

Palo Verde College

Program Outline Report

Program Basics

Program Title:	Alcohol and Drug Studies
Program Status:	Active from 2025-2026 Fall (2025FA)
Department:	Alcohol & Drug Studies
Award Type:	A.A. Degree Major (Credit)
Program/Catalog Description	This Associate of Arts (AA) degree in alcohol and drug studies integrates essential knowledge in addiction, recovery, and counseling techniques. Preparing students for immediate entry into substance abuse counseling roles and further study in behavioral health. The 39 core units meet California’s state certification requirements, ensuring professional readiness for addiction counseling. Additional AA coursework deepens academic foundations, positioning graduates for advanced entry-level opportunities in the field. Designed for transfer within the California State University (CSU) system, this program supports continued education in California’s public universities. It is accredited by CCAPP, ACCBC also known as CAADE and CADTP, affirming that graduates meet the highest standards in certification and professional practice. For details on transfer options, students are encouraged to consult with their academic advisor.
Control Number:	No value
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:	Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree
Maximum Credits:	77
Minimum Credits:	73
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	12/12/2024
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:	No value
Program Justification:	This new program will allow students to earn a degree that will transfer to a CSU.

Submission Rationale

- New Program

Program Requirements

Associates of Arts in Alcohol and Drug Studies (Total 73-77)

Complete all of the following

Required Core Courses (Foundation Core Courses): 18 credits (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 Courses (Skill Building Courses): 15 credits (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 Courses (Field Study Courses): 6 credits (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

In addition to the Required Core Courses, students must complete the CalGETC General Education pattern listed in the catalog.

34-38

Recommended Sequences

No value

Program Outcomes

Associates of Arts in Alcohol and Drug Studies

PSLO

Performance

1. Explain various addiction models and theories, including the social, political, economic, and cultural contexts that shape addiction. Assess risk and resiliency factors alongside the behavioral, psychological, physical, and social effects of psychoactive substances.

70

2. Describe and apply diagnostic criteria and treatment modalities for substance use disorders, employing culturally sensitive treatment and placement criteria across the continuum of care. Emphasize ethical standards, self-awareness, and professional readiness, integrating an interdisciplinary approach to treatment, recovery, and crisis management.

70

Program Narrative

Narrative Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Develop a Comprehensive Understanding of Addiction

- **Objective 1:** Identify and explain various models and theories of addiction, and analyze how social, political, and economic factors contribute to substance use and addiction.

Goal 2: Promote Culturally Competent Counseling

- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate culturally sensitive counseling practices by applying treatment services aligned with the client’s personal and cultural identity and language.

Goal 3: Encourage Ethical and Professional Standards

- **Objective 3:** Adhere to ethical and professional standards in addiction counseling by demonstrating self-awareness, ethical behavior, and a commitment to supervision and crisis intervention protocols.

Goal 4: Build Proficiency in Diagnostic and Treatment Criteria

- **Objective 4:** Apply diagnostic and treatment criteria for substance use disorders appropriately across the continuum of care, ensuring effective and individualized client support.

Narrative Item 2. Catalog Description

This Associate of Arts (AA) degree in alcohol and drug studies integrates essential knowledge in addiction, recovery, and counseling techniques. Preparing students for immediate entry into substance abuse counseling roles and further study in behavioral health. The 39 core units meet California’s state certification requirements, ensuring professional readiness for addiction counseling.

Additional AA coursework deepens academic foundations, positioning graduates for advanced entry-level opportunities in the field. Designed for transfer within the California State University (CSU) system, this program supports continued education in California’s public universities. It is accredited by CCAPP, ACCBC also known as CAADE and CADTP, affirming that graduates meet the highest standards in certification and professional practice. For details on transfer options, students are encouraged to consult with their academic advisor.

Narrative Item 3. Program Requirements

Program Narrative

Narrative Item #3

Requirements	Name/#	Title	Units
Required Core (Foundation Core Courses)	ADS 101	Introduction to Addiction Studies	3
	ADS 102	Pharmacology and Physiological Effects of Addiction	3
	ADS 104	Addiction Prevention Education and Outreach/Referral	3
	ADS 105	Co-Occurring Disorders and Chemical Dependency	3
	ADS 110	Introduction to Human Services	3
	ADS 111	Law and Ethics in Alcohol and Drug Studies	3
Required Core (Skill Building Courses)	ADS 103	Case Management and Documentation	3
	ADS 106	Counseling Interventions	3
	ADS 107	Group Counseling	3
	ADS 108	Family Dynamics of Addictions	3
	ADS 109	Substance Abuse in Special Populations	3
Required Core (Field Study Courses)	ADS 150	Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies I	3
	ADS 151	Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies II	3
Required Major Total	39 Units		
College GE Requirements	34-38 units		
TOTAL UNITS	73-77 Units		

Proposed Course Sequence

Term	Course	Units	Major	GE
1	Communication Area 1A	3-4	X	
1	Communications GE Area 1C	3	X	
1	Mathematics Area 2	3	X	
1	ADS 101 Intro to Alcohol and Drug Studies	3	X	
1	ADS 103 Case Management and Documentation	3	X	
1	ADS 105 Co-Occurring Disorders and Chemical Dependency	3	X	
	Term 1 Total Units	17-18		
2	Communications GE Area 1B	3	X	
2	Physical and Biological Science Area 5A	3	X	
2	ADS 111 Law and Ethics in Addictions	3	X	
2	ADS 102 Pharmacology and Physiological Effects of Addiction	3	X	
2	ADS 104 Addiction Prevention Education and Outreach/Referral	3	X	
	Term 2 Total Units	15		
3	ADS 106 Counseling Interventions	3	X	
3	ADS 108 Family Dynamics of Addictions	3	X	
	Term 3 Total Units	6		
4	Arts and Humanities Area 3 A	3	X	
4	Social and Behavioral Sciences Area 4	3	X	
4	ADS 107 Group Counseling	3	X	
4	ADS 109 Substance Abuse in Special Populations	3	X	
4	ADS 150 Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies I	3	X	
	Term 4 Total Units	15		
5	Arts and Humanities Area 3 B	3	X	
5	Physical and Biological Science Area 5B	3	X	
5	Physical and Biological Science Area 5C	3	X	
5	ADS 110 Introduction to Human Services	3	X	
5	ADS 151 Practicum for Alcohol and Drug Studies II	3	X	
	Term 5 Total Units	15		

6	Social and Behavioral Sciences Area 4	3	X
6	Ethics Studies	3	X
	Term 6 Total Units	6	

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.

The demand for substance abuse counselors is currently high and expected to continue growing significantly. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors is projected to increase by 18% between 2022 and 2032, far outpacing the average growth rate of 3% for all occupations. This growth is driven by a rising need for mental health and addiction treatment services across various sectors, including healthcare, community support, and the criminal justice system. In terms of job openings, it is estimated that there will be approximately 42,000 job openings each year due to new positions and the replacement of workers who retire or transition to other careers. Additionally, as healthcare policies increasingly cover mental health and substance use treatment, more people will have access to these services, further boosting demand for qualified professionals in the field. As of May 2023, the median salary for substance abuse counselors was \$53,710, with those working in hospitals earning slightly more at \$59,090. This makes the field not only in high demand but also financially rewarding for graduates.

Overall, the Associates Degree in Alcohol and Drug Studies 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 an Associates Degree in ADS 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 Associates Degree in ADS 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 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)

No Value