

The Brain and the Disease of Addiction



Course Overview

Addiction (Substance Use Disorders) are a major public health concern in the United States. An estimated 48 million Americans 12 years of age or older are affected by this treatable, chronic medical disease. Approximately 21 million are in recovery and another 27 million in active addiction.

Participants will learn about the disease of addiction by looking at how the brain is affected from substances such as drugs and alcohol. The course will review cause and risk factors for developing substance use disorder and how through brain neuroplasticity and treatment and recovery the brain can change / reset.

What People Are Saying

"I learned how important it is to realize just how hard it is to stop your addiction - and, therefore, not to give up on people when they have to try over and over again, and to encourage the user to keep trying and not to expect the first or second or umpteenth time to be successful."

- Discuss how the brain is affected from substances such as drugs and alcohol.
- Explain how the disease of addiction develops.
- Explain brain neuroplasticity and how through treatment and recovery the brain can change / reset.

"I never really understood the science behind addiction, but now I feel that I have more understanding and compassion for those who struggle with the disease of addiction. It was also beneficial to learn how drugs effect the brain, how the brain reacts to drugs and its release of dopamine."

"This course allowed me to truly understand the science behind the disease, which allowed me to really grasp addiction in terms of a disease rather than a moral failing."

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Online Course Meets DEA MATE Act Training Requirements

Course Outline

- I. Defining Addiction / Substance Use Disorder
 - A. Advancements in Addiction / SUD
 - B. Definition of Addiction
 - C. Number of Americans Affected
 - D. Treatment Gaps, Barriers, and Recommendations
- II. Stigma and Substance Use Disorder
 - A. Impact on Individual and Family and Recovery
 - B. Importance of Stigma-Free Language
- III. SUD Cause and Risk Factors
 - A. Environmental and Biological
 - B. Substance and Age of Substance Use
 - C. Trauma and Co-occurring Disorders
- V. Drugs / Substances Effects on the Brain
 - A. Regions of the Brain Functions
 - B. Limbic System and the Reward Pathway
 - C. Dopamine and Neurotransmitters
 - D. Reliance, Tolerance and Self Control
 - E. Brain is Rewired / Effect on the Survival Hierarchy
 - F. Putting it all Together
- VI. Withdrawal
 - A. Symptoms and Withdrawal Severity
 - B. Stages of Withdrawal
- VII. Setback, Return to Use
 - A. Setback and Remission
 - B. Setback Rates Comparison Across Chronic Diseases
- VIII. Neuroplasticity
 - A. Definition
 - B. How the Brain Adapts and Resets
- IX. Drug Classifications
- X. End Notes and Resources

Online Course 2.0 CE Credits

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Group Licensing Available.

Optional Printed Trainers Kit, additional \$55.00/person

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Virtual Group Training

We bring the training to you. Virtual sessions are available for groups of five or more and can be tailored to meet your organization's needs. Contact us to learn more or request a custom quote.

Course Reviewers

The course material has been reviewed by subject matter expert: Rob Atchison, Ph.D., LMFT, NCC, AAMFT Approved Supervisor, Assistant Professor of Graduate Counseling, Director of Clinical Training, INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, Indianapolis, IN.

CE Credit and Certificate Program

In partnership with Purdue University College of Pharmacy, Office of Continuing Education, Overdose Lifeline offers continuing education online courses for clinicians and professionals and a 20 credit professional certificate program on Addiction / Substance Use Disorder with an Opioid Specialization.

The course meets the following CE accreditations: Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and Other, AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™] (ACCME) which will service all other clinical, professional, and layperson credits.

Law Enforcement: As an approved Law Enforcement Training Board training provider (#47-1333720), Overdose Lifeline online training courses meet annual in-service training requirements for Indiana Law Enforcement officers and support personnel.



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