



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
School of Social Work

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELING**

### **GUIDELINES FOR NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE STUDENTS**

The UGA School of Social Work offers a non-degree graduate certificate for individuals who have earned an undergraduate degree and are seeking to enhance their skills and knowledge in substance use counseling. Completion of the Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling will prepare you to be competent in the delivery of quality care for those affected by substance use. In this program, students will be trained to 1) Develop advanced evidence-based treatment competencies and 2) develop a comprehensive knowledge of the bio-psycho-social dynamics associated with substance use

Certificate students who decide to apply to the Master of Social Work program may use 9 credit hours toward the MSW degree. A separate application to the MSW program is required.

#### **PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The program consists of a minimum of **4 graduate level courses of 3 semester hours each**, drawn from courses in the Masters in Social Work degree curriculum.

**1. Three courses are required:**

<b>SOWK 7120</b>	<b>Overview of Substance Use</b>
<b>SOWK 7220</b>	<b>Approaches to Substance Use Treatment</b>
<b>SOWK 7240</b>	<b>Assessment and Treatment of Trauma</b>

**2. One comprehensive course in working with groups is also required**

- Within the school of social work, this course is **SOWK 7116 (Social work with groups, 3 credits)**.
- Non-MSW degree seeking students may take a comprehensive course in working with groups within another department, so long as the certificate program coordinator approves the course.

*These are the program's catchall course numbers Although the course number is the same, the course title and instructor will vary from section and semester.*

In some cases, one of the courses toward the Certificate may come from a different field if the relationship to substance use is clear. The student must discuss this option with the program office before taking the course.

## HOW TO APPLY TO THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Apply to the Graduate School as a Non-Degree Certificate student: <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/prospective-students/student-information/admissions-bulletin/apply>. You should submit the following with your application:

- Application for admission
- Application-processing fee
- Unofficial transcripts from the institution that awarded the highest degree (undergraduate degree is required for admission). Official transcripts will be required after an offer of admission.
- A goals statement. A successful goals statement reflects your passion for working in substance use and describes the impact you hope to make in your career by addressing the following questions:
  - Why are you seeking the Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Counseling?
  - What experiences, professional and/or personal, have led you to pursue the certificate?
  - What are your professional goals regarding work in the delivery of care and treatment for persons with substance use problems? Please include a brief outline of your areas of interest with respect to both content (ie: environment; arts; human services; etc.) as well as process (ie: direct service delivery; program evaluation; program management and administration; etc.).
- TOEFL scores for international students (refer to English Language Proficiency Requirement).
- One letter of recommendation. Submit a letter of recommendation from an individual who can evaluate your scholarly ability and potential for success in a graduate program. **This letter should be sent directly from the recommender as an email attachment to [sucertificate@uga.edu](mailto:sucertificate@uga.edu).**

For more information about the requirements for admission, visit the Graduate School webpage on Non-Degree and Transient Students. <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/prospective-students/domestic-application-information/requirements/non-degree-or-transient-status/>. Once your application is complete, has been reviewed, and you have been accepted you will receive follow up information on what to do next to start the program.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact [sucertificate@uga.edu](mailto:sucertificate@uga.edu) or call 706-542-5441.