
COURSE OUTLINE – ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The field of addictions and mental health is an ever-changing one, due to the amount of research being conducted into this major social and health problem. This course provides the latest updates in perspectives on addictions and mental health, understanding of the addictions process and the best practices in terms of treatment approaches and outcomes. The “marriage” of mental health and addictions services in BC is still a recent innovation, and the benefits and disadvantages of this approach are discussed. Though much of the addictions data comes from worldwide study and literature, it is applied to the context of psychiatric nursing in Canada, generally, and BC, in particular, throughout the course. The latest substances being used on the streets, their effects and withdrawal effects are reviewed, as well as the requisite treatment in each case. The approaches to changing addictive behaviours and substance misuse are presented in a comprehensive model which psychiatric nurses are able to apply in their practice.

Pre-requisites: Graduation from an entry-level psychiatric nursing program.

Co-requisites: None.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Provide an overview of substance use and misuse
- Discuss the challenge of defining “addiction”
- Explain the concept of “concurrent-disorders”
- Describe a number of current international, federal and local government approaches to substance use: politics and policy
- Describe a range of treatment models for addictions
- Describe the roles and contribution of psychiatric nursing to the field of addictions
- Cite the ethical issues related to addictions and psychiatric nursing

Course Hours:

4 contact hours per week, for 9 weeks.

Modes of Instruction and Learning

This course is delivered through online modes of teaching and learning. This includes reading and literature search, short assignments, critiquing journal articles and providing responses to various scenarios.

Assessment and Evaluation

Participants are required to successfully complete all learning activities in order to achieve an overall **Mastery grade** for the course. The specific criteria for success will vary with the type of learning activity and are indicated in each individual activity description (online). Generally, participants will be able to resubmit once when a learning activity is deemed by the Consultant as not meeting some or all of the competencies. The maximum number of resubmissions allowed is three and, even then, only at the instructor's discretion. This course should be completed within the maximum time frame of 12 weeks.

Participants are required to achieve a **'Mastery'** grade in all assessable components of the course in order to receive the certificate of completion.

Assignments will be graded within a maximum of 14 days. We ask module participants to contact the office and provide a reminder if they have not heard from us by 10 days after submission of an assignment. Exceptions to these timeframes apply under unusual circumstances, such as when a participant registers for a module and then delays starting or begins the module and is then absent for an extended period of time. Additionally, participants are expected to complete and submit assignments progressively over the course of the module; it is not acceptable for a participant to suddenly submit multiple assignments over the course of one or two days. In any of these situations, the normal maximum of 14 days for return of assignments will be extended at the discretion of, and according to the needs of, the consultant. Moreover, in the event that a participant needs to be reinstated in a module (see Attendance and Participation subsection below), return of assignments may be further delayed by any work-related travel the consultant originally had planned in the new period.

Attendance and Participation

The deadline for completing this course is 12 weeks from the date you first log onto the course-specific site. You are expected to be working on the course and assignments on a regular basis and to indicate to the Consultant how you are progressing or if you need assistance to progress. Failure to complete this course within the deadline or to maintain regular communication for a prolonged period (one month) could result in your being withdrawn from the online learning centre. A reinstatement fee of \$100.00 may be payable should you wish to continue with the course after this time. If you repeat the same failure to maintain communication for a **second time**, you will be required to pay another reinstatement fee of \$100.00. If you repeat the same failure to maintain communication for a **third time**, or if you are absent for a period of six months without communication (even if this is your first time failing to communicate regularly), you will have to pay the entire course and administration fees over again. Decisions in this regard are at the sole discretion of JCC Inc.

Technical Issues (Reminder)

Technical problems can arise from a number of sources in online learning programs. Participants having technical difficulties should report them to JCC Inc. as soon as possible by e-mail, fax or phone. The news forums or e-mail will be used to notify participants of any known issues. Please read the front page of the online learning site, the news forum and check your e-mail frequently to keep aware of current conditions and issues. Participants will not be penalized for technical problems which arise from our LMS or the Server. Requests for assistance will be given priority responses.

Withdrawal & Refund Policy

In order to withdraw from continuing education at JCC Inc., all participants must provide written notice. The date upon which this written notice is received will be used to determine the amount of any potential refund based upon the following policy:

- (a) If written notice of withdrawal is received by JCC Inc. or a participant is dismissed within 8 days since the participant first logged on to the Online Learning Centre, then JCC Inc. may retain 30% of the tuition.
- (b) If written notice of withdrawal is received by JCC Inc. or a participant is dismissed after 8 days and within 25 days since the participant first logged on to the Online Learning Centre, then JCC Inc. may retain 50% of the tuition.
- (c) If written notice of withdrawal is received by JCC Inc. or a participant is dismissed at any point after 25 days since the participant first logged on to the Online Learning Centre, then JCC Inc. may retain 100% of the tuition.

***N.B.:** Notice must be received by e-mail to info@jcollinsconsulting.com by 4:00 p.m. (PST) on or before the days stated above.

All program participants are required to read the “Site Policies” on the Online Learning Centre front page. The URL sent to you in the registration e-mail, with your username and password, will take you to this page. These documents have important policy information and assistance with assignments. You will be subject to the policies and expectations outlined in these documents, therefore, it is critical that you read them before starting your module/course.