

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG STUDIES

After completion of the two courses above, the following two courses are required to qualify for the Graduate Diploma:

Issues in Drug Policy and Management

This course will have three major components. The first will cover two important subpopulations: those with co-morbid drug and mental health problems and indigenous drug users. The second will cover forensic issues, including crime resulting from drug intoxication and drug detection in body fluids. In the third you will critically assess the current national policies on alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

Contemporary Research in Alcohol and Other Drugs

You will be required to write a literature review on a contemporary research topic in the alcohol and other drug field, approved by the course coordinator. To help you critically examine the existing literature, the course will also provide an overview of the fundamental concepts of research methodology and statistical analysis.

PROGRAM FEES

Fees can be paid in instalments.

Australian Students (Permanent Residents):

Graduate Certificate: A\$3,250
Graduate Diploma: A\$6,500

International students:

Graduate Certificate: A\$5,300
Graduate Diploma: A\$10,600

TO APPLY

The application form may be downloaded from the Discipline of Pharmacology website at:

<http://www.health.adelaide.edu.au/pharmacology/Programs/coursework.html>

Applications close: First Friday in December for commencement in the following year.

Please send your application with certified copies of supporting documentation to:

Alcohol and Drug Studies
Program Administrator
Discipline of Pharmacology
University of Adelaide
Adelaide SA 5005
AUSTRALIA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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or visit us at

<http://www.health.adelaide.edu.au/pharmacology/>

Design by Karen Nunes-Vaz, Discipline of Pharmacology

DISCIPLINE OF PHARMACOLOGY

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE & GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG STUDIES

DISTANCE EDUCATION



AIMS

The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Alcohol and Drug Studies will provide students with a broad educational experience including the scientific basis of drug action and drug addiction, approaches to treatment and community interventions and contemporary drug policy in Australia.

The programs are designed to assist a range of professionals to attain an advanced level of understanding of the nature of addiction and current principles of management of alcohol and drug problems.

The programs are the only ones in Australia to offer a syllabus completely focussed on drug and alcohol issues.

As part-time distance education programs they are ideally suited to those who wish to study whilst continuing their regular work commitments.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Clinicians, such as medical practitioners, nurses, psychologists, social workers, counsellors and other professionals who want to develop a more in-depth understanding of addiction science to help inform their practice.

Pharmacists, educators, law enforcement officers, project officers and other professionals who seek to attain an advanced level of understanding of the nature of addiction and current principles of management of alcohol and drug problems.

Entry-level workers who wish to develop an understanding of the alcohol and drug field to increase employment opportunities in the field.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma are offered in distance education mode with no requirement to attend classes or examinations at the University. Ours was the first drug and alcohol program in Australia to be offered by distance education. This started in 1999 with a fully online program introduced in 2005.

Programs and course handbooks, audio- and video recorded lectures, tests and exercises, revision questions and related reading for each subject (e.g. journal articles, lecture notes, internet links and other resource materials) are provided online.

Students communicate with academic staff and program administrators via online education services. Students participate in online group discussions with fellow students and lecturers.

Knowledge and skills are assessed to keep students motivated. The teaching staff provide timely feedback that helps guide individual learning. Students also have the opportunity to provide feedback and evaluation of teaching and administration.

PROGRAM DURATION

The Graduate Certificate comprises two courses and is completed part-time over one year, one course per semester.

The Graduate Diploma is completed part-time over two years (four courses, one course per semester). Students who successfully complete the Graduate Certificate will be required to complete two additional courses in order to qualify for the Graduate Diploma.

There will be only one intake at the beginning of the year.

SYLLABUS

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG STUDIES

This program comprises the following two courses:

Drugs and Drug Problems

You will learn how drugs affect the body and behaviour. This will include general principles of drug action, pharmacokinetics and variability in drug response, pharmacology of the major drug classes (opioids, benzodiazepines, alcohol, stimulants, "party drugs", nicotine, hallucinogens and cannabis) and consequences of their use. You will also be introduced to neurological mechanisms of drug tolerance and dependence and learn why addiction occurs and what aspects of genetics, personality and social circumstances predispose to drug problems.

Responses to Drug Problems

This course will provide an overview of the current approaches to the management of drug problems in the community, including the treatment of drug dependence, population health approaches and the response of the legal system. You will be introduced to the full range of treatments for drug problems, from management of overdoses to psychosocial interventions and withdrawal management. Currently available pharmacotherapies used in the treatment of drug dependence, including substitution treatment and relapse prevention will also be discussed. At the community level, you will examine public health and legal responses to drug problems and look at what prevention and education strategies can be implemented to reduce alcohol and other drug problems in society.