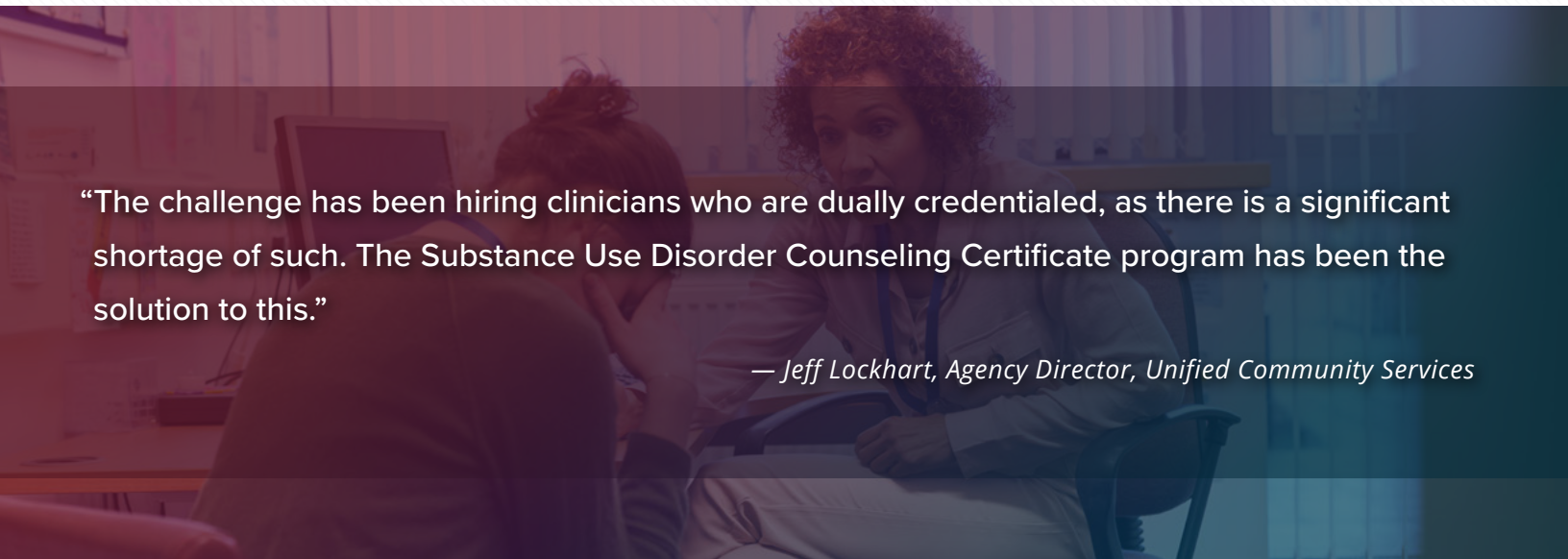
The Division of Continuing Studies provides leadership and support for noncredit programming at UW-Madison, including teaching and directing hundreds of professional development and personal enrichment classes.

Gain real-world skills

The UW Flexible Option's competency-based format is about what you know and are able to do. Competencies are the skills or information that employers expect in this field. You'll make progress through each of the program's eight domains by proving that you've mastered each specific competency. If you're already familiar with some of the knowledge because of your prior human services experience, you can progress faster. If the content is all brand new, take as much time as you need to make sure you fully learn it.

Independent, but not alone

While you control the pace of your studies, you can expect a supported experience. From day one, a Success Coach will support you through the program. Your Success Coach gives you advice on everything from study strategies to how to balance your time.



“The challenge has been hiring clinicians who are dually credentialed, as there is a significant shortage of such. The Substance Use Disorder Counseling Certificate program has been the solution to this.”

— Jeff Lockhart, Agency Director, Unified Community Services

Is this program a good fit for you?

This self-paced program is ideally suited for students who:

- » Are motivated, self-directed learners
- » Prefer independent learning
- » Can create and manage their own deadlines for coursework
- » Practice in Wisconsin
- » Are licensed mental health professionals or social workers who would like to become dually credentialed, but don't have the ability to attend face-to-face courses

To be qualified for this program, you must have:



A bachelor's degree (or, be actively working towards a bachelor's degree and have greater than 60 credits) in a human services field. Eligible fields include social work, psychology, criminal justice, counseling psychology, nursing, or a related field.



Students who do not have this qualification, but have extensive professional experience in a human services field are encouraged to discuss their situation with an Enrollment Adviser.

Tuition



\$2,250

ALL-YOU-CAN-LEARN
24 week subscription

This UW Flexible Option program offers busy adults an affordable way to earn a University of Wisconsin-Madison non-credit certificate. Tuition is a flat rate of \$2,250 for the 24-week subscription period.

With the UW Flexible Option's subscription period model, you complete the program as fast or as slowly as you're able to, so long as it does not exceed the 24 week subscription period. Our competency-based learning means as soon as you master one domain, you move onto the next one. You won't spend valuable time having to re-learn material you've already mastered. If you already know the material, you may be able to advance through the program more quickly, potentially accelerating your time to taking the licensing exams and earning your Substance Abuse Counselor Certification.

Get more information

Our Enrollment Advisers are available to answer any questions you have about the UW-Madison Substance Use Disorders Counselor certificate offered through the UW Flexible Option. Finishing your certificate can happen sooner than you think—reach out to one of our advisers to get started today!!

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By email: flex@uwex.wisconsin.edu

Visit our website: flex.wisconsin.edu