



2011-12

Qualification Document

Level 2 Award in Understanding Substance Misuse (USM-L2)

USM-L2 is accredited by the Office of the Qualifications & Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) into the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)

Qualification Number: 500/4684/6

Sector endorsement: Skills for Health

Sector subject area: 01.3 Health and Social Care

Counselling & Psychotherapy
Central Awarding Body (CPCAB)

P.O. Box 1768
Glastonbury
Somerset
BA6 8YP

Tel. 01458 850 350

Fax: 01458 852 055

Website: www.cpcab.co.uk

Email: admin@cpcab.co.uk

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Find a Counsellor - www.findacounsellor.info - is an online directory sponsored by CPCAB and designed to put potential clients (or employers) in direct touch with counsellors.

It provides the ability to search for a suitable counsellor using several different search criteria, for example:

- Location (map-based search, or else via post-code, town, county, country etc)
- Area(s) of special expertise
- Language spoken
- Type of client seen
- Gender

The search facility is free to use, whilst inclusion in the directory (available only to fully qualified counsellors) currently costs just £29.95 per year!

1. Qualification information

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|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Qualification structure: | 1 mandatory unit: A/501/9973 Understanding Substance Misuse |
| Target candidates: | This unit/qualification is intended for candidates who wish to develop their knowledge of substance misuse in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » raise awareness of substance misuse and its consequences; » improve the knowledge, awareness, understanding and effectiveness of those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently working in the field of substance misuse - supporting people involved in substance misuse - working to prevent substance misuse |
| Level | 2 |
| Guided learning hours | 30 (minimum) |
| Credit value: | 6 |
| Minimum age: | 16 years ¹ |
| Entry requirements: | No previous training or experience required. See section 5 . |
| Progression: | USM-L2 is a single unit qualification. However, progression is available to Level 2 or Level 3 National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in Health & Social Care (H&SC), and/or level 2 counselling skills and/or level 3 substance misuse. The unit credit can also be used towards other relevant qualifications on the QCF. |
| Assessment: | Tutor-assessed candidate portfolio. Independent verification by CPCAB. |
| Additional assessment requirements: | None |
| Grading system | Pass |
| Personal counselling or therapy (for trainee) | None required. |

¹ This age requirement is linked to Ofqual's system for categorising qualifications.

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| Work-place experience (for trainee) | None required |
| Staffing and other resources: | Only one tutor-assessor is needed for the internal assessment of candidates. See section 4 for details of required tutor-assessor qualifications and experience. |
| Internal moderation and verification: | Centres are required to have robust internal moderation and verification processes which are independently verified by CPCAB. |
| Candidate registration fee: | £44 |
| Centre application for CPCAB approval to offer the qualification: | Centre application fee: £99 (one-off fee) Centres design their own training programmes. ² Sample schemes of work are available from CPCAB on request. A free CPCAB tutor resource pack is available on the tutor CD or can be downloaded from the CPCAB website www.cpcab.co.uk . |

² All centre-designed courses must be submitted to CPCAB for approval before candidates can be registered. Although the delivery of courses may differ from centre to centre, all delivery must enable the candidates to achieve the learning outcomes specified in the units.

2. Unit summary

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Qualification Number: | 500/4684/6 |
| Unit title: | Understanding Substance Misuse |
| Unit Reference Number: | A/501/9973 |
| Level: | 2 |
| Guided learning hours | 30 |
| Credit value: | 6 |
| Learning outcomes (<i>skills, knowledge, understanding</i>) | Assessment criteria (<i>to assess each learning outcome</i>) |
| The learner will/will be able to: | The learner can: |
| 1. Know the effects of a range drugs, including alcohol | 1.1 Identify the three main drug groups and the characteristics of each 1.2 Describe the effects of a range of substances including alcohol 1.3 Recognise the main signs and symptoms associated with substance use/misuse |
| 2. Know the harm associated with different substances and related behaviours | 2.1 State the routes of administration 2.2 Identify risks to health posed by intravenous drug use 2.3 Describe the signs and symptoms of overdose of drugs and alcohol 2.4 Identify the link between HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and substance use/misuse 2.5 State how a range of drugs and alcohol use impacts on pregnancy |
| 3. Be aware of diversity in relation to substance use/misuse | 3.1 State what constitutes acceptable and non-acceptable drugs and their usage 3.2 Identify social assumptions and stereotypes around substance misuse |
| 4. Understand why people misuse drugs/alcohol | 4.1 State possible reasons for use/misuse of drugs and alcohol 4.2 Describe patterns of substance use/misuse |
| 5. Be aware of own responses to issues in relation to substance use/misuse | 5.1 Identify own attitude towards drug use and drug users 5.2 Identify personal assumptions in relation to substance misuse |
| 6. Know the social and economic effects of substance misuse | 6.1 Describe the effect substance misuse could have on the community |
| 7. Use study skills within the learning process | 7.1 Use reflection and feedback to identify progress and learning needs |

Go to www.cpcab.co.uk/downloads for a USM-L2 tutor guide which includes guidance to criteria and notes for tutors.

3. Assessment programme – minimum requirements

Candidates must be assessed as **Proficient** in all 7 learning outcomes of the mandatory unit to achieve the qualification. A sample of candidate portfolios is independently verified by CPCAB.

Candidates must give **one** piece of evidence for each criterion.

| INTERNAL ASSESSMENT – must include all three methods of assessment | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Programme activities | Assessment method | Types of evidence (1 reference for each assessment criterion) |
| Activities and exercises Review of learning | Documents | ❖ Learning review (learning record throughout programme) ³ ❖ 1 assignment |
| Not required | Tutor observation | ❖ Not required |
| Not required | Testimony | ❖ Not required |
| EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT | | |
| Not applicable | | |
| MARKING SCHEME | | |
| Internal assessment: | Candidate portfolios, independently verified by CPCAB | |

³ This is an on-going review of learning during the course (also called a ‘learning journal’).

4. Tutor-assessor qualifications and experience

The tutor-assessor needs to have at least a level 3 qualification in Substance Misuse or its equivalent in a related area (e.g. Health and Social Care), or at least 2 years' experience working in the field in the last 5 years.

| Level 2 Award in Understanding Substance Misuse (USM-L2) | | |
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| Tutor | Minimum qualification | Minimum experience as tutor |
| Core tutor | Level 3 qualification in Substance Misuse (or equivalent) OR at least 2 years' experience working in the field in the last 5 years. | Experience of delivering training in substance misuse or related field |

5. Candidate entry requirements

This unit/qualification is not suitable for those who are currently in a state of severe emotional difficulty and/or severe psychological confusion. Centres need to ensure that all potential candidates are made aware of the nature of the course, and in particular that the course involves experiential elements that may involve some personal disclosure and associated personal developmental activities.

6. Progression routes

USM-L2 is a single unit qualification. However, progression is available to qualifications in health & social care, and/or level 2 counselling skills and/or level 3 substance misuse. Where specified, credit for CPCAB qualifications or units may be used towards other QCF qualifications.

