

**ITEM 126-201-R0305**

**M O N T A N A   B O A R D   O F   R E G E N T S**

**NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

**Institution:** Dawson Community College

**Program Title:** Associate of Arts in Chemical Dependency Counseling

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

DCC's mission is to promote "junior level transfer status" and "acquire necessary occupational skills for obtaining employment. The Chemical Dependency Counseling program was designed specifically to meet the latter goal and coincidentally the former. The proposed change to a designated "AA in Chemical Dependency Counseling" is requested for two basic reasons: (1) to address the first mission statement about junior transfer status and (2) to better respond to MCA 37-35-202, specifically paragraph two (see attachments):

"A person may apply for licensure if the person has...a baccalauriate degree in alcohol and drug studies...or...received an Associate of Arts degree in alcohol and drug studies, addiction, or substance abuse from an accredited institution".

In Montana, there are Licensed Addiction Counselors and Interns, who have met all the required educational requirements established by the legislature. After an Intern has been supervised for 1,000 hours, the candidate applies for a written exam and then an oral exam. If both exams are passed, the intern is granted a license and becomes an LAC.

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

This program provides the Montana addiction counseling effort with a steady supply of students ready to enter a paid internships in properly supervised settings. Glendive will soon be opening a DOC counseling facility to replace the recently closed Eastmont center. Community groups have taken the initiative to determine if the DCC Chemical Dependency Counseling program can fill the need for qualified personnel to staff the new facility. These groups were well assured that the program could fulfill that need..

According to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Licensed Addiction Counselor's Program the following are approved sites with a Chemical Dependency Curriculum: Salish-Kootenai College, Blackfeet Community College, Stone Child Community College, Montana Tech -College of Technology, University of Great Falls, Fort Peck Community College, Flathead Community College, and MSU-Billings.

It should be noted that the State Legislature determines some of the educational requirements for counselors. In the past three sessions, bills have been introduced to raise the minimum educational requirements to the B.A. degree. All have been tabled but another effort will be made in the next legislative session. It should also be noted that Montana is far behind national standards for CD counselors so a change to a BA requirement is merely a matter of time.

The change to a designated "AA in Chemical Dependency Counseling" will assist our students to make a smoother transition to junior level status at Montana universities offering (or who will offer) a BA in CDC.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

There is a constant demand for Licensed Addiction Counselors (LACs) and interns for alcohol and drug counseling in Montana. Turn over is fairly constant in this profession, and demand for LACs and interns, though cyclical in nature, exists. DCC's program helps to develop a talented, appropriately-educated pool of interns (future LACs) who will stay in Eastern Montana.

The process for becoming a LAC is as follows: A Masters, Bachelors Degree, or an Associates Degree with proof of 270 hours in specific Chemical Dependency course work including: 30 hours Addiction Assessment; 45 hours Addiction Counseling; 12 hours Pharmacology; 6 hours Ethics for Addiction Counselors; 30 hours Drug and Alcohol Studies; 15 hours Addiction Treatment Planning and Documentation; and 12 hours of Multi-Cultural Competency. Meeting these standards qualifies the applicant as an intern who may then work in an approved Supervised setting for 1000 hours. Upon completion of those hours, the candidate sits for both a written and an oral exam. Upon successful completion, interns are granted a license and become LACs.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

This program contributes to the economic development in Montana, especially eastern Montana. According to the Montana DOLI report "Montana Job Projections 1998-2008" the need for Human Services Workers (There is no specific designation for LACs and interns), in 1998 there were 1,490 jobs, with the 2008 projection being 2,380 making a median wage of \$8.04 per hour. These are jobs requiring extensive On-The-Job Training. The category for jobs requiring Associate's Degrees does not list anything for LACs or interns but this is the proper category for that occupation. The hourly wage should increase. Anecdotal evidence suggests that counselor interns may earn a range of \$22,000 - 26,000 per year which is usually increased upon achieving licensure.

Not to be neglected is the indirect contribution whereby LACs help clients maintain control and sobriety so they may stay in the workforce, reduce the necessity for social welfare assistance and reducing retraining costs of workers dismissed for substance abuse. It is not possible to accurately identify the dollar savings here.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	8.5	FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	3-5	
• Graduates / year?	2-4	
• MT jobs / year?	2-4	

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 38,010.00
• Faculty FTE?	1
• Staff FTE?	0

7. Does this program require new resources?  Yes  No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8. How will the campus fund the program?

Program funding will not change with this change in degree designation.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

no response necessary