



Oregon Health Authority and Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling
Services

Problem Gambling Services Certification Externship and
Observation Program

Program Guide

Updated 6/12/2023

Contents

- I. Program Description
- II. Application Form
- III. Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services Overview

Oregon Health Authority and Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services
Certification Externship and Observation Program

Program Description

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA PGS) and Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services Program's Certification Externship and Observation Program presents a unique opportunity for those already working in the counseling field to gain paid expert experience towards certification as a Certified Gambling Addiction Counselor (CGAC I or II). This program offers 150 direct clinical hours and a minimum of 12 hours of supervision over the course of 6-12 months.

The Certification Externship and Observation Program is ideal for those who are pursuing the CGAC credential within agencies with low gambling disorder client enrollment, those with difficulty filling clinical time with gambling-specific clients, and those wanting to sharpen their skills within the gambling population, especially with relational clients.

Applicants are eligible for the Certification Externship and Observation Program if they are working as Problem Gambling Treatment Staff in one of the following:

1. An agency providing OHA PGS-contracted problem gambling services, or
2. An agency providing problem gambling services through Medicaid, or
3. An approved Integrated Co-Occurring Disorders (ICD) program.

Applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- Hold a current counseling certification (i.e. CADAC, Associate or licensed status of LMFT, LPC, or LCSW),
- Maintain a minimum of CGAC-R, and
- Have registered for or completed the ACORN PG Precertification class.

Those interested are encouraged to apply. This is a competitive program and not all applicants may be selected for placement. Applicants completing the application agree to follow the guidelines of the program. Chosen participants will:

- Gather a total of 150 direct clinical hours over the course of 6 -12 months, these hours can be accrued via telehealth;
- Create a shift schedule that includes one weekend day each week;
- Attend regular and recurring supervision twice monthly;
- Submit hour logs documenting completion of 50, 100, and 150 hours of direct client hours;
- Upon receipt of each hour log, participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend, maximum of \$3,000;
- Maintain confidentiality by keeping PGS PHI matters within PGS;
- Maintain a quiet, secure, and confidential space for telehealth;
- Complete all case documentation as indicated;
- Follow policies and guidelines at Lewis & Clark PGS;
- Participant, Lewis & Clark PGS, and working agency (if applicable) are required to notify all involved parties, including OHA PGS, of unexpected or extended absences and any difficulties with the above expectations; and
- Stipends will be distributed through the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling. Chosen applicants will be contracted with the Oregon Council on Problem Gambling to receive payment of the stipend.

Chosen participants may be “sponsored” by their current work agency in which the service stipend is exchanged for the participant’s shifts occurring on agency time. Essentially, the work agency is funding the participant by making their Lewis & Clark PGS shift time a part of their regular work week. A weekend shift is still required, so the agency and participant will determine if that will be considered overtime or if a flex schedule is possible.

Questions and concerns can be sent to Brandie Lyday, brandie.lyday2@oha.oregon.gov

Application and Program Timeline

The program will be announced, and applications will open for submission in June 2023. Applications will be reviewed by OHA PGS staff and the first round of applicants will be delivered to the PGS team at Lewis & Clark by July 1st, 2023. Interviews and applicant selection will take place throughout July and August 2023 with the announcement of selected participants September 1st, 2023.

Since the program varies in length depending on the participant’s scheduling, the application for the second round of program participants will be continuously open. Applicants will be selected and placed when space is available.

Oregon Health Authority and Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services
Certification Externship and Observation Program

Program Application

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Email Address: _____

Candidate Telephone Number: _____

Name of Employing Agency: _____

Agency Supervisor Name: _____

Agency Supervisor Email Address: _____

Agency Supervisor Telephone Number: _____

Is your employing agency sponsoring your participation in this program? _____

If yes, Agency Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Candidate's current counseling certification/licensure: _____

Certification/licensure number and expiration date: _____

Candidate's CGAC number (R, I, or II accepted) and expiration date: _____

What do you hope to get out of this program (a few sentences are fine):

Candidate signature and date: _____

Completed applications can be sent to pgs.support@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Oregon Health Authority and Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services
Certification Externship and Observation Program

Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services Overview

Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services has been providing treatment in the Portland Metro area since 2013. Our clinic is made up of advanced clinical interns and a team of highly qualified trainers and supervisors who specialize in problem gambling counseling. Our clinicians have an interdisciplinary background as they are enrolled in the masters program at Lewis & Clark to become Marriage Family Couple Therapists or Professional Mental Health Therapists in addition to working towards their gambling certification. To provide the best care to clients, we believe we need to work collaboratively, be willing to provide and receive feedback, and get creative with how we engage and approach treatment with clients while adhering to our ethical guidelines.

We offer a holistic approach which addresses how problem gambling affects—and is affected by—not only who we are as individuals but also our relationships, the contexts in which we live, and how we make meaning of our life. We understand that problem gambling occurs across the spectrum of gender, race, social class, migration status, sexual orientation, age, languages, and abilities. We strive to be aware of the cultural, historical, economic, and political influences that affect human relationships and our relationships with and beliefs about gambling.

You can learn more about us on our website: https://graduate.lclark.edu/clinics/problem_gambling/

Frankie DiFerdinando
LPC, CGACII

Frankie DiFerdinando, LPC, CGACII, is the Director of the Lewis & Clark Problem Gambling Services in Multnomah County. Frankie received her masters degree in Mental Health & Addictions Counseling at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling. She has been working with individuals and families impacted by gambling since she started providing therapy in her masters program in 2014. Frankie also has a history of working as a co-occurring outpatient therapist helping clients understand and heal from both mental health and addiction symptoms. She has a particular focus on trauma related symptoms as it relates to addiction treatment. Frankie also works as a clinical supervisor and takes a relational approach. Supervision will include collaboration, content, feedback, and process.

