

## 5 Core Questions

### 1. What was the Chemical Dependency Program created to do in the first place?

The Chemical Dependency Program has three distinct components. The first component is the baccalaureate BS/BA degree in Chemical Dependency which is the only program in the State of New Mexico. The second component is the minor in Chemical Dependency. The third component is the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

The Chemical Dependency Program prepares students for careers in areas of chemical dependency counseling, prevention, administration, and research. Students will be able to be employed in public and private organizations as counselors, clinical directors, program directors, case managers, managers in both adolescent and adult treatment programs, prevention specialists, and research specialists.

### 2. What is the Program doing right now?

The objectives of the Chemical Dependency Program are consistent with university objectives. Specifically, the Chemical Dependency Program serves as the only baccalaureate degree in the State of New Mexico. It serves as a regional professional training center which attempts to meet the needs of the addiction counseling field. This is consistent with the university's goal of being a regional institution that provides "affordable and accessible" educational opportunities.

The program contributes to the university goal of helping students "better understand and appreciate diversity, tolerance, and cooperation." The program does this by requiring a course of study that requires students to take 12 credit hours in Sociology and 19 credit hours in Psychology. The whole curriculum of the Chemical Dependency Program emphasizes better understanding of humans and appreciation of diversity, tolerance, and cooperation if students are to become effective addiction counselors.

The program also contributes to the university goal of furthering "an appreciation of the benefits and opportunities derived from community involvement." The program is a co-sponsor of the Criminal Justice/ Chemical Dependency Club which annually participates in community service projects such as IdentiKid, food drives, and helping with university projects such as homecoming and Great Race activities.

The program is increasing the amount of classes that are available on-line and through distance learning formats. This increase is directed at reaching students who cannot attend class on the main campus. The program takes a student centered approach promoting inclusion to the learning environment in an effort to address work force demands in the chemical dependency field.

The program has for more than twenty years been the host program that brings The Silver City Institute (The Institute) to campus. Historically the institute is the oldest continuous addictions education seminar west of the Mississippi and second oldest in the United States. The institute at one time had well over one hundred regular attendees. The program will host the 49<sup>th</sup> institute in 2015 with a goal of two hundred attendees for the 50<sup>th</sup> annual institute in 2016. The institute is an upper division Chemical Dependency class that Criminal Justice and Social Work used as an upper division guided elective

The results of the alumni surveys indicate that they are more than adequately prepared for the addiction counseling field. All of the required Chemical Dependency courses are essential knowledge for the field. The only recommendations for changes in the curriculum have been to make certain courses two semesters. Those courses included Helping Skills in Chemical Dependency, Advanced Helping Skills in Chemical Dependency, Dual Diagnosis, Pharmacology, and Group Dynamics. Of the thirty three graduates, five are out of the field, twenty are working in the field, and eight are in graduate school. Four of the graduates have completed Master degrees and one has completed a Ph.D.

### 3. Should it be doing what it's doing now?

The addiction field in the future will need counselors adept at treating the three key populations of the elderly, adolescents, and criminal justice clients. The State of New Mexico is in the top five states with alcohol and drug problems. Grant County historically has been the number one or number two county in the State of New Mexico with alcohol and drug problems. The State of New Mexico needs more LADACs.

The types of jobs filled by graduates of the Chemical Dependency Program are as follows:

- Counselors
- Program Managers
- Case Managers
- Clinical Directors
- Program Directors
- Prevention Specialists

These positions exist at the local, state, and federal level. They exist in public and private organizations. This degree also qualifies students for positions such as probation and parole officers.

America spends \$484 billion each year on addictions. Chemical dependency is a major health problem in the United States. It ranks in the top three health problems facing this country. Twenty-five percent of Americans die due to addictions. The following statistics are directly related to the use of alcohol and other drugs:

65% of all child abuse cases  
75% of all divorces  
50% of all traffic deaths  
67% of all suicide attempts  
86% of all homicides  
50% of all battered wives  
85% of all fire fatalities  
33% of all suicides  
61% of all criminal arrests  
93% of all juvenile crime and violence  
19 million American men, women, and children have drinking/drug abuse problems  
12 million alcoholics live in America.  
(U. S. Department of Labor)

Substance Abuse/Behavioral Disorder Counselors is one the fastest growing occupations according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The field is projected to grow 31% by 2022.

4. If not, what should it be doing?

The Chemical Dependency Program should be doing more recruiting at Junior and Community Colleges as well at the High School level.

5. How should it do what it should be doing?

1. The only baccalaureate degree in Chemical Dependency in the State of New Mexico.
2. A strong interdisciplinary curriculum requiring 12 credit hours of sociology and 19 credit hours of psychology.
3. A relatively low student to faculty ratio which allows individual attention to students' needs.
4. A highly qualified professor with twenty five years as an alcohol and drug counselor who directs the program and teaches all of the Chemical Dependency courses.
5. Faculty that promotes a student centered environment.

## Appendices

### Number of Majors 2015-2016

	Majors	Minors	Concentration	Total
Fall 2015	14	18	6	38
Fall 2016	12	12	3	27

### Number of Graduates 2011-2016

	BA/BS	BIS –CHDP Conc.	MAIS-CHCP Conc.
2011-2012	7	-	5
2012-2013	4	-	3
2013-2014	5	0	1
2014-2015	3	2	2
2015-2016	0	0	3

### Average Class Size 2016-2017

Fall 2015	21.5
Spring 2016	20.3
Fall 2016	14.8
Spring 2017	14.3

### Student Credit Hour Production 2016-2017 (does not include variable credit)

Fall 2015	312
Spring 2016	315
Fall 2016	318
Spring 2017	255