



## **Community Health Worker with Behavioral Health – Mercy College of Health Sciences**

With roots dating back to 1899, the Mercy College of Health Sciences legacy spans over 120+ years of providing high-quality healthcare education.

Mercy College of Health Sciences is a health science specialty school with a physical campus in Des Moines, Iowa. With 16 academic programs offering bachelor's and associate degrees, certificates, online degrees, and continuing education courses, our students are prepared to enter the workforce quickly with the critical skills necessary to make an immediate impact in their chosen healthcare careers.

### **Program Overview**

A CHW with behavioral health can work with clients to address barriers that traditionally underserved communities face when seeking care and services. They do this by providing people with information, supporting them to follow through with case plans, acting as a key connector between patients and their care providers, and helping people know what to do if they have a need. CHWs can also provide a vital bridge to community services for hospitals and clinics treating patients with needs beyond the medical setting.

During this course, students will gain the ability to identify the most common mental health issues facing communities and learn how to activate critical resources to provide support to those in need. Aided by therapeutic communication techniques, students will learn about crisis prevention and intervention, and will gain a broader understanding of the ethnic and racial disparities that lead to chronic disease, mental illness, and social determinants of health.

### **Program Highlights**

- Program structure is asynchronous and synchronous.
- If students are unable to participate in the live synchronous learning, they can re-watch the recorded Coursework is 100% online with simulated clinical experiences. If students are unable to participate in the live synchronous learning, they can re-watch the recorded synchronous session.
- Coursework is 100% online with simulated clinical experiences.
- Students should expect to spend 5 hours per week in class and 10+ hours of work outside of class.
- There are no pre-requisites for this program.
- Program is 9 months (three quarters).



## Number of Credits Earned

Students receive a certificate of completion, but no college credits. Students will be awarded credit towards a Bachelors in Health Sciences at Mercy College.

## Mercy College Admission Requirements

- Must be 18 years of age.
- Be willing to certify that they have a high school diploma/GED.
- Interest in a career that requires working directly with patients.
- Interest in a career that works closely with communities and community resources.
- Enough proficiency in written and spoken English to be an effective part of a care team.
- Legally allowed to work in the United States.
- Familiarity with community resources and how to access them.
- Ability to sit and stand for prolonged periods of time.
- Be computer and internet proficient.
- Have home access to reliable high-speed internet.
- Must have a webcam.
- Willing to commit 3-4 hours per day (estimated at 20+ hours per week) of study time.
- Students are required to have a computer to access class assignments. Mercy recommends that students have a Windows or Mac OS portable computer (laptop).
  - Tablets and Chromebooks are not supported by Mercy College. Students will not be able to access all online and classroom electronic exam software with these devices.

## Enrollment Process

After completing the Futuro Health enrollment process, only students that meet the minimum qualifications will be registered for the Community Health Worker with Behavioral Health program at Mercy College.

Once registered, students will complete an online enrollment process with Mercy College within two weeks before the start of the program, which includes:

- Completing an “intent to enroll” form that is posted on the college’s website.
- During the first module, students will have an orientation to online learning and support services available through Mercy College.
  - Becoming familiar with Canvas, the learning management system, is part of this orientation.

## **Tuition/Fees**

Futuro Health is prepaying the cost of tuition, student supports, textbooks, course materials and exam costs for all students in 2021. However, the following fees do apply:

- Futuro Health Registration Fee: \$100 for the Community Health with Behavioral Health program.
- Membership for education and training: \$20 per month

## **Computer/Skills Requirements**

Mercy College provides the following recommendations:

- *Standard Specification:* Processor: Intel Core i5, i3, 4115Y or similar | Memory: 8GB | Storage: 128GB | Weight: Less than 3 Pounds | Battery Life: 10 - 14 hours | Screen: 13" or larger | Keyboard: Full QWERTY physical keyboard
  - *Examples:* Apple Macbook Air, Dell XPS and Microsoft Surface Go Series (with added keyboard) portable computers.
- *Minimum Specifications:* Specification: Processor: Intel Core i5, i3, 4115Y or similar | Memory: 8GB | Storage: 128GB | Weight: Less than 3 Pounds | Battery Life: 10 - 14 hours | Screen: 13" or larger | Keyboard: Full QWERTY physical keyboard
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## **Immunization Requirements**

There are no immunization requirements for this program.

## **Mentoring & Tutoring Available**

- Mercy College offers a variety of student supports including:
  - Academic and Personal Counseling
  - Disability Services
  - Writing Support
  - Career Services
  - Library
- All supports are offered online.



## **Externship**

There is no clinical component to this course.

## **Grading Information**

Students will receive grades for numerous course assessments and will be required to receive a passing grade before progressing to a subsequent course. Students must complete all required courses with a "C" or higher. Note: C- does not count as a C.

## **Important Contacts**

### *Admissions Contacts:*

Andy Gress, Director of Enrollment Management – [agress@mercydesmoines.org](mailto:agress@mercydesmoines.org), 515-635-1232

Matt Romkey, EVP and Chancellor, Mercy PLUS – [mromkey@mercydesmoines.org](mailto:mromkey@mercydesmoines.org), 563-370-2309