

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

CSL6760.E1 Addiction Counseling
Fall 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

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COURSE INFORMATION:

CSL6760.E1 Addiction Counseling
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 12, 2026

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Addiction Treatment: A Strengths Perspective
Author: Katherine Van Wormer and Diane Rae Davis
Publisher: Cengage Publishing Company
Year Published: 2025
Edition: 5th
ISBN: 13: 9780357936344 Price:
Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Amberton University has an agreement with eCampus.com to provide a full-service online bookstore to students. The Amberton University Virtual Bookstore is accessible through the University's website, www.Amberton.edu. There is also a bookstore link in the Student Portal.

The AU Virtual Bookstore provides an easy to use interface, online buyback of books, and same day shipment of most titles with an average delivery time of 2-3 days depending on the student's location. Textbook options include new, used, rental, and electronic media as available.

Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping. Be certain you are enrolled in the course before purchasing your book(s). All textbook information (Title, Author, ISBN, etc.) is available in the course syllabi so students can shop competitively. Most textbooks can be purchased from many different textbook vendors. Some textbooks may only be available on the University's Virtual Bookstore. Students should be careful to obtain the exact resource(s) required for the course.

LINKS TO COUNSELING HANDBOOKS

MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
[CMHC Handbook](#)

MA in Marriage and Family Therapy
[MFT Handbook](#)

MA in School Counseling

APA Requirement

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The course presents a study of alcohol and drug addiction and other troublesome compulsive behavior. An introduction to the essential components of addiction is provided. In addition, the course will include an overview of the primary aspects of addiction counseling such as the physical and psychological effects of drug abuse and chemical addiction, the elements of psychopharmacology, the assessment and diagnosis of substance abuse and chemical dependency, the treatment of addictive disorders, and topics focused on special populations. The course in addiction counseling will be very beneficial to students enrolled in the professional counseling degree program. It is essential for students at Amberton University to have knowledge and skills conducive to working with individuals and families that suffer from alcohol and substance use and abuse. This course is designed to prepare students to function as counselors for those who have alcohol, drug, gambling, sexual, and other harmful addictions.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Defining addiction and tracing the history of the field.
2. Identifying the major theories that attempt to explain addiction.
3. Learning alcohol and drug assessments using the SASSI, the ASI, the MAST, the DAST, and other addiction assessment instruments.
4. Examining and understanding the addiction and recovery process.
5. Addiction counseling training to comprehend addiction etiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning.
6. Learning and understanding the biology and physiology of addiction counseling.
7. Understanding psychopharmacology as it relates to addictive behaviors and addiction treatment.
8. Comprehending the physiology and psychology of alcoholism and drug abuse.
9. Assessing the relationship between the different types of addiction.
10. Understanding the physiology and psychology of eating disorders.
11. Synthesizing the effects of addiction, including sexual, gambling, smoking, chocolate, and other compulsive behaviors.
12. Comparing and contrasting the various traditional approaches to the treatment of addiction.
13. Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the "Twelve Step Approach" in treating addictions.
14. Evaluating and understanding the Social Learning and Cognitive approaches to treating addictive behaviors.
15. Understanding "Relapse" and "Relapse Prevention" related to addiction.
16. Examining and discussing the role of the family in treating addictions.
17. Comprehending the concepts of tolerance, withdrawal, and the detoxification process.
18. Introducing addictions treatment concepts and requirements in preparation for the Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) exam and addictions counseling licensure
19. Understanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to research the efficacy of addiction counseling with general and targeted population demographics.
20. Examining the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to avoid plagiarism while writing clinical reports, notes, or preparing papers for publication.

ACQUIRED SKILLS:

1. Ability to compare and contrast traditional approaches to the treatment of addiction.
2. Ability to identify and manage the "Twelve Step Approach" in treating addictions.
3. Ability to examine and discuss the role of the family in treating addictions.

COURSE POLICIES:

Make Up Exam Policy:

Make-up exams for the midterm exam will be given by appointment only. Notify instructor (via course email, Moodle, or in person) if you are unable to complete the midterm exam during the prescribed times. Make-up exams for the final exam will **only be given in extreme situations**. Make-up exams for the final exam must be approved by the instructor. Students not taking the final exam will be given a grade of “F” for the course. Upon completion of the exam and all required coursework, a grade change will be submitted to the Academic Services Office.

Late Assignment Policy:

All assignments will be submitted by 11:59pm CST on Wednesdays. Any assignment submitted after the due date will automatically lose a letter grade. All assignments submitted after the second week will automatically receive a failing grade.

Student's Responsibilities

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. A Student in a lecture course missing more than 20% (two class periods for weekday classes or one class period for Saturday classes) of the class meetings may be assigned a grade of an “F” or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. “Active participation” can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an “F” or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin “Draft Coach” is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student’s writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Key Dates to Consider:

- Peer Reviewed Article Report – Week 3 (09/26/26)
- LCDR Report – Week 4 (10/03/26)
- Midterm Exam – Week 5 (10/10/26)
- AI-Anon & AA or NA Report – Week 8 (10/31/26)
- Final Exam – Week 10 (11/14/26)

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
Week 1: 09/12/26	Chapter 1: The Nature of Addiction; Chapter 2: Historical Perspectives of Addiction		1-20	
Week 2: 09/19/26	Chapter 3: Alcohol: Its Use and Misuse; Chapter 4: Drugs Other than Alcohol – Depressants, Stimulants, Hallucinogens, and Cannabis		1-20	

Week 3: 09/26/26	Chapter 5: Substance Use Disorder with Co-Occurring Mental Conditions; Chapter 6: Gambling, Eating Disorders, Spending, and Other Behavioral Addictions	Peer Reviewed Article Report Due	1-20	09/26/26
Week 4: 10/03/26	Chapter 7: Addiction Across the Life Span	LCDC Report Due	1-20	10/03/26
Week 5: 10/10/26		Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-7)	1-20	10/10/26
Week 6: 10/17/26	Chapter 8: Screening, Assessment, and Diagnosis; Chapter 9: Strengths/Evidence Based Helping Strategies		1-20	
Week 7: 10/24/26	Chapter 10: Mutual-Help Groups; Chapter 11: Family Risks and Resiliency		1-20	
Week 8: 10/31/26		Al-Anon & AA/NA Experience Report	1-20	10/31/26
Week 9: 11/07/26	Chapter 12: Race, Ethnicity, Culture, and the Socioeconomic Determinants of Addiction; Chapter 13: Gender, Sexual, and Sexual Orientation Differences		1-20	
Week 10: 11/14/26		Final Exam (Chapters 8-13)	1-20	11/14/26

GRADING CRITERIA:

Assignments	Percentages
Assignment #1 (Peer Reviewed Article Report) All learners will review and submit a peer-reviewed journal article.	15%
Assignment #2 (LCDC Report) All learners will review and report on the requirements to become a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC).	10%
Assignment #3 (Al-anon & AA/NA Groups Report) Learners will complete a comprehensive report of their experiences after attending these two meetings.	25%
Midterm Exam – Covers chapters 1-7 Learners will complete the midterm exam on Moodle from 8:30am-12:00pm.	25%
Final Exam – Covers chapters 8-13. Learners will complete the final exam on Moodle from 8:30am-12:00pm.	25%
Total Possible	100%

Graduate

92 – 100 A

82 – 91 B

72 – 81 C

62 – 71 D

Below 62 F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (Library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.