

APA Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) Curriculum for Psychology Education & Training

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why a curriculum?

In order to increase the number of providers trained to assess and treat substance use disorders (SUDs), and therefore reduce unmet need for services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded grant funding to APA to develop and implement a curriculum for psychology students.

Who is it targeted for?

Psychology students in doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral programs (both accredited and non-accredited).

What is the Curriculum?

The Curriculum consists of six modules that address both assessment and treatment of SUDs. Each module includes learning outcomes, an outline of content that should be covered, recommended readings and resources, 6 adaptable PowerPoint Presentations, and evaluation questions. In addition, programs using the Curriculum will be provided free access to four APA videos on SUDs. The Curriculum addresses a variety of subtopics and populations, and is pliable so that programs can emphasize and add information specific to any areas or populations of interest.

What are the Online Learning Modules and are they different from the Curriculum Modules?

In response to COVID-19-related disruptions to higher education, six Online Learning Modules were also developed, and they are based directly on the content in the Curriculum. Dr. Carlo DiClemente serves as the lecturer for these Online Learning Modules. Instructors who seek a more “plug-and-play” alternative to the Curriculum itself may consider using these Online Learning Modules with their students, though, instructor facilitation is still encouraged (usually in the form of group discussion after students complete each Module).

Who can teach the Curriculum?

The Curriculum can be taught by any faculty/staff psychologist. It provides sufficient detail so that the instructor need not be an expert or even very knowledgeable on SUDs.

What is the timeline for the curriculum and how can it be implemented?

The modules are designed to be flexible in terms of the amount of time needed for completion. While each individual module is designed to be as short as an hour (not including the APA videos), the additional resources and readings allow the modules to be expanded significantly. Thus, they could work as part of a workshop, didactic seminar series, or even a new or existing graduate course. *The Curriculum can be implemented virtually (e.g. Zoom, Skype, etc.).*

I am interested, what would I need to do?

Participating programs are provided free access to the Curriculum to use with their students. Given that grant funding for this project formally ended in September 2021, participation is on informal basis and the Curriculum may be used as needed without notifying APA.

Who should I contact to sign-up, or for more information?

Formal sign-up is **not required**. You may contact APA Education Directorate (EDMail@apa.org) with any questions.