

**DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY**



**Educational Pathways Towards Becoming a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC)<sup>1</sup> in Texas**

PATHS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

EXAM REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

<b>Community College Substance Use Disorder Treatment Coursework</b>	Successful completion of 18 credit hours (270 classroom hours) of substance use disorder treatment coursework as described in <a href="#">140.406</a> of the Texas Administrative Code.	Completion of a minimum of 300 supervised hours in an approved field work practicum.	LCDCi <sup>3</sup> exam
<b><a href="#">Minor in Substance Use Treatment (SUT)</a></b>	Successful completion of the following courses satisfies 18 credit hours (270 classroom hours) requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOCW 2302 Life Span Development</li> <li>SOCW 3305 Social Work Practice I</li> <li>SUT 3315 Intro to Substance Use Treatment</li> <li>SUT 3318 Screening, Assessment &amp; Treatment</li> <li>SUT 3319 Planning, Collaboration &amp; Referral</li> <li>SUT 3321 Substance Use Treatment</li> </ul>	UTA does not require an internship for the minor. However, to be eligible for the <b>LCDCi</b> , the state <b>does</b> require 300 field hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For BSW students, the degree’s field placement internship fulfills this requirement <b>if</b> the field placement is with an agency that offers SUD assessment and treatment.</li> </ul>	LCDCi exam
<b><a href="#">BSW</a></b>	BSW students seeking the LCDC must add the SUT minor or must have taken the coursework at community college.	Completing the required field placement as part of the degree plan satisfies the <b>LCDCi</b> requirement of 300 hours <b>if</b> the field placement is with an agency that offers SUD assessment and treatment. Graduates who plan to pursue the full <b>LCDC</b> must accrue an additional 2,000 hours after graduating; field placement hours do not count towards the 2,000 <b>LCDC</b> hours.	LCDCi exam
<b><a href="#">BSSUT</a></b>	The required courses in this degree plan satisfy the 18 credit hour requirement. No additional courses are necessary.	Completing the required field placement as part of the degree plan satisfies the <b>LCDCi</b> requirement of 300 hours.	LCDCi exam
<b><a href="#">MSW</a> – Traditional (MHSA, CF, Aging or Health specialty)</b>	The required courses in this degree plan satisfy the 48 credit hour requirement. No additional course requirements are necessary.	The 4,000 required practice hours for full <b>LCDC</b> licensure are waived for MSW graduates who took at least 48 credit hours in the MSW program.	LCDC <sup>3</sup> exam
<b><a href="#">MSW</a> – Traditional (CAP specialty)</b>	Please contact the Director of Graduate Programs to tailor the degree plan to the LCDC.	Please contact the Director of Graduate Programs to tailor the degree plan to the <b>LCDC</b> .	LCDC exam
<b><a href="#">MSW</a> - Advanced Standing</b>	The Texas Administrative Code requirement of 48 credit hours is not met with the Advanced Standing MSW degree plan; please consult with advisor to add 10 additional credit hours to meet the requirements.	The 4,000 required practice hours for full <b>LCDC</b> licensure are waived for MSW graduates who took at least 48 credit hours in the MSW program. Graduates who took less than 48 credit hours must accrue 4,000 work hours in an SUD field to qualify for the <b>LCDC</b> exam.	LCDC exam



**Why should I get my LCDC license?**

- Obtaining the LCDC may help graduates gain a competitive advantage when applying for jobs.
- Undergraduate level mental health practitioners (in the US and Canada) are only allowed to provide psychoeducation and case management. Substance use treatment counseling is outside of their competence UNLESS they acquire the LCDC.

**How much will I earn with an LCDC?**

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary in the SUD treatment field in the United States is \$47,660 ([BLS, 2021](#)). Salaries vary by state, education level, experience, and license type.

**Where can I find more information?**

- Additional information about the LCDC can be found on the Texas Health and Human Services [website](#).

<sup>1</sup>Please consult the [Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Regulatory Services Division](#) and the [Texas Administrative Code](#) for verification of licensing information.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to these requirements, all paths require students to pass criminal history standards, sign a written agreement to abide by ethical standards, and be worthy of public trust and confidence as determined by the department

<sup>3</sup>LCDCi is the Counselor Intern designation the individuals may pursue prior to obtaining the full LCDC credential.