

**Common Course Outline**  
**HUSC 213**  
**Ethics in Addiction Counseling**  
**1 Credit**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**HUSC 213 – Ethics in Addiction Counseling** introduces the standards of ethical behavior in the substance use disorders counseling field, with particular emphasis on client confidentiality and ethical decision-making.

**1 Credit**

**Prerequisites:** HUSC 142 or consent of the program coordinator

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. define professional ethics;
2. identify at least two professional codes of ethics in the substance use disorders counseling field;
3. describe the relationship between ethics, morals, and values;
4. identify the common values that underlie codes of ethics in the helping professions;
5. apply federal and state laws to protect client confidentiality;
6. apply an ethical decision-making model to hypothetical client scenarios;
7. discuss the unique ethical issues inherent in working within the substance use disorders counseling setting;
8. identify credentialing bodies that oversee substance use disorders counseling;
9. demonstrate appropriate objective writing skills;
10. identify two professional organizations in the field of substance use disorders counseling, and describe their purposes and benefits to counselors; and,
11. discuss the role of clinical supervision in ethical helping behavior.

**Major Topics**

- I. Ethics, morals, and values
- II. Underlying values in the helping professions
- III. Professional codes of ethics
- IV. Federal and state laws governing ethical behavior
- V. Ethical decision-making
- VI. Documentation of ethical clinical work
- VII. Unique ethical issues in substance use disorders counseling
- VIII. Competence and credentialing
- IX. Clinical supervision

X. Professional organizations

**Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

**Grading/exams**

At least one written assignment demonstrating objective writing skills

At least one written case study analysis

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

**Other Course Information**

This course is an elective in the Human Services Counseling degree program, and may also be taken by students in other programs or majors. This course meets the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists requirement for Ethics for Counselor Trainee status.

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