

Archived: August 8, 2022

Health Programs

Community Mental Health Worker

Location Offered:

Online

Credential:

Certificate

Program Length:

8 Months

The Program

The Community Mental Health Worker Program will define entry level competencies for employment in the field of community mental health and addictions that are based on the principles of psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery. Students will engage in courses focused on theory and practical learning, including a community based practicum. The focus of the program will be on relationships, rehabilitation and personal care, and on providing the knowledge and hands-on training needed for graduates to start meaningful careers in a variety of institutional, community, and residential settings.

Note: 24 credits of the CMHW program can be used towards the 60 credits required to apply for third-year entry to the VIU Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Program Outline

Semester 1		Credits
CMHW 110 - (Introduction to Practice)		3
CMHW 111 - (Introduction to Mental Health: Theory and Practice)		3
CMHW 115 - (Developing Therapeutic Relationships)		3
CMHW 135 - (Mental Health and Addictions)		3
Total Semester Credits		12
Semester 2		Credits
CMHW 120 - (Approaches to Support)		3
CMHW 130 - (Care of Self and Others)		3
CMHW 145 - (Mental Health Assessment and Interventions)		3
CMHW 140 - (Practicum)		6
Total Semester Credits		15
Total Credits		27

Completion Requirements

- Students must successfully complete all seven courses and the practicum in the program.
- Students are required to attend all scheduled lectures, observations, examinations and practicum hours. If you do not meet the attendance requirements, you will not qualify to receive the program certificate.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12, with minimum “C” grade, or equivalent.

Notes on Admission

- *Proof of successful completion of the following must be received well in advance of the practicum experience and preferably before the program starts.*
 - Current Standard First Aid with Level “C” CPR.
 - A completed Immunization Requirements Form.
 - Foodsafe Certificate.
- Criminal Record Check: Practicums will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through VIU. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by email regarding the requirements for a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the Ministry according to the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through the RCMP is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.
- Applicants with previous experience in health care area preferred (but not required).
- Enrolment in this program is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Note: To view current course offerings and register check the *Professional Development and Training* web page.

Career Opportunities

This certificate is recognized as a qualification for employment for mental health worker positions within Island Health. Island Health has recently indicated an increasing demand for qualified mental health workers across the Island with many positions anticipated in the central Vancouver Island region.

As part of a multi-disciplinary team providing client-focused treatment and rehabilitation, Community Mental Health Workers can choose to work in a variety of institutional, residential and community settings.

Start Date and Application Deadline

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