

H.B. 365 Revision requirements for Chemical Dependency Counselor II license.

The proposal to require students to complete a 250-hour practicum experience in ONE semester in an addictions counseling setting would create harm and barriers to achieving the Central Ohio Technical College Human Services degree.

- Students would be required to complete approximately 18 hours of practicum a week, rather than the current 10 hours per week.
 - In Autumn 2019, COTC's Human Service students were 69% part-time students. Meaning the students are taking less than the full-time status to complete the degree in two years.
http://www.cotc.edu/Academics/Documents/HumanServicesTechnology_StudentAchievement_Indicators_19.20.pdf
 - Students choose part-time status related to other responsibilities including, work and family. If students cannot balance, they will decide to stop out of college.
 - We often find that students struggle when it comes time to complete their practicum experience as fitting ten hours a week of non-paid work into their schedules is exceptionally challenging. The majority of our students are employed at the same time as attending college. Community and technical colleges have a different demographic of students than the usual four-year institution.
 - If our goal is to produce qualified students into the workforce, we cannot be another barrier to their success.
 - Students who do complete will see an increase in years to complete due to limiting the number of classes they can take during that 18 hour a week practicum.
 - Ohio Department of Higher Education recommends two-year programs of study being a total of 60 credit hours or less. Increasing the hours of practicum increases the credit hours. I do not believe that the college administration would approve the program's increasing credit hours at this time.
 - Suppose credit hours increase, cost of education increases. Again, potentially being a barrier to completion.
- Current practicum and curricular standards meet national and licensure requirement for the following:
 - Endorsement for the Social Work Assistant registry with the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.
 - Human Services program accreditation with the Council for Standards in Human Services Education.
 - Endorsement for the Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant and educational components of the Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor II with the State of Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.

Respectfully submitted,



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