Filling the Knowledge Gap:
Academic Curricula in Problem Gambling

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Community Need:

All but 2 states in US have some form of legalized gambling

Scarcity of qualified gambling counselors and growing number of problem gamblers

Regulation:

2003 - Collaboration brings about legislative enactment for problem gambling counselor certification in NV.

2005 - 30 hours of gambling-specific training mandated for new interns
Presenters

Meri L. Shadley
- Academic Coordinator & Associate Professor @ UNR
- Principal Investigator for Gambling Academic Grants
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist in Private Practice
- Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor in Nevada

Denise F. Quirk
- CEO & Clinical Director of Reno Problem Gambling Center
- Developer/Instructor of Problem Gambling Coursework
- Licensed MFT, LADC, CPGC in Nevada for Private Practice
- Nationally Certified Gambling Counselor - II
Governor’s Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) is appointed to assist the Nevada State Department of Health and Human Resources to increase awareness, provide treatment, prevention & research, and workforce development services focused on problem gambling.

$2 annually from each slot machine in Nevada goes into revolving account to fund the grants in these three areas.
Core Competencies

- Basic knowledge about problem gambling: History, Prevalence, Definitions, Types, Social impact, etc.
- Identify similarities & differences in behaviors & patterns of AOD versus Gambling
- Understand relationship between compulsive gambling and co-occurring disorders
- Best Practices for Screening & Intervening
- Develop therapeutic Skills of working with problem gambling (Individual, Group and Family Dynamics)
- Capacity to work with the financial & legal impact of compulsive gambling
When is gambling really a problem?
Introduction -- Explores the history, prevalence and etiology of problem gambling. Investigates stages of progression, effect on families, and relationship to other addictions.

Clinical Application -- Provides knowledge and skills for assessing, planning and implementing treatment for gambling addiction. Clinical applications for individual, family, financial and legal issues provided.
Curriculum Texts: Intro


Intro Curriculum: Modules

- History & Prevalence
- Signs & Symptoms
- Economic Realities
- Effects on Families
- Screening & Assessment
- Intervention & Self-help
- Resources
- The Gambling Business
- Legal Issues
- Prevention
- Research
Video Clips: “When the Fun Stops”
Clinical Curriculum: Texts


**Clinical Curriculum: Modules**

- "The hidden addiction"
- Prevalence
- Co-occurring
  - Suicidality
  - Mental Health
  - Other Addictions
  - Financial/Legal
  - Family
- Triage
- Stages of Change
- Motivational Enhancement
- Strategies for Treatment
- Intervention & Self-help
- Models of Treatment
  - Empathic Listening
  - CBT
  - Culture
  - Group
  - Family Interventions
- Application
Thousands of college students are addicted to this kind of pot.

Gambling is a common part of college life, but some people become addicted to gambling and get into serious emotional, financial and even legal trouble.

So take precautions to prevent problems. Set a limit on the time and money you spend gambling.

If gambling is causing a problem for you or someone you know, call the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at (800) 547-6135 or visit www.wscpg.org
Do you really want to spend your golden years hooked up to a machine?

For most seniors, gambling is not a problem. But for others, it becomes a way to cope with the loss of loved ones, retirement, or loneliness. Call for confidential help.
Marketing

Listserv flyers
Agency visits
Tuition assistance
National advertising
Connecting to other online coursework
“I’m so glad that I had the opportunity to add this knowledge base to my repertoire. Now I understand how doing ‘addiction treatment as typical’ was not the best way to help compulsive gamblers – I had no idea!”
### Outcome

#### Participation

**Introductory Course:**
- 60 undergraduates
- 17 grad students

**Clinical Course:**
- 12 undergraduates
- 3 grad students

### Workforce Development

#### Before legislation and funding within Nevada:
- 6 trained counselors
- 10 interns

#### At present (enactment):
- 13 certified counselors
- 20 registered interns
Contact

UNR’s Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies -- MWATTC

http://casat.unr.edu
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Video RESOURCES

Nevada Council on Problem Gambling
- When the Fun Stops (Gambler)
- Damage Done (Families)
- Given the Chance (Teens)

Hazelden
- It's Not About Money (Gambler)

CASAT
- Beyond the Game: Nevada Seniors & Problem Gambling

Other
- Owning Mahoney