



## Current Catalog Entry

### Concentration in Basics in Addiction Counseling (B.A./B.S.)

The concentration in Basics in Addiction Counseling (BAC) within the Psychology major is for a select group of undergraduates who are interested in a career in the alcohol/drug counseling field. In addition to the standard psychology major requirements, it involves a series of specialized addiction courses, as well as a multi-semester field placement at a substance abuse agency. The BAC concentration is designed to meet the educational requirements for a Licensed Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC). Entrance into the concentration is competitive (see below).

#### Requirements:

All applicants are required to be Psychology majors and meet the following requirements:

- Are enrolled in the equivalent of the 4th semester of full-time coursework toward a college degree.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a Psychology GPA of 3.5.
- Are committed to a career in the alcohol/drug counseling field.
- Have interpersonal skills appropriate for a counseling career.
- Have the ability to meet the program standards (with or without reasonable accommodation), and
- Have read and acknowledged understanding of the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board standards for licensure.

## Proposed Catalog Entry

### Concentration in Basics in Addictions Counseling (B.A./B.S.)

The Basics in Addiction Counseling (BAC) Concentration is designed for a select group of undergraduate psychology majors who are interested in a career in the alcohol/drug counseling field. In addition to the standard psychology major requirements, the BAC Concentration involves a series of specialized addiction courses, as well as a multi-semester field placement at a substance abuse agency. Students admitted to the BAC concentration will have completed all coursework requirements to become a Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA) and/or Licensed Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC).

To complete the BAC Concentration, students must complete 45 hours in psychology. In addition, students must earn a grade of "C" or better (grades of C- are not accepted) in all psychology courses. 24 credits MUST be taken at UNM to satisfy the residency requirement. Major requirements are only one portion of your undergraduate degree. Meet with an Undergraduate Program Advisor located in the Department to discuss the University and College level requirements in addition to the major. To earn the BA or BS Degree in Psychology students *must declare a minor*. To earn the BA degree students must select a minor from *the approved College of Arts and Sciences minor list*. To earn the BS degree students *must declare a minor from the following: Evolutionary Anthropology; Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Mathematics; Physics; or Statistics*. Meet with your Minor Department's Departmental Advisor to review your minor requirements.

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### Procedures:

- Interested applicants provide:
  - - a. Letter of interest
    - b. Current resume (work and academic experience)
    - c. At least two letters of recommendation that address the qualifications, character, and motivation of the applicant. These letters may come from employers, professors, or supervisors; these are not personal references
    - d. College transcripts
- Applications typically are considered twice a year.
- All applications are reviewed by an admissions committee.
- Selected applicants are interviewed; interviews query any aspect of program requirements described above.

To obtain a B.S. or B.A. in Psychology with a concentration in Basics in Addiction Counseling a student must complete 47 credit hours in Psychology and an approved College of Arts and Sciences minor (see B.A. and B.S. requirements).

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### BAC Concentration Admission Requirements

All applicants are required to be Psychology Majors and meet the following requirements:

- Are enrolled in the equivalent of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of full-time coursework toward a college degree.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a Psychology GPA of 3.5.
- Are committed to a career in the alcohol/drug counseling field.
- Have interpersonal skills appropriate for a counseling career.
- Have the ability to meet the program standards. (*with or without reasonable accommodation*)
- Have read and acknowledged understanding of the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board standards for licensure.

### Procedures to Apply

Interested applicants will provide:

- Letter of interest
- Current resume (work & academic experience)
- At least two letters of recommendation (*must address the qualifications, character, and motivation of the applicant. These letters may come from employers, professors, or supervisors; these are not personal references*)
- College transcripts
- Completed BAC Application

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The 47 credit hours of Psychology must include:

|  | <b>Credit<br/>Hours</b> |
|--|-------------------------|
| PSY 200  | 3                       |
| PSY 200  | 3                       |
| PSY 240  | 3                       |
| Three other courses (9 credit hours) selected from five 200-level core courses:<br>PSY 220, 260, 265, 271, and 280 | 9                       |
| PSY 302  | 3                       |
| Four required electives:<br>PSY 332, 347, 430, 411   | 12                      |
| PSY 335L or PSY 480L or other pre-approved laboratory experience   | 2                       |
| PSY 311  | 1                       |
| PSY 312  | 1                       |
| PSY 313  | 1                       |
| PSY 412  | 9 total                 |

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The 45 credit hours in Psychology must include:

Core Courses:

**(12 credit hours)**

PSY 105, PSY 200, PSY 240, PSY 302

Three (3) from the following 200 level psychology courses:

**(9 credit hours)**

PSY 220, PSY 260, PSY 265, PSY 271, PSY 280

Five (5) required 300/400 upper division psychology electives:

**(15 credit hours)**

PSY 332, PSY 335, PSY 347, PSY 411, PSY 430

One (1) required psychology lab from the following or a pre-approved lab\* (2 credit hours)

PSY 335L, PSY 445L, PSY 480L

Additional Requirements for the BAC Concentration

**(7 credit hours)**

PSY 313, PSY 412

\* There are alternative options to taking one of these courses. Other upper-level psychology labs may also satisfy the requirement or working in a psychology professor's research lab as part of a PSY 499 experience may count. These options must be approved in advance by a BAC Advisory Committee Member.

### **Rationale for Reducing the Hours Requirement for the BAC Applied Clinical Experience (PSY 412):**

The current requirement for PSY 412 includes a 500-hour, multi-semester field placement (practicum) in an agency that provides services to clients with substance use concerns. Students have been earning a total of 9 credit hours for this course. This is an invaluable experience which offers students a realistic perspective of the field of behavioral health and addictions. However:

- (1) A number of BAC students from previous years have dropped out of the program due to an inability to complete the required field placement hours prior to their identified graduation date. We definitely do not want to prolong students' graduation.
- (2) The students' feedback and internal program review has indicated that 10 hours per week for 2 semesters along with their other coursework is more manageable and still allows for a beneficial field experience.
- (3) The New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board, under the title of General Provisions states, "Practicum as it relates to the substance abuse counselor includes 300 hours in the 12 core functions".
- (4) At the time that the BAC program was first established it was believed that The New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board would allow our BAC students to apply the 500 clinical hours toward their LADAC (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor) hours. We have more recently learned that the board is not allowing these hours to count toward the 2000 hours required for a LADAC because a student must have earned some type of degree (usually an associates) prior to accumulating the hours.

Consequently, it is felt that reducing the required hours from 500 to 300 (and to 6 credits hours) is an appropriate and timely change which will maximize the students' experience and increase program completion rates.