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Find career satisfaction,
job stability, and personal
fulfillment working as a CAC



Begin your journey
towards state CAC
certification

Certificate in Certified Addiction Counselor

Achieve a rewarding career as a Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC)

The need for compassionate professionals dedicated to helping those struggling with addictive behaviors is growing. Certified Addiction Counselors work with individuals, couples, families, and others affected by addiction — providing critical coping skills, education, and support. By earning this certificate, you'll develop the skills and hands-on experience needed to address the unique effects of addiction disorders, which can impact all aspects of a person's life. Graduates of Goodwin's Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC) program gain the knowledge and skills necessary to begin earning their state certification with the Connecticut Certification Board (CCB).

Prepare for a career helping others by becoming a Certified Addiction Counselor

As a certified addiction counselor, you'll work collaboratively with a team of medical professionals and mental health providers to help people in your community who are suffering from substance abuse problems and other addictive behaviors. You'll develop the knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate individual and group support services, intervene during a crisis, and provide critical community outreach and education. As a certified addiction counselor, you will use your voice to influence policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, advocating for professionals in the field and those receiving treatment.

Certificate in Certified Addiction Counselor

Curriculum		
First semester		
HSR 222	Foundations of Helping and Service Delivery	3
HSR 297	Human Services Internship I	3
Second semester		
HSR/PSY 235	Introduction to Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders	3
HSR 298	Human Services Internship II	3
Third semester		
PSY 215	Abnormal Psychology	3
HSR 493	Human Services Capstone I	3

Total credits: 18

Goodwin University is a nonprofit institution of higher education and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly known as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Learn from experts in the field

In this program, you'll learn from Goodwin's expert faculty of clinical mental health counselors, addictions professionals, social workers, and psychologists. You'll gain an in-depth understanding of the causes and treatment of substance abuse disorders and how these disorders affect our communities. You'll learn the necessary skills to work with individuals and families to counsel, educate, and support those affected by addiction. You will help clients develop new coping strategies that can create lifelong positive change. At Goodwin, you can gain the skills you'll need to become the support professional your community needs.

Prepare for success as a certified addiction counselor

At Goodwin, our CAC program is a pathway to earning your CAC certification through the Connecticut Certification Board (CCB). Beyond the 300 hours of fieldwork required to complete your studies, non-degree-holding students must complete 6,000 hours of substance abuse counseling work experience.

Note that fewer hours are required if you hold a college degree.

- **Associate degree holders** can earn CAC certification after completing 5,000 hours of substance abuse counseling work experience.
- **Bachelor's degree holders** can earn CAC certification after completing 4,000 hours of substance abuse counseling work experience.
- **Master's degree holders** can earn CAC certification after completing 3,000 hours of substance abuse counseling work experience.

Possible workplaces include:

- Community health facilities
- Governmental agencies
- Hospitals
- Mental health clinics
- Methadone maintenance facilities
- Non-profit organizations
- Outpatient clinics
- Private medical clinics
- Residential treatment facilities