

Addiction and Dependency

Lower level, Liberal, 4 credits

Addiction and Dependency is considered to be lower level knowledge that is liberal. It represents foundational skills and concepts that an entry level human service worker has acquired. Addiction and Dependency is more often about why we do things (i.e., liberal) and not necessarily how we do things (i.e., non-liberal). At Empire State College and community colleges, the course in Addiction and Dependency is offered at the lower level.

The questions below can only be utilized for Addiction and Dependency at the lower level, not advanced level. There is a PLA guide for Interventions for Addiction Disorders at the advanced level in this area. Please discuss with your mentor which might best fit your experience.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Addiction and Dependency. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as Addiction and Dependency, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Lower Level and Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is not a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to

We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith Addiction and Dependency PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: Addiction and Dependency

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Lower level, Liberal

1. Please describe your experiences working in the addictions field.

2. Please list any workshops or trainings that you have taken in order to work in the addictions field.

3. Identify and explain two models of addiction. Why do clinicians choose one model over another? Please use references to justify your answers, make sure to cite appropriately.

4. What is one myth or stereotype that clinicians should be aware of when working with the addictions populations? As a clinician, what might you do to lower stigmas associated with this myth or stereotype?

5. Select one specific drug or drug class/group from the following list: Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Synthetic Opiates (Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, and Fentanyl), Cannabis/THC, Tobacco/Nicotine, Alcohol, Benzodiazepines, and Heroin and Morphine. Please use references to justify your answers, make sure to cite appropriately.

- What are the primary effects of this drug on the body?
- Once a person has developed a pattern of regular use or has progressed to addiction to this drug, what makes stopping use of this drug so difficult?
- What are the reinforcing qualities about this drug that keep people wanting and continuing to use it?

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7. Choose one of the following disorders: depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder. Why is addiction so closely associated with one of these three co-occurring disorders? What specific substance class is strongly connected to this co-occurring disorder and why? Please use references to justify your answers, make sure to cite appropriately.

8. What are some issues that a clinician should be aware of when working with a family member of an individual experiencing addiction? Please use references to justify your answers, make sure to cite appropriately.