Vanderbilt University and the University of Adelaide collaborate to offer students the opportunity to complete a fully online program of study to obtain a Certificate in Addiction Studies conferred by all three universities.

Program mission

The mission of the addiction studies certificate with a concentration in intermediate international addiction studies is to offer students around the world an in-depth, evidence-based, multidimensional and cross-cultural understanding of essential topics in the field of addiction studies, including biological, psychological and public health perspectives on the etiology and treatment of addiction and evidence-based addiction policy. This will be accomplished through distance-learning technologies.

Program goals

1. Knowledge of field of addiction science: Students in the program will develop an in-depth knowledge of the field of addiction science to enhance their ability to succeed in a variety of addiction-related settings.
2. Ability to synthesize and apply advanced addiction-related knowledge: Students of the program will be able to synthesize and apply advanced addiction-related knowledge, including comparative international perspectives and approaches, to address key issues related to the treatment or prevention of addiction.
3. Understanding and application of experimental results from addiction-related research: Students will develop the ability to interpret experimental approaches and results, and apply them to address key questions in addiction science and policy, as well as conceptualize the translation from research to policy, treatment or prevention.
4. Communication skills related to addiction: Students will develop skills in communicating both core knowledge of addiction as well as the interpretation of research findings in a variety of formats.

Student learning outcomes

1. Written communication skills: The candidate will use effective written communication skills to present information related to addiction causes, interventions, treatments and policies using appropriate vocabulary, figures, tables and citations.
2. Advanced knowledge of addiction science: The student will demonstrate an advanced level of knowledge of the current elements of addiction science.
3. Familiarity and understanding of research: Students will demonstrate an advanced level of fluency with the research literature, become familiar with research methods used in addiction science and demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique publications.

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2. Have a high level of proficiency in English, demonstrated by completion of a university qualification studied in the English language, or by meeting one of the following English language requirements: an IELTS score of 7.0, a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based) or 260 (computer-based), or grade C or above in GCSE English.

Students who are enrolled in the Certificate in Addiction Studies intermediate concentration and are maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0 may elect to change their concentration to the advanced concentration at any time during their enrollment with the permission of the program director. Students will be awarded only one certificate, however, which will reflect their highest level of attainment.

Students who have completed the Certificate in Addiction Studies intermediate concentration may also, after a period away from study, choose to apply for the advanced concentration addiction studies certificate. Students wishing to continue their studies through this mechanism may count the earlier courses toward the advanced concentration, as long as they meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School and pending surrender of the lower-level credential before being awarded the more-advanced credential. Courses taken more than four years prior to the time of the student’s application will not be considered transferable and will need to be repeated.

Students completing either concentration in the Certificate in Addiction Studies may apply to the Master of Science in Addiction Studies program, also known as the International Programme in Addiction Studies and, if accepted, have their courses count toward that degree as long as they meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School. Courses taken more than four years prior to enrollment in the M.S. program will not be considered current and must be repeated.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements, students are required to successfully complete 12 credit hours in the three required graduate courses.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 600</td>
<td>The Biological Basis of Addiction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 601</td>
<td>Treatment of Addiction: Psychosocial</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interventions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 602</td>
<td>Public Health Issues and Approaches to</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Addictions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this certificate is 12.

**Contact**

Mary E. Loos, Ph.D.
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meloons@vcu.edu
(804) 828-8019

Program website: ipas.vcu.edu (http://ipas.vcu.edu/)