Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health

The Graduate Certificate in Children’s Mental Health prepares graduate students and post graduates to practice children’s mental health using principles and methods from multidisciplinary sources to assist in the mental health treatment of children and their families. This certificate will strengthen competencies for work in education, social work and psychology jobs that specialize in children’s mental health. The program builds on the knowledge and skills acquired through current or previous master’s level study in these or related fields. The 13-credit graduate certificate is designed to supplement each candidate’s existing experience and academic preparation and the extent to which each candidate achieves the program outcomes. Therefore, specific required courses are not listed for some of the course requirements, since individual graduate studies plans may vary considerably based on the prior coursework of each candidate. The faculty advisors will use the program’s academic preparation requirements derived from state and national children’s mental health workforce competency guidelines to guide coursework selections included on the graduate studies plan. Students develop advanced knowledge and competencies for working with children’s mental health issues as well as cross-discipline skills for working in Alaska’s systems of care. Applicants may either be in a behavioral health graduate program or have graduated from an approved program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Graduate Certificate in Children’s Mental Health must:

- Satisfy the Admission Requirements for Graduate Certificates (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate).
- Complete the Children’s Mental Health Graduate Certificate Application, which can be found on the program website (http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/psych/Programs/childrens-mental-health-graduate-certificate.cfm).
- Have graduated from or currently be students in an accredited or approved program of social work, psychology, counseling/special education, or a related field.
- Have completed a prerequisite or corequisite course in child development.
- Provide a written summary of their children’s mental health related experiences and career goals.

Graduation Requirements

- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Graduate Certificates (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/gradcertrequirements).
- Complete the program requirements below.

- Complete the curriculum requirements for the graduate certificate with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better. All courses must be at or above a grade of B.

Program Requirements

Area Requirements

Applicants who have graduated from or are currently students in an accredited or approved program of social work, psychology, counseling/special education, or a related field are required to complete or show evidence of having successfully completed graduate coursework in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family systems</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment/intervention/ethics in children’s mental health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty content coursework in children’s behavioral health issues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements

In addition, applicants are required to complete the following courses as part of the certificate program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY/EDSE/SWK A677</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary Seminar in Children's Mental Health</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY/EDSE/SWK A691</td>
<td>Children's Mental Health Systems of Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 13 credits is required for the certificate.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

The program is designed to expand specific skills and clinical experiences in children’s mental health and allow students to expand their expertise through a multidisciplinary understanding of children’s mental health practices in Alaska. Outcomes for the program are based on state and national competency guidelines for children’s mental health. Students who complete this program will be able to:

- practice within the legal and ethical parameters of the profession.
- identify children and their families who are at risk and to assess and intervene properly.
- apply a variety of theories and methods of assessment and intervention in their practice.
- understand systems of care as they apply to children’s mental health.
- assess, collaborate, intervene and document resources and services for children’s mental health.