

PDH Academy

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ADHD (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)

Course Abstract

This course is for social workers to understand what ADHD is, how to diagnose it, the biopsychosocial influences, and evidence-based treatment. A critical perspective on ADHD concludes the course.



"This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886745725-5421) for 2 continuing education contact hours."

Learning Objectives

1. The student will understand the role of social workers in screening, assessing, referrals, and intervention for ADHD, becoming familiar with the DSM 5 criteria and key features in children, adolescents, and adults.
2. The student will understand the relevance of the common mental health disorder ADHD for social workers and its influence, as part of a bio-psycho-framework, on other social problems to which social work is committed.
3. The student will understand the epidemiological nature of ADHD.
4. The student will become familiar with a biopsychosocial framework for understanding the causation for ADHD and factors associated with recovery.
5. The student will be knowledgeable about the medications used for treatment and their advantages and disadvantages.
6. The student will be knowledgeable about the use of parent management training for youth with ADHD.
7. The student will understand some of the controversies attached to the medical diagnosis of ADHD and its treatment by medication.

Timed Agenda/Outline

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| I. What is ADHD? | 15 min |
| A. DSM Criteria (5 min) | |
| B. Impairment (5 min) | |
| C. Relevance for Social Work (5 min) | |
| II. Prevalence | 20 min |
| A. U.S. (5 min) | |
| B. Ethnic groups within the U.S. (5 min) | |
| C. Gender (5 min) | |
| D. Course of ADHD (5 min) | |
| III. Co-morbidity | 5 min |
| IV. Assessment | 20 min |
| A. Diagnostic process (5 min) | |
| B. Role in diagnosis (5 min) | |
| C. Assessment tools (5 min) | |
| D. Parents' come to terms with the diagnosis (5 min) | |

V. Causes of ADHD	20 min
A. Genetics (5 min)	
B. Other Biological Risks (5 min)	
C. Family Influence (5 min)	
D. Neighborhood and Socioeconomic Influences (5 min)	
VI. Recovery and Adjustment	10 min
VII. Impact on Parents	10 min
VIII. Treatment	25 min
A. Psychosocial Interventions (5 min)	
o Behavioral Parent Training (BPT)	
B. School Interventions (5 min)	
C. Medication (10min)	
o For Adolescents	
o Parents' Decision to Medicate their Children	
o Drug Holidays	
o Combining and Sequencing of Medication versus Parent Behavioral Therapy	
o Concerns Related to Medication Prescription for Children	
o Medication for Adults	
D. Exercise (5 min)	
IX. Controversies	10 min
A. with the diagnosis	
B. with medication	

Total Minutes

135 minutes

Delivery Method

Correspondence/internet self-study course, including a provider-graded final exam. To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.

Course Author Biography

Jacqueline Corcoran, Ph.D. is a Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work (since 2000). She teaches clinical assessment and practice, as well as research. She has written 14 textbooks, 56 articles, and 38 book chapters and is a psychotherapist in private practice.
