

Latino Addiction Counselor Education (LACE) Program

ADCARE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, Inc., 255 Park Ave. Suite 600, Worcester, MA 01609

Frequently Asked Questions

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 this year the classes are being delivered virtually via Zoom.

Where are the classes offered?

The classes are offered in Boston and Springfield. You should indicate your site preference on your application.

Are the classes taught in English or Spanish?

The classes are taught by Latino/a Master's level facilitators, with addictions credentials (license and/or certification) and they are bilingual (Spanish and English). The classes are taught in both languages.

Are there study materials in Spanish?

While most of the study materials are English, there is a growing list of resources that are in Spanish. These include, books, study guides, practice exams, etc. The program distributes materials and resources in both languages when they are available.

When should I begin the application process?

The program begins in September at the two (2) training sites located in Springfield and Boston. It is wise to begin the application process in the spring (April-June) to ensure that you are considered for a space and to allow enough time for an interview.

When are interviews conducted?

The program will conduct group interviews in August and will accept approximately 20 applicants at each site (Boston and Springfield) who meet all the criteria for acceptance.

When is it too late to apply for September?

It is too late to apply for September classes once the class is full. Please call the Director, Haner Hernandez at 413-627-1601 or email him (hanerhernandez@aol.com) to confirm that there is still space.

May I make an appointment NOW and send in my application tomorrow?

No. We find that it works better if you send the application first and we will notify you about the interview date and location.

When do the classes meet? The classes meet from the beginning of September to the end of June. The following are the dates and times for the two sites:

- **Metro Boston:** One day per week from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM (Wednesday's), and the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- **Springfield:** One day per week from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM (Tuesday's), and the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- **Note:** If there is a weather-related cancellation, we will reschedule the class.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The program is designed to be completed in 10 months (September to June). That said, we continue to work with participants and graduates to help with written exam applications and other professional development needs.

Do students get help finding an Internship placement?

Yes, we have relationships with several Substance Use Disorders treatment providers that will accept interns. Please speak with the program director about your interest and needs.

What about job placement?

The program director and training facilitators are often contacted by organizations or programs seeking to hire bilingual/bicultural staff. We will make job postings available to participants and encourage folks to apply. Moreover, we will provide some mentoring and guidance regarding job employment within the addictions treatment workforce.

If I've already taken a course in Addictions at another training program or institution, can I receive credit for it?

We can only give you credit for the classes that you attend with us. Trainings and/or classes that you take elsewhere might be used for licensure or certification, but that determination will be made by the credentialing body. The program will provide you more guidance in this regard.

Will I be certified upon completion of the Latino Addiction Counselor Education Program?

You will not be certified or licensed upon completion of the program. You will have obtained a Certificate with Continuing Education Units (CEU's) upon completing all the requirements of the program. That said, upon completion, you will be eligible to apply to the Licensing Unit of the Commonwealth of Mass, Dept. of Public Health-Bureau of Substance Abuse Services and/or to the Massachusetts Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification to take the Exam. Once you have passed the exam, you will then be required to have a minimum amount of work experience before being fully credentialed. You will be considered Registered with the Board. Additional information regarding Licensing and Certification processes and requirements will be given during the program.

What other supports do you offer for preparing for the written exam?

The program organizes study circles for graduates, with 5-7 participants in each. The study circles meet for at least three months, once a week, for two hours. The program provides space, study materials, guidance, and support.

Can I take the written exam in Spanish? No, unfortunately the written exam is no longer offered in Spanish.