GRCC’s Addiction Studies program prepares you to serve as a substance abuse counselor, specialist in drug or sobriety courts, or to work with addicted populations as a probation, parole or corrections officer. Completing this program will also enhance your skills in working with addicted populations if you are currently employed in corrections or substance abuse agency.

Substance abuse counselors and residential aides, as well as specialty probation and parole officers, work with those having addictive disorders to eliminate their dependence on drugs or alcohol and reduce criminal behaviors associated with their use of drugs or alcohol. Persons working in these positions may be required to have state certification after obtaining advanced knowledge in addictive behavior.

Probation, parole and correction officers working with addictive populations and residential substance abuse counselors are generally required to have a bachelor’s degree as a condition of employment. Persons working as assessment or counseling staff in a substance abuse or mental health agency may be required to have graduate education. If you are interested in such work, you should discuss the transferability of community college work to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions with the GRCC Corrections Training Coordinator before enrolling in the program.

The State of Michigan requires that those who work in addiction counseling or substance abuse prevention services or who provide substance abuse assessments in the criminal justice system must be credentialed by the Michigan Certification Board of Addiction Professionals (MCBAP). All credentials require specific substance abuse education, as well as additional experience, supervision and testing.

Through GRCC’s Addiction Studies Certificate program, you can complete the education requirements for both the Certified Addiction Counselor and the Certified Criminal Justice Professional credentials.

The certificates can be earned while working on and associate degree program in either Corrections or Juvenile Services.

Those completing addiction certification and other requirements are qualified for the following positions:

- Addictions Assessment Counselor
- Chemical Dependency Counselor
- Child Welfare Officer
- Prevention Services Officer for School, Health Department or Substance Abuse Agency
- Residential Care Counselor
- Specialty Probation or Parole Officer in Addiction Recovery Courts
- Victim Counselor

For more information please visit www.grcc.edu/criminaljustice
Phone: 616-234-4280 or Email: criminaljustice@grcc.edu
‘Like’ our GRCC Criminal Justice page on Facebook!