BEST PHOTOS OF 2017

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Addiction Counselors Are in Great Demand

Kerian Cacavaro is working hard, not just to help others recover from addiction but to help herself. “At one time, I was homeless and a heroin addict,” the 33-year-old Woburn resident admits. Today, nearly four-years sober, Cacavaro is hoping to help others conquer their addictions too.

The program not only draws doctors, judges, lawyers, prison guards, police officers, and others who often deal with addicts, but it also attracts a number of recovering addicts.

Inspired by the counselors who helped her, she enrolled in a two-year program to earn a certificate in addiction counseling at UMass Boston. Her ultimate goal is to open her own counseling service as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor. Cacavaro may very well be on the forefront of one of the hottest career trends in the country today. With a 20 percent employment growth rate projected through 2026, jobs for addiction counselors are growing faster than average, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics says.

William Carlo, director of the Addictions Counselor Education Program at UMass Boston, says the school’s on campus and online certificate counseling program, the oldest in the state, not only draws doctors, judges, lawyers, prison guards, police officers, and others who often deal with addicts, but it also attracts a number of recovering addicts.

“Nobody comes without some internal motivation,” Carlo says. “They’ve somehow been affected by substance abuse in their life and would like to have a positive effect on it.”

To earn a state license as an alcohol and drug counselor, students are required to attend 270 hours of classes in substance abuse education and spend 4,000 hours working in a clinical drug and alcohol setting. Master’s degree students are required to have 6,000 hours of work experience. Licensed counselors must also take 40 hours of re-certification courses every two years.

If that all sounds like hard work, it is. But take heart. Carlo says the payoff comes long before graduation in the form of multiple job offers.

UMass Lowell Expands Online Programs to Respond to Workforce Demands
The University Offers More Than 55 Online Programs

The University of Massachusetts Lowell continues to expand its online programs—giving students access to a growing selection of innovative courses, degrees, and certificates to meet the demand for highly skilled employees in today’s job market.

From its Master’s degree in Engineering Management to its certificate program in Java Development, UMass Lowell’s programs focus on growth areas in the marketplace both in Massachusetts and across the nation.

UMass Lowell’s short-term certificate programs are a great way to earn advanced credentials within one year, which can often translate into accelerated job opportunities for graduates. Moreover, all of UMass Lowell’s online certificate programs offer pathways to the University’s degree programs—a valuable component for students whose ultimate goal is a degree.

For the upcoming semester, UMass Lowell has significantly increased its course offerings with new courses including Business Intelligence and Data Mining, Global Supply Chain Management, Applied Health Economics, Developmental Psychopathology, Leadership in Nursing Practice, Business Process Management, International Management, Logistics and Transportation, African Politics, Advanced Pharmacology, Crime in Literature, and many more.

To learn more about UMass Lowell’s award-winning online degree programs, interested students can participate in the University’s Virtual Open House on Tuesday, January 16 from 6:00 to 7:00pm. Program Coordinators and Advisors will be available in the live online forum to answer questions.

To log into the Virtual Open House, visit http://continuinged.uml.edu/virtualopenhouse.cfm. For more information, interested students can call UMass Lowell’s Student Support Center at 978-934-2474 or visit http://continuinged.uml.edu. Spring courses begin January 22 at UMass Lowell.