

Social Work and Chemical Dependency Counseling

The Nature of Generalist Social Work Practice

The curriculum in our Bachelor of Social Work program prepares generalist social work practitioners and uses the ecological perspective as the theoretical foundation of generalist practice. Generalist social work entails training for services involving individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations and communities.

Chemical Dependency Counseling via Social Work Education

It may be the case that some social work students desire to practice chemical dependency counseling, becoming licensed as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC), and wish to pursue that career option through social work; or some social work students may desire to become a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW) and a LCDC. This may increase employment opportunities in the areas of social work in corrections (adult and juvenile), in agencies where the mission includes chemical dependency counseling, and in certain mental health agencies (e.g., clinics and hospitals).

About Chemical Dependency Counseling and Scope of Practice

As taken directly from the [Licensed Chemical Dependency Program website](#): A licensed chemical dependency counselor (LCDC) is licensed to provide chemical dependency counseling services involving the application of the principles, methods, and procedures of the chemical dependency profession as defined by the profession's ethical standards and the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) as defined by rule in 25 TAC ch. 441 (relating to General Provisions). The license does not qualify an individual to provide services outside this scope of practice.

The scope of practice for a chemical dependency counselor includes services that address substance abuse/dependence and/or its impact on the service recipient subject to the following:

- the counselor is prohibited from using techniques that exceed his or her professional competence;
- the service recipient may only be the user, family member or any other person involved in a significant relationship with an active user;
- LCDCs may diagnose substance disorders, but anything other than a mental health diagnostic impression must be determined by a qualified professional; and
- LCDCs are not qualified to treat individuals with a mental health disorder or provide family counseling to individuals whose presenting problems do not include chemical dependency.

The **Practice of Chemical Dependency Counseling Services** is defined by rule as "Providing or offering to provide chemical dependency counseling services involving the application of the principles, methods, and procedures of the chemical dependency counseling profession as defined by the activities listed in the domains of TAP 21 "Addictions Counseling Competencies: the Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes of Professional Practice" published by CSAT" ([Licensed Chemical Dependency Program, 2005](#)).

Click the following link for the Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Program's Rules/Regulations http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lcdc/lcdc_rules.shtm that related to licensure requirements, scope of practice, and so forth.