

Studying Addictions at AUT

Addictions pathways may be taken in:

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science in Mental Health and Addictions (subject to approval)

Graduate Diploma in Health Science / Graduate Certificate in Health Science

Addiction is a complex problem that affects the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of individuals, their whanau and families and impacts on the wider social environment.

There is an increasing demand in both the mental health and addictions workforce for staff to be CEP (co-existing problems) 'capable'. They can undertake screening and brief intervention wherever the client presents. The over-arching goal of the Addictions pathways is to provide students who have completed a relevant undergraduate major, or equivalent, with the necessary knowledge and skill capacity to commence or advance professional practice in addictions in a range of health and social settings within the New Zealand context.

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Who would these programmes suit?

- Anyone who wants to be more skilled in recognising and working with clients who present with a number of issues including addictions.
- If you are wanting to use the Graduate Certificate/Diploma to register as a practitioner with DAPAANZ (Drug and Alcohol Practitioner's Association of NZ) you will also need to hold an applied bachelor's degree in nursing, psychology, social work, medicine, counselling or closely similar. Applied in this context is defined as comprising a significant component of assessed clinical practice within the learning programme (equivalent to at least 120 hours practicum).

All programmes have been developed to meet national addiction workforce standards.

AK3757 Graduate Certificate in Health Science

(60 Points)

AK1013 Graduate Diploma in Health Science(120 Points)

The Addictions pathway in the Graduate Diploma/Certificate in Health Science equips students with the essential knowledge and skills required to work effectively with people who have substance use and/or gambling related problems in a range of settings.

Key skills you will acquire:

Graduates of both programmes will have the following generic knowledge and attributes:

- Relate appropriately to the client or client group and access, interpret, manage and communicate information effectively.
- Use critical reflective processes to enhance practice.
- Demonstrate skills in identifying priorities for client assessment, treatment planning and intervention within the addictions field.
- Demonstrate ability to be a critical user of evidence to support practice and decision-making processes.
- Provide support and intervention targeted at a specific client population/client group.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with other professionals.
- Demonstrate competence in inter-cultural communication.
- Conduct relationships in ways that ensure ethical and safe (including culturally safe) professional practice.
- Demonstrate competent report writing and oral presentation skills.

Papers:

567414 Drug and Alcohol Studies (15)

An introductory paper, which critically examines models of addiction, explores current interventions, and examines the relationship between substance use and mental health.

567533 Professional Practice in Addictions (15)

Develop knowledge and skills to work professionally with clients with addictive behaviours. Identify legal and ethical considerations, which apply to the field of addictions.

567532 Assessment & Intervention in Addiction (15)

Start to understand the key concepts and theoretical understandings of assessment, treatment planning and clinical interventions for people who have addictions. Develop fundamental skills in working with these interventions.

567529 Tobacco Control (15)

Globally, countries are implementing comprehensive tobacco control policies so that tobacco use is no longer a public and personal health problem. Building a skilled and knowledgeable workforce is a critical part of this. Students, by the end of this paper, will be able to critically analyse the evidence for tobacco control strategies, advocate for interventions at the community, national and international levels, explain the bio-psychosocial factors that contribute to addiction, use treatment intervention skills to help people quit smoking and evaluate emerging needs and potential solutions to support tobacco control.

567534 Gambling Studies (15)

Examines the biological, social, psychological, cultural and political components of gambling and problem gambling. Consider a range of prevention and treatment approaches to address problem gambling.

Other papers may be taken from related programmes subject to the approval of the Board of Studies.

Career Opportunities:

Addiction support workers or counsellors in:

- Non-governmental organisations (NGO) associated with addiction service provision
- Justice sector
- District health
- Public health
- Problem gambling
- Smoking cessation

Entry requirements:

For the Graduate Certificate/Diploma: Undergraduate degree, preferably in an associated area, or its equivalent OR at least three years' professional experience working in addictions or a related field

together with evidence of ability to succeed at the level of a graduate diploma or graduate certificate. NB while these qualifications and experience will gain you entry into the Graduate Certificate and Diploma, they may not be sufficient to ensure registration as a practitioner with DAPAANZ

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SCIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH (AK3484) - 60 points

The Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science in Mental Health and Addictions is made up of two 30-point papers. One of these can be taken alone as a Certificate of Proficiency, or taken together they form a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science

Papers

589343 Assessment for Addictions in Mental Health (30) Develops practitioner knowledge and skills for the screening and management of addictions in a mental health setting

589344 Interventions for Addictions in Mental Health (30)

Develops counselling skills and behaviour change strategies for practitioners working in mental health and addictions services.

Entry requirements:

It will be an advantage to be working in the mental health and/or addictions fields as you will draw on your practice experience throughout the paper. In order to enrol in this pathway you need to be a Registered Health Professional or Registered Practitioner with DAPAANZ. If you do not meet these criteria it may be more appropriate for you to enrol in Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or Masters in Public Health.

English language requirements:

Applicants for whom English or Māori is not their first language are required to provide proof of an acceptable pass/grade gained in an accepted English language test.

For further information please contact:

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