

***Substance Abuse Intervention Programs at West Virginia Northern Community College***.

WV Northern is pleased to announce two new academic programs to train individuals to work in the field of Substance Abuse Intervention as Peer Recovery Support Specialists or Prevention Specialists.

The “*Substance Abuse Intervention Technician” Skill Set is a 29 credit hour program in which students take technical classes for college credits, the majority of which will transfer to other colleges or universities toward an Associate or Bachelor’s degree in Human Services, Social Work, or a related field. Students who successfully complete this program (which requires 500 practicum hours) and have a personal recovery experience are then eligible to apply and test for the Peer Recovery Support Specialist certification through the WV Certification Board for Addiction and Prevention Professionals. (WVCBAPP.org). Individuals who can verify that they have already completed 500 hours of paid or volunteer work experience at a qualified Substance Use Disorder treatment facility can petition for and may be granted credit for these practicum classes.*

*Students who wish to pursue an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree can pursue the 60 credit hour “Substance Abuse Intervention Specialist” degree, All courses from the Skill Set will fulfill the requirements for the first year of the Associate degree. Students also complete 200 hours in a field experience/internship at a qualified Substance Use Disorder treatment facility. Individuals who can verify that they have already completed the additional 200 hours can petition for and may be granted credit for the internship. Students who successfully complete the Associate degree and who have also completed 2,000 hours of clinical experience or on the job training may be eligible to apply and test for the Prevention Specialist I credential through the WVCBAPP.*

*Students who successfully complete one of these programs will be able to:*

* Demonstrate knowledge of the human services professions and social and community agencies.
* Demonstrate knowledge of psychoactive substances and their effects on the user
* Demonstrate knowledge of the issues related to the needs and problems of different types of clients, particularly those with substance use disorders.
* Demonstrate knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, including their philosophies and 12 step programs
* Demonstrate knowledge of issues related to medical and legal ethics
* Demonstrate knowledge of how families and other individuals are affected by substance use disorders.
* Apply the skills, techniques, strategies, and abilities needed for assessing, interviewing, treatment planning, and therapeutic communication and relationships with clients.
* Apply the skills, techniques, strategies, and abilities needed for working with groups.
* Demonstrate the ability to be productive and effective in a human services delivery system and an understanding of their role, abilities, and limitations as an entry-level human services worker by successfully completing a practicum/clinical experience
* Utilize critical thinking skills.

*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)*

1. ***If I have already completed some college classes or have a degree, will any of them transfer to WVNCC?*** *YES, individuals who have already completed an Associate degree, Bachelor’s degree, or have prior college credits can transfer a number of credits into the program, depending on how long ago those credits were completed.*
2. ***Is there any financial aid available?*** *YES, WV Northern Community College provides students who are eligible an opportunity to apply for federal and state forms of financial aid, including grants, scholarships, and loans*
3. ***Does the program require that I come to the Wheeling area to take classes?*** *NO, the entire program is available through online and remote (ex., Zoom) formats. Most classes are available online but some of the hands on, skills-based classes require group exercises and interaction and usually meet at a set time on ZOOM.*
4. ***Do I have to be a full-time student?*** *NO, many students attend part-time*
5. ***What kinds of jobs can I get with this degree?*** *Graduates of these programs can expect to be employed in substance use treatment facilities or other human services agencies in positions which do not require Bachelor’s degrees, as peer recovery support specialists, prevention specialists, behavior specialists, case aides or caseworkers, or mental health technicians. To become a certified addictions counselor, social worker, or similar professional, students may need to continue their education by earning a Bachelor’s degree.*
6. ***How do I get started?*** 
   1. APPLY ONLINE. Visit [www.wvncc.edu](http://www.wvncc.edu) to submit an application
   2. SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA. Fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
   3. SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPTS. Have your high school or college transcripts sent directly to [admissions@wvncc.edu](mailto:admissions@wvncc.edu)
   4. C*ontact Brianna Hickman (*[*bhickman@wvncc.edu*](mailto:bhickman@wvncc.edu)*) (304) 214-8998 about eligibility for and how to apply to the Substance Abuse Intervention programs (which are selective admission programs)*

*Employment outlook is currently above average to excellent. Salaries tend to be moderate for graduates, depending on location, type of facility, and the prospective employee’s level of education and work experience.*