MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Baldwin, Associate Vice President for Academic Planning

From: Roberta A. Brooke, Director of Graduate Studies

Date: March 22, 2018

Re: Master of Science in Addiction Studies

Program Description

The online Master of Arts in Addiction Studies Degree (MAS) provides students the necessary education to be competent Chemical Dependency Professionals in Washington State. ADST works with students in WA and out of state students to help prepare them to meet the Chemical Dependency Certification/Licensure Board requirements needed. Students entering the Addiction Studies Master’s program will be prepared for positions in behavioral health agencies as well as other settings where addiction professional’s unique skills are utilized. Once students have completed all the Addiction Studies Degree courses, they are eligible to take the National NCC AP examination.

Addiction Studies is a NAADAC approved education provider and an approved education provider with the California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators (CAADE).

In May 2009, Washington State Department of Health (DOH) created a Rule Making Order to amend Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-811, for Chemical Dependency Professionals (CDP) and Chemical Dependency Trainees (CDPT). This rule was to establish an alternative method for specific health care practitioners, whose scope of practice includes treatment of chemical dependency, to become certified as a CDP. This new rule change included education, experience, and national certification requirements. This new rule created an option for advanced registered nurse practitioners, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, advanced social workers, or independent clinical social workers, psychologists, osteopathic physicians, and other types of physicians, to become licensed as CDP’s using alternative educational requirements and training. These applicants were able to reduce the number of education credits and hours needed to apply to become Chemical Dependency Professionals. This rule change was an attempt to entice more licensed professionals to become licensed in addiction treatment as well due to combining mental health and addiction treatment into state approved behavioral health organizations.

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) of 2008 requires health insurers and group health plans to provide the same level of benefits for mental and/or substance use treatment and services they do for medical/surgical care. In 2010, there were very few bachelor or master degree programs focusing on addiction treatment. Existing master’s programs did not include any information on addiction. At that time, Addiction Studies created our graduate certificate to provide an avenue for persons with a master’s or bachelor’s degree to obtain the coursework necessary to become licensed in Washington State. From that program, we garnered candidates from all over the United States, and military candidates in Germany. Now, after Health Care reform opened the door to the field of Substance Use disorders as a viable profession, you can search online and find many master’s programs that focus on substance use disorder or a mix of mental health and substance use disorders master’s programs. However, Washington state is very particular about who they will accept educational requirements from and does not accept many online programs from outside of WA.

With the merging of mental health and substance use disorder treatment the need is greater for more dually licensed professionals. In order to bring the field of addiction to the standard of mental health, more professionals with master’s degrees will be required.

Many states have a tiered system for licensing addiction professionals based on education level. Each level requires a different number of supervised hours. The higher education you have the number of supervised hours lessens. In WA State, the supervised hour requirement is 2500 with an AA degree, 2000 with a BA degree, and 1500 with a Master’s degree. NAADAC the Association for Addiction Professionals has Level I, Level II and Master of Addiction Counseling (MAC). Each level has criteria for licensure along with supervised hour requirements.

There are many jobs asking for Master’s level clinicians in substance abuse treatment. Addiction counselors work one-on-one with clients in therapeutic settings, determining the causes and triggers of the disorder. Having a master’s degree available for students means better opportunities for employment in multiple agencies across the country.

**Master of Arts in Addiction Studies Program Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of MA in Addiction Studies, students will be able to:

• Identify the practice strategies needed that help the client sustain the knowledge, skills and attitudes important for maintaining treatment progress and preventing relapse.

• Describe the established diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders, and placement criteria within the continuum of care.

• Explain the practices, policies, and outcomes of the most generally accepted and scientifically supported models of treatment, recovery, and relapse prevention, for substance use disorders.

• Identify appropriate treatment services for clients based on key psycho-social attributes such as gender, ethnicity, physical ability, age and language.

• Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the NAADAC Code of Ethics for Addiction Professionals, ethical guidelines.

***MAS Required Courses:***

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| ADST 501: Relapse Prevention  | 2cr |
| ADST 502: Counseling Theories and Human Development | 2cr |
| ADST 503: HIV/AIDS, TB, Hepatitis, and Addiction Treatment  | 2cr |
| ADST 504: Adolescent Addiction Assessment & Treatment  | 4cr |
| ADST 505: Addiction Group Counseling | 2cr |
| ADST 512: Pharmacological Actions of Alcohol & Other Drugs | 4cr |
| ADST 520: Case Management  | 4cr |
| ADST 530: Addiction Treatment w/Families & Diverse Populations  | 4cr |
| ADST 535: Law & Ethics for Addiction Professionals  | 4cr |
| ADST 542: Screening & Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders  | 4cr |
| ADST 544: Treating Co-Occurring Disorders  | 4cr |
| ADST 546: Best Practice Intervention | 4cr |
| ADST 548: Medication Assisted Treatment | 2cr |
| ADST 550: Spirituality & Addiction | 4cr |
| ADST 552: Internet & Related Addictions | 4cr |
| ADST 554: Trauma Informed Care | 4cr |
| ADST 555: Food Addiction | 4cr |
| ADST 580: Introduction to Statistics | 4cr |
| ADST 582: Research for Evidence-Based practice | 4cr |
| ADST 602: Addiction Studies Portfolio | 2cr |
| **Total Required Core Program Credits:** | **68** |

 ***\*Optional Practicum***

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| ADST 595: Addiction Studies Practicum I *(Optional)* | 2cr |
| ADST 695: Addiction Studies Practicum II *(Optional)* | 2cr |
| **Total Optional Practicum Credits** | **4** |

**Total Program Credits: 68**

Institutional Role and Mission:

There would be no change to the institutional mission. These curriculum changes would increase the support for the institution’s commitment to expanding opportunities for personal transformation through excellence in learning, especially in terms of increased access and innovation.

Resource Implications: Self-supported