

Direct Support Professional

Degree Type

Certificate

Program Description

The Direct Support Professional certificate is designed to provide a solid foundation in communication, behavior management, and critical thinking skills necessary to provide basic services in a variety of settings such as acute, long-term care, personal care, or independent living facilities. Students have the option of becoming a helping professional within a position where a degree is not required, but interpersonal skills and knowledge of human development will be a strong asset. Students may bring varied levels of understanding and experiences; therefore, an emphasis is placed on basic principles of behavior modification, basic medical terminology, ethics in the helping profession, and cultural sensitivity to encourage self-reflection as a competent helper.

This program provides the foundational information and knowledge to function confidently as an assistant in the area of direct client/patient care. It can also serve as professional development for those currently working in the field as a direct support professional. This certificate consists of stackable credits within the Social Service Assistant (A.A.S.) degree program.

Career Opportunities

Successful graduates of this certificate program can seek employment in entry-level positions and assist in providing services in a variety of settings such as:

- Independent Residential Living Facilities
- Long-term Care Facilities
- Personal Care Homes
- Rehabilitation Treatment Facilities

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to work with diverse populations within acute, long-term care, personal care, or independent living facilities.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of basic behavioral analytic principles and procedures.
3. Demonstrate a basic set of helping skills for entry level employment in the field of addictions counseling (i.e., interviewing skills, monitor/record client progress).
4. Collaborate with other multidisciplinary helping professionals to assist in planning/coordinating treatment.
5. Demonstrate cultural sensitivity, critical thinking, and ethical characteristics of a helping professional.

Obtaining the Certificate

To earn the certificate, the student must:

1. Matriculate into the program.
2. Satisfactorily complete all degree requirements, including General Education and Major course requirements of the degree.

Required Courses

Course Code	Title	Credits
	ENG 105 or ENG 110	3
CIT 100	Microcomputer Applications	3
PSY 130	Human Development Across the Lifespan	3
SWK 117	Beginning Interviewing Skills & Documentation	3
SWK 120	Health Information for the Social Sciences	3
PSY 140	Principles of Behavior Management	3
Total Credits		18