

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE (AAS)

This degree provides the academic knowledge and skill competencies needed by paraprofessionals in mental health services, developmental services and closely-related human services. The degree offers the option for a student to prepare as a Direct Support Professional and/or front-line supervisor of Direct Support Professionals. The special program courses in the degree are infused with the Community Support Skill Standards (a set of nationally validated competencies for community human service practitioners) and an established set of ethical guidelines for Direct Support Professionals. The courses are competency based and provide the opportunity for development of on the job skills.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide guidance and support to people who need help to be self-sufficient. DSPs provide this support to a wide range of individuals including people with physical, psychiatric, or cognitive disabilities or chronic illness; children and youth who are at risk; and families who need assistance in supporting family members. DSPs are found in many human service settings with various job titles, such as Residential Counselor, Employment Specialist, Job Coach, Service Coordinator, Mental Health Technician, Developmental Support Technician and Personal Support Assistant. These jobs share similar requirements and approaches including the ability to teach life skills, provide physical assistance, and to support the empowerment, choices and self-direction of the individual receiving supports. It is estimated that there are over 2 million Americans working in these roles. Job growth in this profession is estimated to be above average in the future.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES - Graduates of this program will have the opportunity to:

- Qualify or obtain employment in direct support services delivery or supervision for persons with physical and/or mental disabilities.
- Successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills required of a direct support professional or supervisor in accordance with current professional standards.
- Successfully apply the knowledge, skills, and ethical standards of a direct support professional or supervisor in an applied human services setting.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (25 Credits):

	CR	SEMESTER
COMMUNICATIONS: BUS 108, COM 101, 102, 215, ENG 100, 101, 102, 107, 113, 114, 205, JOUR 102, THTR 105	3-5	_____
ENGLISH: ENG 100, 101, 107, 113	3-5	_____
HUMAN RELATIONS: ALS 101, ANTH 101, 112, 201, 205, HIST 105, 106, 107, 150, 151, 210, 247, 260, HMS 130, 135B, 265B, MGT 100B, 283, PHIL 135, PSC 201, PSY 101, 102, 207, 208, 261, SOC	3	_____
MATHEMATICS: MATH 120 or above (except MATH 122, 123)	3	_____
SCIENCE: AST, BIOL, CHEM, EGG 131, 132, ENV, GEOG 103, 104, 117, GEOL, HHP 123B, 124B, PHYS	6	_____
FINE ARTS/HUMANITIES/ SOCIAL SCIENCES: AM, ANTH, ART, COM, ECON, ENG 223 or above, GEOG 106 or above, HIST, International Languages, Music, PHIL, PSC, PSY, SOC, THTR, WMST 113	3	_____
U.S. AND NEVADA CONSTITUTIONS: PSC 101 or HIST 101 and HIST 102 or HIST 101 and HIST 217	4-6	_____

SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (35 Credits):

	CR	SEMESTER
MHDD 101 Role of the Technician	1	_____
MHDD 105 Conflict Prevention and Response Training	2	_____
MHDD 107 Medication Fundamentals	2	_____
MHDD 109 Introduction to Therapeutic Interventions	2	_____

Continued in next column.

Continued from previous column.

	CR	SEMESTER
MHDD 126 Understanding Developmental Disabilities	2	_____
MHDD 127 Positive Behavior Supports	2	_____
MHDD 150 Issues in Substance Abuse	1	_____
MHDD 153 Life Span Development	1	_____
MHDD 154 Advanced Therapeutic Interventions	2	_____
MHDD 160 Understanding Mental Illness	2	_____
MHDD 299 Capstone Project	3	_____
PSY 101 General Psychology	3	_____
PSY 241 Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	3	_____

Plus 9 credits from the following concentration of choice:

FOR MENTAL HEALTH/DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES:

CPD 117 Introduction to Counseling	3	_____
HMS 130 Human Sexuality	3	_____
MHDD 102 Medical Component	1	_____
MHDD 103 Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities	1	_____
MHDD 106 Teaching and Active Treatment	1	_____
MHDD 110 Introduction to Disability Services	3	_____
MHDD 130 Teaching Life Skills	3	_____
MHDD 152 Allied Therapies	1	_____
MHDD 291B Fieldwork Experience	3	_____
MHDD 295 Practicum	3	_____

FOR SUPERVISORY SERVICES:

MGT 201 Principles of Management	3	_____
MGT 212 Leadership and Human Relations	3	_____
MGT 283 Personnel Administration	3	_____
MGT 286B Personnel Interviewing	3	_____

60
Total Credits

Students may elect to graduate using the degree requirements in effect at the time of matriculation, or when they declared or changed major or the current catalog. If a program is official after a student has matriculated, the student may choose the degree requirements of the new program. In no case may a student use a catalog which is more than six years old at the time of graduation.