



Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling

We understand the problem. We can help.

Online Training Courses

Frequently Asked Questions & What You Can Expect

Council Program Director, Marlene Warner answers frequently asked questions about the online courses, and outlines what participants can expect.

Q. How many weeks and how much time is involved in the online course?

A. All of the courses are developed to span 3-4 weeks. Although the amount of time spent on each course will vary, depending upon whether it is a mid-level or advanced-level course. All courses will include both online time spent communicating with fellow participants and time spent offline completing homework assignments; time spent will depend upon the content and level of difficulty of each course.

Q. How many CEUs will participants earn taking the courses?

A. Participants will generally earn 6-18 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per course. The longer, more advanced courses (Countertransference & Brain) will offer more CEUs than the mid-level courses (Youth & Latino)

Q. Who will be participating in the courses?

A. The advanced online courses are designed for an advanced-level clinician who has completed basic and intermediate-level trainings, and/or is a masters-level clinician who is currently treating gambling disorders. The mid-level courses are designed for professionals in many fields who have a background and interest in problem gambling.

Q. Do people need to purchase books to participate in the online courses?

A. Books are not required to participate in the online courses, but participants need to read scholarly articles that are provided online.

Q. Will participants need to take tests?

A. The online courses don't ask participants to take tests. However, people who take the online class are required to meet benchmarks, including posting conversations on the virtual blackboard and playing various roles in a provided case study, or working through an interactive graphic. In addition, there are review quizzes in many of the weekly modules, which help participants to track their own progress.

Q. How flexible is the course schedule?

A. People can log on at the most convenient times for their individual schedules. There is not a set time that people have to meet online over the three to four-week period. However, the courses are designed for each module to be completed within the week it is offered.

Q. How much computer knowledge is necessary for the courses?

A. Middlesex Community College offers 24/7 technical support, so people don't need to be super tech savvy to participate in the courses.

Q. What type of computer / programs are required for the course?

A. Participants need consistent and reliable access to a computer with an Internet connection and audio capabilities (speakers); Real Player software (free and downloadable from course web site); and Adobe Acrobat software (free and downloadable from course web site).

THE COUNCIL'S ONLINE COURSES

What You Can Expect

Step 1 – Welcome – Install Real Player and Adobe Acrobat Reader, learn how to navigate the site and submit assignments, introduce yourself to your fellow classmates and the instructor

Step 2 – Course Objectives are defined in a bullet pointed description

Step 3 – Sessions – Objectives and requirements for each of the 3-4 sessions are outlined and explained

Step 4 – Discussion Boards – There is always a discussion portion for each session where participants share ideas and experiences, as well as confer about case studies by posting messages on the discussion boards

Step 5 – Tracking Progress – Participants are expected to complete each session's readings, discussions and quizzes within one week. People can track their own progress by using the "my progress" link.

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