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Careers in Social & Human Services

Bachelor's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science

Spring Quarter 2012 BAS Admissions Priority Deadline is December 30, 2011. Fall Quarter 2011. BAS Admissions Priority Deadline is April 30, 2011.

Overview

Seattle Central Community College has been approved by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities which established a bachelor's degree program that began in fall, 2009. The degree creates a continuing educational and professional pathway for Associate of Applied Science students. It is designed specifically for students in social and human services, chemical dependency, child and family studies and interpreter training to earn a bachelor's degree in Applied Behavioral Science.

The Bachelor's program in Applied Behavioral Science (BABS) at Seattle Central Community College addresses three urgent needs in applied behavioral sciences:

- The gap between high demand employment openings requiring specialized training in behavioral sciences and the current supply of college completers that possess those skills;
- The lack of educational pathways to professional baccalaureate degrees for current AAS graduates in human services and interpreting to meet requirements for employment advancement and licensure;
- The need for an affordable applied baccalaureate degree option for diverse, place bound students.

Currently in the Puget Sound region there is a shortage of credentialed human services specialists to work with drug abuse, mental illness, homelessness, domestic violence, school failure and other endemic societal issues requiring skilled social service providers. As shown in the proposals, there is a supply gap of approximately 300 trained individuals at the baccalaureate level regionally, a shortage which costs the region enormous resources through expenditures brought about by hospitalization, incarceration and emergency interventions.

This applied behavioral sciences degree provides a cadre of trained specialists to meet the extensive and diverse treatment needs of the largest population of clients in the state. Seattle Central Community College, in partnership with Edmonds Community College, Bellevue College, Highline Community College, and Lake Washington Technical College, is uniquely qualified and prepared to develop this applied degree pathway for behavioral science professionals.

With the baccalaureate option, students are able to move from short-term certificates and related Associate of Applied Science degrees to further foundational and specialized coursework, creating access to multiple high demand jobs within many areas of applied behavioral sciences, including:

- Human services management
- Chemical dependency and mental health
- Social work and human services: school, medical, and community
- American sign language interpreting services
- Child and family studies
- Prevention and early intervention

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- Human services specialists and assistants

Employers will benefit from this degree by having a large pool of graduates qualified for current high demand baccalaureate-level positions that require specific job skills.

Program Goals

Graduates of the BABS program will find success in their careers because they will be able to:

- use systematic methods to acquire, analyze, and apply relevant information
- integrate knowledge from relevant disciplines
- apply ethical practices based on internalized professional values
- apply relevant skills qualifying them for a broad range of professional roles
- provide culturally relevant services and challenge individual and institutional discriminatory practices

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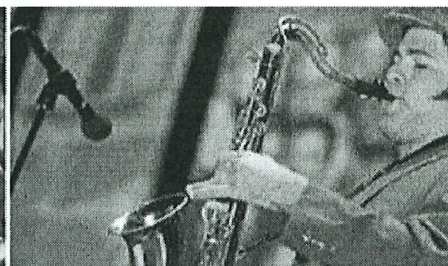
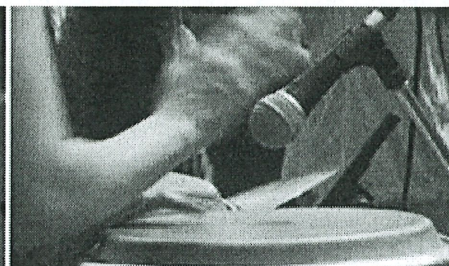
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Careers in Social &
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Careers in Social & Human Services *Curriculum*

Spring Quarter 2011 BAS Admissions Deadline is JANUARY 21, 2011.

Fall Quarter 2011 BAS Admissions Deadline is April 30, 2011.

GENERAL EDUCATION (60 credits total required for the baccalaureate)

Students must acquire a total of 60 credits of approved general education coursework in the baccalaureate degree, including all of the upper division courses listed below. Required lower division general education courses include English 101 & 102.

RELATED INSTRUCTIONAL COURSES (30 Credit)

Applied Social Psychology (ABS 320) (5 credits)

This course examines the application of social psychological concepts in human service settings. Systems theory informs the application of concepts in areas including prevention, policy analysis, group settings, professional and client relationships, and multi-cultural competence. Social Psychological research methods will be explored and critiqued with an emphasis on the application of research to practice.

Applied Environmental Science (ABS 340) (5 credits)

This course will survey basic environmental science concepts with emphasis on the effect humans have on their environment and the repercussions for living in an impoverished environment. Population growth and natural resources, including issues of access and degradation, will be central themes in this course.

Quantitative Principles in Research and Assessment (ABS 350) (5 credits)

This course builds on lower division quantitative skills. Understanding of the quantitative organization of data central to scientific research and assessment design in applied behavioral sciences.

2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

Relationships Between Economic and Political Systems (ABS 410) (5 credits)

Multiculturalism and Artistic Expression (ABS 420) (5 credits)

Sociology of Families (ABS 430) (5 credits)

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE CORE (30 credits)

Professionalism and Ethical Practice (ABS 310) (5 credits)

This course is for students in a social and human related field intent on becoming counselors/therapists with clients from vulnerable populations such as domestic violence or abuse within their family of origin, drug addition, mental illness, homelessness and other forms of trauma. This course aims to expose students to a framework for ethical decision making and the ethical principles and codes of ethics of various helping professions. Through class discussion and small group work with ethical vignettes, students will be challenged to apply the concepts learned in addressing the ethical dilemmas posed in historic and contemporary societal issues. A major focus of this class is learning to use decision making models, which can guide the learner and practitioner through ethical reasoning process which assure compliance with codes and laws, consultation with outside parties where necessary, determination of the values/motives of those involved in the ethical issue and evaluation of the short and long-term outcomes/consequences of any actions taken. Students who complete the course successfully will be able to join or re-join helping professions with an assurance that they have acquired a solid foundation for ethical reasoning and that they know how to apply ethical principles in their work with clients, their families, and the communities in which they live.

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Information Literacy and Program Assessment (ABS 330) (5 credits)

The ability to locate, evaluate, and use information is essential to ensure competence in all social and human service disciplines. This course will introduce students to the organization, retrieval, and evaluation of electronic and print information. Students will be provided with an overview of college library systems, networked information systems, traditional scholarly resources, and the concepts underlying the research process. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of the internet as a research tool and the changing nature of information resources. Students will gain practical knowledge of electronic databases, the world wide web and print resources. Students will practice thinking critically when formulating research queries and evaluating information resources. Students will be able to distinguish between validated peer reviewed and un-reviewed resources as well as make determinations regarding evidence-based practices. The course will focus these skills specifically in the social and human services disciplines by examining various specialized resources.

Public Policy Analysis (ABS 360) (5 credits)

In this course students will learn the use of analysis to support public policy decision-making in American government. According to Thomas Dye, public policy is "whatever government chooses to do or not to do". Public policy analysis, then, is the art and science of providing problem-solving advice to government decision-makers, managers, and citizens in order to influence what government does or doesn't do. Applied policy analysis tools and skills include: selecting theoretical frameworks, problem definition, development of alternative solutions, predicting the impact of choices, policy evaluation, and the modification of policies, post implementation. Throughout the course, the use of policy case studies will be analyzed.

Senior Capstone Project (ABS 495) (5 credits)

A student project that reflects individual professional direction, synthesizes the student's understanding of academic learning, and demonstrates writing and content commensurate with senior level work.

Advanced Field Placement I & II (ABS 497/ABS 498) (10 credits total)

Builds on lower division field placement work. Two quarters of applied professional work in a community setting consistent with the student's area of interest development and progression. Meets requirements for supervised field practice required for licensure and professional accreditation in many professional specialties.

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