

# GCERT Substance Counseling Graduate Certificate in Substance Use and Behavioral Addictions Counseling

Under Review | Fall 2026

## Proposal Information

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### Workflow Status

In Progress

### Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

expand ▲

Nancy Middlebrook

Theresa Sherman

## Proposal Information

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### Sponsoring faculty/staff member

Cortny Stark

### Sponsoring faculty/staff email

starkc@unm.edu

### College

College of Education & Human  
Sciences

### Department

Individual, Family, &  
Community Education

### Campus

Main Campus

# Effective Term and Year

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## Proposed Effective Term and Year

Fall 2026

## Justification

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### Program Justification

The University of New Mexico offers for academic credit a bachelors of psychology with concentration in basics in addiction counseling. The university also offers substance abuse studies for continuing education credit, but currently has no graduate certificate programs or concentrations in addictions/substance use. The counselor education program currently offers several graduate courses with addictions specific content that support students who plan to pursue addiction counseling credentials upon graduation. Unfortunately, the substance use courses available do not provide all of the training necessary for addiction counseling credentials in New Mexico. The counselor education faculty are proposing the creation of a Substance Use and Behavioral Addictions Counseling certificate that contributes to students' completion of the National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) training requirements for the Masters of Addiction Counseling credential (SUBAC certificate is 225 training hours; the MAC requires 500 training hours), as well as New Mexico training requirements for the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC) credential (SUBAC certificate is 225 training hours; LADAC requires 276 training hours).

This proposal includes four new graduate courses, one of which is cross listed for graduate and undergraduate students. The proposed certificate also includes one existing graduate level counseling course facilitated by the counselor education program. The certificate includes a total of five graduate level courses.

Table 1. Proposed Course Sequence for the Substance Use and Behavioral Addictions Counseling Certificate  
Courses Credit Hours

1. \*COUN 573 Psychopharmacology and Infectious Diseases 3
2. \*COUN 574 The Science of Process and Behavioral Addictions (make as an elective) 3
3. \*COUN 575 Foundations and Advanced Practice of Motivational Interviewing 3
4. COUN 577 Substance Use and Abuse 3
5. \*COUN 578 Clinical Supervision of Mental Health and Addictions Counselors 3

Total 15

\*Newly proposed courses

## Program Category and Level

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**Program Category**

Certificate

**Program Level**

Graduate

**Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name**

Graduate Certificate in Substance Use and Behavioral Addictions Counseling

**Certificate or Degree Type**

Certificate (graduate)

**Degree/Certificate Level**

Graduate Certificate

**Proposed CIP Code** ⓘ

51.1501

**Proposed CIP Title** ⓘ

Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling

**Is this program also offered online?**

No

## New program courses

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**Composition of new program**

| Existing courses                        | Revised courses | New Courses  | Total Credits |
|---|-----------------|--|---------------|
| <b>COUN 577 Substance Use and Abuse</b> |                 |  | 3             |
|   |                 | COUN 573<br>Psychopharmacology and<br>Infectious Diseases                      | 3             |
|   |                 | COUN 574 The Science of<br>Process and Behavioral<br>Addictions                | 3             |
|   |                 | COUN 575 Foundations and<br>Advanced Practice of<br>Motivational Interviewing  | 3             |
|   |                 | COUN 578 Clinical<br>Supervision of Mental Health<br>and Addictions Counselors | 3             |

## New Degrees/Certificates Only

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**Pre-proposal Executive Summary** ⓘ

- Graduate Certificate SUBAC 1\_27\_25 (1).pdf
- SUBACExecSummary\_2026.docx

Program Duplication

Correspondence

The UNM currently offers a bachelor's of addictions/substance use, as well as continuing education courses, but currently has no graduate certificate programs or concentrations in addictions/substance use. The counselor education program offers several graduate courses with addictions specific content that support students who plan to pursue addiction counseling credentials upon graduation. Unfortunately, the substance use courses available do not provide all of the training necessary for addiction counseling credentials in New Mexico, nor at the national level. The counselor education program currently has multiple graduate students who are completing the clinical mental health counseling masters program with UNM, while also enrolled in certificate programs and addictions focused masters degrees with other universities. There is a clear need for a graduate training program in substance use/addictions counseling at UNM.

In order to ensure that the proposed SUBAC certificate does not duplicate existing programming, we searched within the UNM course catalogue for any programs and courses that included the key words "substance use", and "addiction". This enabled us to identify the undergraduate programs mentioned above that cover this topic, none of which meet the needs of students seeking graduate education and courses that enable qualification for the National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) Masters of Addictions Counseling (MAC) credential. The MAC is considered the highest level of addiction counseling credential available to counselors. We also searched the key words for each of the proposed new classes, again using the UNM catalogue. Any courses with similar core content (as reflected in the course description) are discussed in the individual course proposal in Quali. Ultimately there are no classes, nor programming at UNM that significantly overlap with the proposed SUBAC certificate.

#### **Pre-proposal Approved?**

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#### **Associate Provost Memo**

- Graduate Certificate SUBAC 1\_27\_25 (1).pdf

#### **Proposal File Upload**

- ProgramProposal\_GCERT SUBAC\_2026.docx

#### **HED Submission Documents**

- hed-form\_GCERT SUBAC.docx

## File Uploads

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### Document uploads

## Associated Quali Forms

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### Select any associated course forms that exist

COUN 574 - The Science of Process and Behavioral Addictions (3)

COUN 573 - Psychopharmacology and Infectious Diseases (3)

COUN 575 - Foundations and Advanced Practice of Motivational Interviewing (3)

COUN 578 - Supervision of Clinical Mental Health and Addictions Counselors (3)

### Select any associated program forms that exist

## Catalog Information

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### Program Description

The Substance Use and Behavioral Addictions Counseling (SUBAC) graduate certificate meets the National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) training requirements for the national Masters of Addiction Counseling credential, as well as New Mexico requirements for the state-level Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC) credential. The certificate includes a total of five 3 credit hour courses, including: 1. COUN 573 Psychopharmacology and Infectious Diseases, 2. COUN 574 The Science of Process and Behavioral Addictions, 3. COUN 575 Foundations and Advanced Practice of Motivational Interviewing, 4. COUN 577 Substance Use and Abuse, 5. COUN 578 Clinical Supervision of Mental Health and Addictions Counselors. Completion of the SUBAC certificate supports student development as content experts in the field of substance use counseling.

The Advanced Graduate Certificate in Counseling is designed to prepare individuals who are seeking an additional counseling specialization concurrently or following the completion of the requirements for a masters degree in Counseling (Clinical Mental Health Counseling or School Counseling).

The SUBAC certificate is available to those who have earned or are in the process of earning a CACREP accredited Masters of Arts/Science in Counseling. Students will work with their advisor to determine the appropriate course work and course sequencing. Students will complete a minimum of 15 credits with a GPA of at least 3.0, and no course grade lower than B-.

### Admissions Requirements

Please note that a total of no more than 30 students may be admitted to the certificate program during the first 2 years. The reason for the maximum number of new students is to ensure that program growth is approached with intentionality. As the program grows, we hope to increase the number of program faculty and part time instructors needed to teach required courses, and/or keep enrollment at 30 students and allow the admissions process to become more competitive.

In order to be admitted into the SUBAC certificate program, students must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accordance with the requirements of the UNM admissions policies and Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) guidelines and dates. While specific areas of study (majors) are not required, our students most often come from behavioral sciences and human services-related fields such as psychology, social work, and sociology.

A minimum 3.0 overall undergraduate GPA (on a 4.0 scale) is required for admission to the UNM Counselor Education master's program. Please carefully follow the instructions on the application instruction checklist that you can access on the Counselor Education webpage.

Application to the SUBAC certificate program includes application fee, official transcripts, a completed university application, a letter of intent/personal statement, three recommendations, and a program application. Students are instructed to combine their letter of intent and program application into one document with a page break and upload to the letter of intent section. The SUBAC certificate application does not require the GRE.

Application deadlines are July 15 for admission in the following spring semester and December 15 for admission the following fall semester. Students are admitted for the semester for which they are accepted. Deferring admissions requires program faculty approval. Only those applications that are complete (including all paperwork, fees, transcripts, etc.) will be reviewed. No Exceptions.

#### How Applications are Evaluated

Six criteria are applied in evaluating applications. Applications that address each of these issues receive more consideration.

1. **Academic Record and Potential:** The Graduate School and the Counselor Education Program seek students who have an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) or greater. Students must have a bachelor's degree or be in their last semester of their undergraduate program. The only exception to a cumulative 3.0 GPA for the undergraduate degree is having completed a graduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or greater.
2. **Academic Background:** The SUBAC certificate seeks students who have 18 credit hours of upper division (300–400 level course) undergraduate and/or graduate course work in the behavioral sciences. Courses that can be used to satisfy this requirement include education, psychology, family studies, sociology, anthropology, nursing, and social work, depending on the course content.
3. **Relevant Work Experience:** Faculty assess your work/volunteer experience and its relevance to the applicants' potential as a counselor. Students are asked to provide a resume for review.
4. **Letters of Recommendation:** Three letters of recommendation are required to be submitted via the online application for the application to be considered complete. One recommendation letter must be from a professor and the other two may be either academic or from work supervisors, each of whom can attest to the applicants' motivation and potential.
5. **Letter of Intent/Personal Statement (3 double-spaced pages maximum):** Applicants provide a statement that gives a supporting rationale for pursuing a master's degree in counseling. This includes their long-term and short-term goals, personal qualities, and characteristics to support pursuit of the SUBAC certificate. Applicants also discuss experiences with cultural diversity and cultural background. Statements are limited to three double-spaced pages using 10–12-point font.
6. **Multicultural Competence:** In the personal statement applicants describe their understanding of cultural pluralism. Applicants share their experiences or studies of people from cultures, backgrounds, or beliefs different from their own.

#### Interview With the Faculty

Typically, about half of the applicants (selected from an initial screening based on the aforementioned criteria) are invited to interview with the faculty. This provides an opportunity to meet potential students and for applicants to expand on their qualifications for admission to the SUBAC certificate.

### Disclaimer

The Counselor Education Program complies with UNM admissions policies and OGS guidelines and dates. Admission to the SUBAC certificate in no way guarantees practicum and/or internship placement, licensure, or employment. Additionally, finger printing and background checks may be required for some placements

### Graduation Requirements

In order to complete the SUBAC certificate, students must complete the five graduate courses listed below.

Students will meet with their SUBAC certificate advisor to discuss, and plan how and when they plan to complete each of the required courses.

### Intent to Graduate

The Individual, Family and Community Education (IFCE) Intent to Graduate form must be submitted to ifce@unm.edu by May 15 for fall graduation, September 15 for spring graduation, and April 15 for summer graduation.

## Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

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### License/Certification associated with program

No

## Concentrations

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### Program Concentrations

Code

Title

### Concentration Required

N/A

## Certificate Information

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### Certificate Requirements

- Complete the following:
  - COUN573 - Psychopharmacology and Infectious Diseases (3)
  - COUN574 - The Science of Process and Behavioral Addictions (3)
  - COUN575 - Foundations and Advanced Practice of Motivational Interviewing (3)
  - COUN577 - Substance Use and Abuse (3)
  - COUN578 - Supervision of Clinical Mental Health and Addictions Counselors (3)

**Grand Total Credits: 15**

## Registrar Office Only

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CM Program Code

BANP

Banner Program Code

Major Code

GCERT Substance Counseling

Online Program Code

Online Major Code

Pre-major Program Code

Pre-major Major Code

CIP Code

Concentration Inheritance

511501

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Catalog

Catalog Activation Date

Notes