

HUSC 240

Supporting Clients Experiencing Psychopathology

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

Description

HUSC 240 – Supporting Clients Experiencing Psychopathology: In this course, students apply counseling skills to working with individuals experiencing mental illness within the scope of practice of the human services fields, with a focus on differential diagnosis and therapeutic interventions.

Pre-requisites: HUSC 139 and PSYC 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. compare developmentally typical and atypical behavior;
2. identify scope of practice in the provision of diagnosis and diagnostic impressions;
3. describe the use of the rule out and provisional diagnoses;
4. distinguish between the classifications of disorders listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM);
5. identify the diagnostic criteria for and common presentations of several prevalent mental health disorders;
6. apply a model of differential diagnosis to clinical case scenarios;
7. recognize the common biases that interfere with the diagnostic process;
8. identify ways in which sociocultural differences affect the presentation of disorders, diagnosis, access to care, quality of care, and treatment outcomes;
9. assess readiness to change using the Stages of Change model and implications for the client's treatment engagement;
10. formulate interventions using counseling skills based upon a client's clinical presentations and readiness to change;
11. predict outcomes of advanced counseling skills in scenarios with individuals experiencing mental illness;
12. formulate recommendations for a multidisciplinary treatment team based on the client's clinical presentation;
13. illustrate situations in which a client should be referred to a different level of intervention;
14. describe the interrelationships between co-occurring disorders as they may present across the lifespan;
15. respond to client's suicidal or homicidal ideations with an appropriate safety plan;
16. analyze a case study for legal and ethical concerns; and

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

17. document objective diagnostic impressions, treatment plans, and progress toward goals.

Major Topics

- I. Defining developmentally typical and atypical behavior
- II. Traits of major mental health diagnoses
- III. Readiness to change assessment
- IV. Identifying and documenting diagnostic impressions
- V. Treatment planning, referral, and documentation of progress
- VI. Application of primary counseling skills
- VII. Reinforcement of advanced counseling skills
- VIII. Bias and stigma
- IX. Co-occurring disorders
- X. Major therapies and pharmacotherapies
- XI. Safety planning
- XII. Legal and ethical issues
- XIII. Roles and responsibilities on multidisciplinary treatment teams
- XIV. Objective writing and documentation

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Four written or verbal applications of counseling skills
- Two written applications of differential diagnosis and supporting documentation
- Two examples of objective goal and progress documentation
- One activism project addressing a mental health issue
- One written comprehensive intervention plan

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course meets the requirements for Abnormal Psychology for the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists.

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