



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

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University Council

January 17, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2019-2020

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the School of Social Work for a new Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling will be an agenda item for the January 24, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

# PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

## I. Basic Information

1. Institution: University of Georgia Date: 12/24/19
2. School/College: School of Social Work
3. Department/Division: School of Social Work
4. Certificate Title: Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling
5. Level (undergraduate or graduate): Graduate
6. Proposed starting date for program: Fall 2020

## II. Response to the Criteria for All Programs

The criteria that proposed new programs are expected to meet in order to be approved and implemented within the University of Georgia are listed below. Please provide sufficient explanation as to how the proposed program satisfies each criterion.

1. *The purpose and educational objectives of the program must be clearly stated, and must be consistent with the role, scope, and long-range development plan of the institution.*

A. State the purpose and educational objectives of the program and explain how the program complements the role, scope, and long-range development plan of the institution.

The purpose of the proposed Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling is to train students to be competent in the delivery of quality care for those affected by substance abuse and substance use disorders. In this program, students will be trained to: (1) develop advanced evidence-based treatment competencies, and (2) develop a comprehensive knowledge of the bio-psycho-social dynamics associated with substance use. To meet this competency, students will be trained in the dimensions associated with the 12 core functions of substance use counseling, associated with requirements of the certification board for licensure in the state of Georgia.

The certificate program will be housed in the School of Social Work. All of the core courses in the program currently exist and are approved. Although accreditation is not required to attain this certification, the Substance Use Counseling Program has been reviewed and approved as a program to offer a fast track to licensure by The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia. Upon completion of the program, graduates will become immediately eligible for the CADC-T license (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor – Trainee), which is acknowledged as a “credential developed by the Certification Board of Georgia to establish credibility and accountability to those who work in the field of alcohol and drug abuse counseling who have not yet completed the experience required to earn their full reciprocal certification.” The program is open to both degree and non-degree students. Applicants must meet the minimum Graduate School standards, and non-degree students are required to apply through the Graduate School application.

Additionally, the skills associated with this certificate program are needed and valued among professionals in the United States. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has named substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors as a much faster than average growing profession, as treatment demand continues to outpace treatment availability. Employment of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors is projected to grow 23% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, a thorough understanding of substance use and the latest evidence-based practices for its treatment are the hallmark competencies of every qualified professional in these areas. The certificate program in substance use counseling requires students to demonstrate these competencies through education, training, and experiential learning.

Furthermore, the student demand for this certificate program is sufficiently high. A survey of students who recently took substance use-related electives offered by the School of Social Work showed 75% of students surveyed reported they were “very interested” in a certificate program, and 88% reported they were “somewhat interested” or “very interested” in a certificate program (N = 50).

This certificate program complements the role, scope, and long-range development plan of the institution through the University’s “Grand Challenges” initiative to combat threats to human health. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, 20.8 million people in the U.S. have a substance use disorder, which is equal to the number of Americans with diabetes. In 2014, there were 47,055 drug overdose deaths, many of which were preventable. Additionally, of the one in seven Americans (14.6% of the population) who have developed a substance use disorder during their lives, only one in ten will ever receive treatment. Thus, to effectively address this threat to human health, higher numbers of competent professionals are needed to deliver effective treatment for substance use problems.

B. Describe the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed program. Which school(s) or college(s) and department(s) will be involved in the development of the program? Describe the expected stage of development for this program within five years.

The Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling will be housed in the School of Social Work. Social work is inherently interdisciplinary in nature. According to the Council on Social Work Education, the national regulating body for all MSW programs nationwide, “Social workers are vital to the future of the healthcare infrastructure in the United States. They are on the front lines, working with interdisciplinary teams in a variety of settings to improve healthcare outcomes and ensure that people are successful in their treatment and care, as well as in administrative and policy positions to support comprehensive health care.” This spirit is carried out in the School of Social Work at UGA as well. For example, the School of Social Work is currently involved in several current interdisciplinary certificate programs, all of which have a rich history of delivering interdisciplinary education.

Additionally, Substance Use is an inherently interdisciplinary field. To effectively deliver Substance Use treatment, a professional must learn about, and be exposed to, working in large teams with diverse medical and counseling backgrounds. This program will address these challenges through collaboration from working professionals in the field of substance use counseling, as well as the expertise and knowledge of current faculty in the School of Social Work. Participation from other departments, schools, or colleges will be welcome where the certificate program fits the goals of the students and interests of faculty. It is anticipated that the certificate program will attract graduate students from Social Work, the

College of Public Health, the College of Education, and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

2. *There must be a demonstrated and well-documented need for the program.*

A. Explain why this program is necessary.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration reports a significant shortage of addiction counselors in the state of Georgia. If current estimates for the ratio of need to demand for substance use treatment are correct, by the year 2030 the state of Georgia will need an additional 1430 addiction counselors to meet the demand. Although in its Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2019 Edition, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has named substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors as a much faster than average growing profession, treatment demand continues to outpace treatment availability. Employment of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors is projected to grow 23% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Appropriate credentials are the foundation for working in diverse professional settings where substance use services are provided. A thorough understanding of substance use and the latest evidence-based practices for its treatment are the hallmark competencies of every qualified professional. The certificate program in substance use counseling requires students to demonstrate these competencies through education, training, and experiential learning.

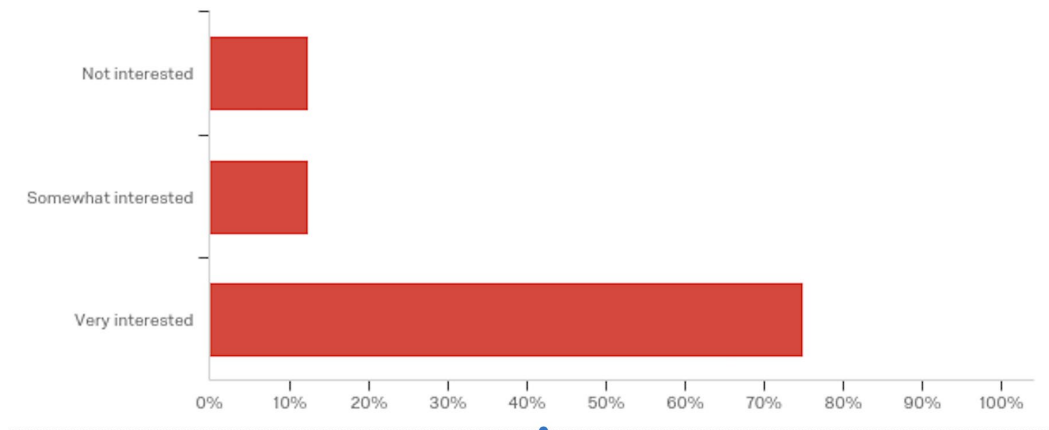
B. In addition, provide the following information:

1. Semester/Year of Program Initiation: Fall 2020
2. Semester/Year Full Implementation of Program: Fall 2020
3. Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded: Spring 2021
4. Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established): 10
5. Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program: 10-15

3. *There must be substantial evidence that student demand for the program will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollments in the program.*

A. Provide documentation of the student interest in the program and define what a reasonable level of enrollment is for a program of this type. Provide evidence that student demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollments.

Students who took the substance use elective (SOWK 7387) offered by the School of Social Work between the years 2016-2019 were surveyed to examine interest in a substance use certificate program. These students represent those who would be most interested in the certificate program. A total of 50 students were surveyed; 32 responded (64% response rate). About 75% of students reported they were “very interested” in a certificate program, and 88% reported they were “somewhat interested” or “very interested” in a certificate program.



In terms of a reasonable level of enrollment, we anticipate the certificate program to begin with 10-15 students and will expand based on increased demand and resource availability. Given this high level of interest, it is expected that student demand will be sufficient to sustain the estimated enrollment.

B. In addition, provide the following information:

To what extent will minority student enrollments be greater than, less than, or equivalent to the proportion of minority students in the total student body?

Given the universality of the certificate content (substance use) and the focus on diversity, minority student recruitment, and the social justice mission of the School of Social Work, there is every reason to believe that minority student enrollment in this certificate program will be equivalent to or greater than the proportion of minority students in the total student body. The student body of the School of Social Work is 30% students of color.

4. *The design and curriculum of the program must be consistent with appropriate disciplinary standards and accepted practice.*

Provide the following information:

A. Present a detailed curriculum outline of the program listing specific course requirements (to include programs of study, course prefix, number, and title).

Students completing the certificate shall have earned a grade of C (2.0) or better in each of the required courses. Twelve credit hours are required to earn the certificate, as described below:

I. One comprehensive course in working with groups (3 credit hours; no prerequisites required):

Within the School of Social Work: SOWK 7116, Social Work with Groups, 3 credits.

However, non-MSW degree seeking students may take a comprehensive course in working with groups within another department, so long as the certificate program coordinator approves the course.

II. Two foundational substance use courses (6 credit hours; no prerequisites required):

SOWK 7120 (Introduction to Substance Abuse, 3 credits)  
SOWK 7220 (Approaches to Substance Abuse Treatment, 3 credits)

III. One course in trauma-informed care (3 credits; no prerequisites required):

SOWK 7240 (Assessment and Treatment of Trauma, 3 credits)

B. Identify which aspects of the proposed curriculum already exist and which constitute new courses.

All aspects of the proposed curriculum already exist. No new courses are required.

C. Identify model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.

This certificate is most like the Substance Use & Addictions Specialist (SUAS) Program for MSW Students offered at the University of North Carolina Chapel-Hill (UNC) (<https://ssw.unc.edu/index.php?q=node/595>). At present, there is only one substance use certificate program offered in the state of Georgia, in the School of Education at Clark Atlanta University. However, this program is new, and there is no publicly-available information concerning its contents/requirements.

The UNC program requires students to also take four courses, all of which focus on substance use counseling. These include course work on foundations of addiction, clinical practice, and diverse populations.

The proposed certificate here will be different from the one at UNC in several ways. First, it will be available to students in the state of Georgia. Second, this certificate has been shaped to meet the licensure requirements for the state of Georgia, which are different from those in North Carolina. For example, in the state of Georgia, to be eligible for licensure, an applicant must have 6 hours of education in ethics, HIV/AIDS, telehealth and trauma informed care. All licensure requirements specific to the state of Georgia are built into the curriculum of this certificate program. Last, the proposed certificate is an interdisciplinary program, whereas the UNC program is not.

D. If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.

N/A

5. *Faculty resources must be adequate to support an effective program.*

A. Define the size, experience, and specializations of the full-time faculty needed to support an effective program. Identify the extent to which such faculty resources currently exist at the institution, and what additions to the faculty will be needed to fully implement the program. Specify how many full-time faculty will provide direct instructional support to this program.

The School of Social Work includes six full-time, tenured and tenure-track faculty and one clinical faculty with expertise in substance use counseling. All six of our current faculty members have committed to teaching the core required courses or providing instructional support on a regular basis. Certificate program students will be added to existing sections. The School of Social Work also has two full-time, tenured faculty with expertise in trauma informed care, which is a required course in the certificate sequence. There will be no added burden to the School of Social Work faculty and staff. We will offer the required courses every year (two in the fall, two in the spring or summer). No significant change in instructional assignments will be necessary to run the certificate program. While there are no proposed additions to the faculty needed to fully implement the program, a certificate program coordinator will be appointed, as a supplemental administrative appointment, from among existing faculty by the dean of the School of Social Work.

B. In addition, for each faculty member directly involved in this program, list:

- 1) Name, rank, degrees, academic specialty, educational background
- 2) Special qualifications related to this program
- 3) Relevant professional and scholarly activity for past five years
- 4) Projected responsibility in this program and required adjustments in current assignments

Faculty members directly involved in this program are listed below. Qualifications and activities can be found in each faculty member's profile link. Each faculty member has agreed to teaching the core required courses or providing instructional support on a regular basis. There is no required adjustment to current assignments and no need for additional sections.

Javier Boyas, Associate Professor and MSW Program Director, School of Social Work. PhD, Boston College. Profile link: <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/javier-f-boyas/>

Y. Joon Choi, Associate Professor & PhD Program director, School of Social Work. PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University. Profile link: <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/y-joon-choi/>

Jennifer Elkins, Associate Professor, School of Social Work. PhD, Columbia University. Profile link: <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/jennifer-elkins/>

**Rachel Fusco, Georgia Athletic Association Professor of Health and Well-Being, School of Social Work. PhD, University of Pennsylvania. Profile link:** <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/rachel-a-fusco/>

Kate Morrissey Stahl, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Social Work. PhD, University of Georgia. Profile link: <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/kate-morrissey-stahl/>

Orion Mowbray, Associate Professor, School of Social Work. PhD, University of Michigan. Profile link: <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/orion-mowbray/>

Michael Robinson, Associate Professor and Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate Program, School of Social Work. PhD, University of Louisville. Profile link: <https://ssw.uga.edu/people/name/michael-a-robinson/>

C. Where it is deemed necessary to add faculty in order to fully develop the program give the desired qualifications of the persons to be added.

No new faculty will be added to develop and/or implement the program.

6. *Library, computer, and other instructional resources must be sufficient to adequately support the program.*

A. Describe the available library resources for this program and the degree to which they are adequate to support an effective program. Identify the ways and the extent to which library resources need to be improved to adequately support this program.

Current library resources are adequate and sufficient.

B. Likewise, document the extent to which there is sufficient computer equipment, instructional equipment, laboratory equipment, research support resources, etc. available to adequately support this program. Specify improvements needed in these support areas.

All equipment and research support resources are adequate and sufficient.

7. *Physical facilities necessary to fully implement the program must be available.*

Describe the building, classroom, laboratory, and office space that will be available for this program and evaluate their adequacy to fully support an effective program. Plans for allocating, remodeling, or acquiring additional space to support the program's full implementation of the program should also be identified.

No additional space is required beyond current facilities.

8. *The expense to the institution (including personnel, operating, equipment, facilities, library, etc.) required to fully implement the program must be identified.*

A. Detailed funding to initiate the program and subsequent annual additions required to fully implement the program are needed below. Estimates should be based upon funding needed to develop an effective and successful program and not upon the minimal investment required to mount and sustain a potentially marginal program.

No additional funding is needed. Existing courses and instructors are adequate to serve the expected number of students.

B. Indicate the extent of student support (fellowships, assistantships, scholarships, etc.) available for this program, and evaluate the adequacy of this support. Assistantships funded from institutional (as opposed to sponsored) funds should be included in this funding analysis as well.

N/A

9. *Commitments of financial support needed to initiate and fully develop the program must be secured.*

A. Identify the sources of additional funds needed to support the program and the probability of their availability.



The School of Social Work will dedicate the necessary resources to enact and maintain the new certificate.

B. It is particularly important to include in this response the long-range plans for additional or expanded facilities necessary to support an effective program. Evaluate the timing and likelihood of such capital funding.

Should the program grow beyond anticipated, additional facilities may be needed. If this does occur, the School of Social Work will limit enrollment only to what is possible given the existing facilities, while working with the Graduate School and broader university to plan appropriately for program expansion.

10. *Provisions must be made for appropriate administration of the program within the institution and for the admission to and retention of students in the program in keeping with accepted practice.*

Describe and evaluate the structure for the administration of the program. Explain the degree to which that structure is in keeping with good practice and accepted standards. Similarly, explain how and by what criteria students will be admitted to and retained in the program, and how these procedures are consistent with accepted standards for effective and successful programs.

Similar to the other certificate programs offered by the School of Social Work, this program will be administered by a coordinator of the Substance Use Counseling Certificate program, who will be responsible for overseeing (1) applications and admission to the certificate program; (2) advising; and (3) clearing students for registration. The coordinator of the Substance Use Counseling Certificate program will also track the number of students in the certificate program for the purposes of annual assessment. The coordinator will include certificate data in yearly assessment reports (including data gleaned by exit surveys). This certificate will be open to degree-seeking and non-degree seeking students, and the coordinator will follow all application deadlines and admissions procedures commiserate with other certificate programs offered through the School of Social Work.

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling

**College:** School of Social Work

**Department:** School of Social Work

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2020

### School/College:

- School of Social Work Dean, Dr. Anna Scheyett, 9/22/19

### Graduate School:

- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Ron Walcott, 11/22/19