Western Michigan University’s Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SPADA) was the first of its kind in Michigan and the first university-based training clinic in Michigan to address the criminal justice population of substance abusers.

The program is a 21-credit hour specialization for working professionals and graduate students involved in a variety of disciplines; graduates can specialize in a variety of job settings where substance abuse demands attention.

For convenience and access, students can pursue the SPADA graduate certificate on WMU’s Campus and at regional locations in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City; courses are offered in face-to-face and online formats.

Students directly impact the professional practice through faculty/student research teams, which engage in basic and applied research and quickly transfer results to practice.

Practicum experiences are available at multiple training clinics throughout Michigan and at other national and international sites.

The SPADA Curriculum aligns to meet the requirements for the Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC) Credential, the Master Addictions Counselor (MAC) Credential and the Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) Credential.

Financial Aid is available to students. For more information visit http://www.wmich.edu/finaid/
Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Certificate)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas

WMU’s SPADA faculty members are seasoned researchers and practitioners and frequently share their knowledge in ways that enhance the individual student’s learning experience. Research interests and expertise include: alcohol breath testing; treatment outcomes in the criminal justice population; addiction training among counselors; alcohol use among college students; and cultural variables that impact treatment delivery and implementation success.

Admissions

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. Applicants will apply via the graduate application online system. In addition to providing general information (including educational history details), there are also specific program requirements. For program requirements and other details, visit wmich.edu/addictionstudies

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. However, the application must be complete (i.e. all official transcripts and required documents received) two weeks prior to the start of any given semester/session or the application will be deferred to the following semester/session. Once a semester/session has started, all applications will be deferred to the following semester/session.

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships

Eligibility for financial assistance is determined by the Office of Student Scholarships at WMU.

Contacts

Gwen Thomas, Advisor
gwen.thomas@wmich.edu

Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse: (269) 387-3340

Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.