



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Academy for Justice-Informed Practice Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice Certificate Program 2019

What is the Behavioral Health/Criminal Justice (BH-CJ) Certificate Program?

It is a certificate-bearing training program that is designed to teach foundational information and skills to behavioral health, alternative-to-incarceration and reentry professionals in NYC serving people with serious mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. The curriculum is taught by experienced professionals from across the criminal justice and mental health fields. To receive a Certificate of Completion, participants must complete 8 1/2-day core training modules.

Why should I participate in this program?

The dramatic increase in the numbers of criminal justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness participating in community-based programs requires the behavioral health workforce to develop foundational knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate successful reentry and support service delivery. Our BH-CJ Certificate Program is designed to help providers better understand how to serve this population and collaborate with criminal justice professionals to foster better outcomes for clients. Because of the staggering numbers of people with mental illness with current involvement or histories of involvement in the criminal justice system, it is incumbent upon all behavioral health and reentry professionals to have working knowledge of how to best serve these individuals.

What specific trainings are offered?

For a full description of each module, [click here](#).

How often is the BH-CJ core curriculum repeated each year?

Currently, the core curriculum is offered six times a year: four times a year for the general provider public, and twice a year for specific target agencies. . Email notices will go out approximately four weeks prior to the start of each cycle so that people can register for trainings.

Who conducts the training?

We have a distinguished list of faculty from across the criminal justice and behavioral health systems. All of our faculty work at the top of their respective fields, and have expertise and direct experience related to the content they deliver. To learn more about our trainers, please contact us at the email below.



Who can benefit from this training program?

While the curriculum was developed with a behavioral health audience in mind, other professionals, including staff working in alternative-to-incarceration programs, probation, parole and others will find the content relevant to their work. This program is open to all.

Is this an in-person or online program?

Currently, the training program is conducted primarily in person at our CUCS headquarters in East Harlem. We are now in the process of developing some of our CORE training modules in an online format. Check our website to find out which trainings are available online. Participants can feel free to blend online and in-person classes to complete the series. Please note however, that not all classes are available yet online.

Ultimately, our plan is to offer all CORE classes in an online format, giving our participants learning options that will best meet their needs.

Do I have to take all eight modules to receive a certificate?

Yes, if you want to receive a certificate of completion, you must complete all 8 training modules.

Is there a cost involved in participation?

No. All training is free of charge, thanks to the support of the NYS Office of Mental Health and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Does the Academy offer other trainings in addition to the ones offered through the Certificate Program?

Yes, we offer many trainings throughout the year in addition to those listed above. Sign up for our [mailing list](#) to receive regular postings of our training offerings.

Does the Certificate Program provide Continuing Education Credit Hours for licensed social workers?

Yes! As of June 2015, CUCS is an approved provider of continuing education credit hours for licensed social workers in New York State. Almost all of the trainings in this program confer credit hours.

Does the Certificate Program provide CASAC renewal hours for licensed CASAC professionals?

Yes! Please note that our trainings **do not** provide credit hours for initial CASAC certification. Our classes offer CASAC renewal hours only.



How much time will it take to complete the full curriculum?

That depends. In person at our East Harlem headquarters, the curriculum consists of four full days of training (eight half-day modules) scheduled over a one-month cycle. This eight-training cycle is repeated six times per year. When taking classes in-person, we highly recommend that participants complete all eight modules over the course of a single cycle. However, if this is not possible, participants can complete the trainings at different times of the year when they are offered.

If you are taking a blend of in-person and online classes, completion time will depend on the circumstance. Whether you are taking in- person or a blend of in-person and online classes, you must complete all eight modules within one year to receive a certificate of completion.

I would like to talk with someone about the program. Who can I contact?

We're happy to speak with you about it. Call us at 212-801-3303 or email us at academy@cucs.org.

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