



Peer Support Specialist Certificate Program

The Peer Support Specialist (PSS) Certificate Program is designed for those who identify as “in recovery” who are interested in providing support, advocacy, wellness, and community engagement services to individuals. Program participants complete 4 university courses (12 credits) and 120 hours of service-learning, in which knowledge is put into practice within a behavioral health agency.

With a focus on behavioral health, the PSS Certificate Program explores the wellness model, multiple definitions of recovery, mentoring and coaching skills, and professional ethics. The PSS Certificate Program can be completed in one academic year, at which point participants will be prepared to enter the field as peer support specialists or to continue on in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree.

Required coursework:

- **CAS 154: Problems of Substance Abuse and Addiction (3 credits)**
Overview of how involvement with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs can affect health, personal and social development. Topics are related to social, philosophical, cultural, prevention and treatment issues.
- **CAS 257: Fundamentals of Behavioral Health (3 credits)**
Overview of what constitutes wellness from a behavioral health perspective (think lifestyle) and the role mental health and substance abuse professionals play in this movement. Clinical implications such as assessment and treatment planning, navigating systems of care, professional ethics, and practitioner wellness will also be addressed.
- **CAS 354: Screening and Client Engagement (3 credits)**
Overview of philosophical and procedural components for providing addiction services. Course explores professional characteristics, ethical/legal issues, the helping process, and initial assessment. Motivational interviewing practiced.
- **CAS 457: Peer Support Specialist Practicum (3 credits)**
Students apply knowledge and skills from peer support specialist certificate courses, and gain 120 hours of hands-on service-learning experience as a Peer Support Specialist in community-based organizations. Practicum meets once per week for supervision, instruction, and training.

Human Behavior Institute

645 Sierra Rose Dr. #102 B, Reno, NV 89511
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Adult Crisis Stabilization

Mon - Fri 1-5pm

Offers a less restrictive alternative to hospitalization. Provides a safe environment with intensive structured groups, aftercare programming, case management. Learn about self-care, managing difficult emotions, resolving interpersonal conflicts. Prevents the need for higher levels of care.