

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics

Program Title:

Alcohol and Drug Studies Certificate of Achievement

Program Status:

Active from 2025-2026 Fall (2025FA)

Department:

Alcohol & Drug Studies

Award Type:

Certificate of Achievement (Credit)

Program/Catalog Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Alcohol and Drug Studies integrates foundational principles and essential skills into a comprehensive program that includes hands-on experience through practicum courses. This capstone component provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic learning in real-world professional settings, bridging the gap between theory and practice. As part of the program requirements, students register as an intern with one of the three state-approved accreditation organizations to ensure they are on track for professional certification. Additionally, students are required to complete 150 hours of supervised fieldwork per semester over two semesters, totaling 300 hours of practical experience. The program equips students with the competencies needed to function effectively in professional environments, emphasizing record-keeping, case management, and collaboration with social service systems. Through this tiered approach, students not only develop a strong theoretical and practical foundation in alcohol and drug counseling but also gain the direct field experience necessary to excel in professional roles within the substance use treatment field. The Certificate of Achievement in Alcohol and Drug Studies is approved by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators (C.A.A.D.E.).

Control Number:

16691

Credential ID:

No value

Transferability:

No value

(SP01) Program TOP Code:

2104.40

(SP01) Program TOP Code:

Alcohol and Controlled Substances

(SP02) Student Program Award:

Certificate requiring 30 to fewer than 60 semester units

Maximum Credits:

39

Minimum Credits:

39

Curriculum Committee Approval Date:

04/10/2025

Board of Trustees Approval Date:

05/13/2025

External Review Approval Date:

05/13/2025

Proposal Details

Proposal Start:

2025-2026 Fall (2025FA)

What changes have been made to the program:

Changes to certificate description, changing sequence to match state alcohol and drug counselor requirements. Removed PSY 101, PSY 201, PSY 210. and SOC 101, classes are not needed for CAADE certification

Program Justification:

No value

Submission Rationale

- Change to Content

Program Requirements

Alcohol and Drug Studies Certificate of Achievement (Total 39)

Complete all of the following

Required Core Foundation Courses (Total 18)

Complete the following number of credits: 18

ADS101 - Introduction to Addiction Studies	3
ADS102 - Pharmacology and Physiological Effects of Addiction	3
ADS104 - Addiction Prevention Education and Outreach/Referral	3
ADS105 - Co-occurring Disorders and Chemical Dependency	3
ADS110 - Introduction to Social Work and Human Services	3
ADS111 - Law and Ethics in Alcohol and Drug Studies	3

Required Core Skill Building Courses (Total 15)

Complete the following number of credits: 15

ADS103 - Case Management and Documentation	3
ADS106 - Counseling Interventions	3
ADS107 - Group Counseling	3
ADS108 - Family Dynamics of Addictions	3
ADS109 - Substance Abuse in Special Populations	3

Required Core Field Study Courses (Total 6)

Complete the following number of credits: 6

ADS150 - Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies I	3
ADS151 - Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies II	3

Recommended Sequences

No value

Program Outcomes

Alcohol and Drug Studies Certificate of Achievement

PSLO	Performance
------	-------------

1. Obtained competencies of knowledge and skill in alcohol and drug treatment.	70
--	----

Program Narrative

Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

The Alcohol & Drug Studies Program (ADS) is designed to provide students with academic and practical skills for entry-level employment in alcohol and drug treatment programs, training in alcohol and drug abuse counseling for employment with human services organizations and training for professionals who wish to expand their knowledge and skills. The goals are to develop basic competencies in counseling, case management, record keeping, treatment planning, pharmacology and physiology of substance abuse dependency, and social services systems.

Students must be mature, emotionally stable, and have strong reading, writing, and interpersonal skills to be successful in this program. Non-abuse and non-dependency on illicit drugs, including alcohol, is required.

The Alcohol and Drug Studies Certificate of Achievement is approved by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators (C.A.A.D.E.), and qualifies the recipient to take the Certified Addictions Treatment Counselors (CATC) examination as part of California licensure requirements.

The ADS Program supports the College's Institutional goal to deliver and continuously improve upon quality educational programs emphasizing student learning leading to certification and personal growth and career enhancement. The ADS program supports this goal by offering a Certificate of Achievement and courses in ADS serve to fulfill transferable requirements and/or electives.

The goals of the ADS Program Learning Outcomes are for students to obtain fundamental skills and knowledge in the principles and practices in alcohol and drug treatment. The ADS courses can be taken for lifelong learning. The program also supports the College goals by engaging in regular assessment, which leads to the identification of course and program weaknesses, and encourages relevant solutions to make ongoing improvements to the quality of the ADS Program.

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

The Certificate of Achievement in Alcohol and Drug Studies integrates foundational principles and essential skills into a comprehensive program that includes hands-on experience through practicum courses. This capstone component provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic learning in real-world professional settings, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

As part of the program requirements, students register as an intern with one of the three state-approved accreditation organizations to ensure they are on track for professional certification. Additionally, students are required to complete 150 hours of supervised fieldwork per semester over two semesters, totaling 300 hours of practical experience.

The program equips students with the competencies needed to function effectively in professional environments, emphasizing record-keeping, case management, and collaboration with social service systems. Through this tiered approach, students not only develop a strong theoretical and practical foundation in alcohol and drug counseling but also gain the direct field experience necessary to excel in professional roles within the substance use treatment field. The Certificate of Achievement in Alcohol and Drug Studies is approved by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators (C.A.A.D.E.).

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

ADS Certificate of Achievement: 39 Units

Program Requirements

Alcohol and Drug Studies Certificate of Achievement (Total 39)

Complete all of the following

Required Core Courses (Total 18)

ADS101 - Introduction to Addiction Studies

ADS102 - Pharmacology and Physiological Effects of Addiction

ADS104 - Addiction Prevention Education and Outreach/Referral

ADS105 - Co-occurring Disorders and Chemical Dependency

ADS111 - Law and Ethics in Alcohol and Drug Studies

Required Core Skill Building Courses (total 15)

ADS103 - Case Management and Documentation

ADS106 - Counseling Interventions

ADS107 - Group Counseling

ADS108 - Family Dynamics of Addictions

Required Core Field Study Courses (total 6)

ADS150 - Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies I

ADS151 - Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies II

Narrative Item 4. Master Planning (Not needed for Certificates of Career Preparation)

The Alcohol and Drug Studies (ADS) Program has been designed in order to provide students with the academic and practical skills for entry-level employment in alcohol and drug treatment programs, which includes training in alcohol and drug abuse counseling. Such training prepares students for employment within human services organizations, while also providing training for human services professionals who wish to expand their knowledge, their skills and overall preparation. The goals of this program are to develop basic competencies in case management, counseling, case management, record keeping, treatment planning, pharmacology and physiology of substance abuse dependency, as well as social service systems.

Mention should also be made that an ADS career prepares individuals to work with groups who suffer from addictions to alcohol or other drugs. Based on information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of substance abuse counselors is expected to rise by 22% until the year 2028, which is significantly higher than the national average for any other occupations. Furthermore, the mean wage for such professionals in 2018, was of \$47,920. As a result, the field is growing and the demand for such careers is adequate and would more than likely become quite high.

Overall, the Certificate in Achievement in ADS includes coursework and a supervised fieldwork practicum required for certification by the *California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators* (CAADE), as well as the *California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals* (CCAPP).

Narrative Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections (Not needed for Certificates of Career Preparation)

ADS courses continue being taught consistently, and ADS course schedules have been set for two years and these set schedules include the practicum courses, thus allowing for stable numbers in ADS Certificates being completed. In addition, it is evident that the last few years, there has been an upward trend in ADS course enrollment and we continue to expect the aforementioned trend.

With that said, each ADS course offered has approximately 30 students enrolled per course and the retention rate has been well above the institutional goal of 70%. Furthermore, of the students who go on to begin practicum courses, the completion rate surpasses that of 90%. As a result, we expect to see 50 or more students completing the ADS certification on a yearly basis.

Narrative Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs (Not needed for Certificates of Career Preparation)

Palo Verde college has an ample inventory of courses and career advancement opportunities. However, the ADS program is one of the five most popular programs within the college inventory. So much so that during the 2020-2021 academic school year, an additional full-time instructor was hired to continue to help meet the demand of course offerings within the ADS certification program.

Narrative Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area (Not needed for Certificates of Career Preparation)

The closest California community colleges to Palo Verde College are College of the Desert and Imperial Valley College which are both over 100 miles away from Palo Verde College and both have similar programs.

College of the Desert offers an Alcohol and Drug Studies Certificate of Achievement with the following catalogue description: "The Certificate of Achievement is designed to provide students with skills necessary for employment as supervised chemical dependency counselors, as well as advancement toward the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) and California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators (CAADE). Students earning the certificate may also choose to continue their study toward an Associate of Science degree in the field. Past recipients of the COD Certificate of Achievement in Alcohol and Drug Studies have obtained positions as supervised chemical dependency counselors, locally and throughout California."

While Imperial Valley College offers a Certificate of Achievement in Addiction Disorder Studies and the college provides the following catalogue description: "The Addiction Disorder Studies program is designed to prepare students to serve as professionals in the growing career field of chemical and behavioral addiction counseling. Imperial Valley College is an accredited CAADE (California Association for Alcohol/ Drug Educators) program. The Addiction Disorder Studies major and certificate meet state requirements. Students completing these programs can take the CATC examination and obtain the California Addiction Treatment Counselor Credential. This credential will help students obtain jobs in social service agencies, treatment programs, recovery homes, schools, DEA, and law enforcement. This program prepares students for transfer to institutions providing higher degrees with the social service majors."

LMI and Analysis

Attached.

Advisory Committee Recommendations (Not needed for Certificates of Career Preparation)

Attached.

Regional Consortia Recommendations (Not needed for Certificates of Career Preparation)

attached

