

Purpose Statement

ABC Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling (QCF) (500/9253/4)

OVERVIEW

The suite of ABC qualifications in Counselling (QCF) is developed to provide a structure for the approval of vocational counsellor training programmes. The Level 2 suite offers an excellent range of qualifications which provide an introduction into the field, for those who have had no previous experience of, or training in the field of counselling. The Level 3 Counselling qualifications (Certificates and Diploma) are designed for those seeking progression to become a qualified professional counsellor or for individuals who wish to acquire counselling skills for use in other work areas, e.g. nurses, social workers, teachers.

The Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling supports you to develop and demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding of Counselling, towards achieving professional status as a counselling practitioner. It is also suitable for you in work roles where counselling skills are needed for example: nursing, teaching, social work, voluntary sector, the police and armed forces.

The purpose of this qualification is to provide you with an opportunity to develop work-based skills within an ethical framework and develop an understanding of the impact of a diverse society on clients, Counselling therapeutic models, self-awareness and research methodologies, all of which will be demonstrated through a 100 hour supervised placement.

Benefits for learners:

Undertaking this qualification allows you to:

- Meet, when combined with the ABC Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Skills, the training contact hours requirement for basic training at a professional level for recognition as a qualified counsellor
- Provide further developed skills, including a 100-hour practice component under supervision
- Develop as a reflective practitioner
- Develop a deep understanding of one therapeutic model with knowledge of two others ('integrative' can be a model under the approach).

Who is this qualification for?

The ABC Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling is designed to prepare you (19+) for employment within the Counselling field, as the qualification is concerned with the training of counsellors to a professional level of competency. As a pre-requisite for admission to the Diploma you must possess:

- ABC Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Skills (500/9286/8)
- ABC Level 3 Diploma in Counselling Skills (600/0632/8) or equivalent.

Prospective learners should be aware, either by interview or pre-course group/meeting that the course involves experiential learning and self-awareness exercises, which will be demanding of the self in interaction with others.

This 62 credit qualification has seven mandatory: one 18 credit unit, one 10 credit unit, one 9 credit unit, one 8 credit unit, one 7 credit unit and two 5 credit units. All are vocational and relate to the sector in the title. Both the minimum and maximum vocation content is 100%.

What does the qualification cover?

You will cover aspects of

- Professional organisational issues in counselling – develop an understanding of the essential relationships, as professionals, exploring areas of potential conflict through the existence of different ethical standards and principles.
- Counselling in a diverse society - explore the impact diverse culture and heritage can have on the client/counsellor therapeutic relationship in a multicultural society.
- Counselling theory - analyse one major therapeutic model to influence, inform and empower you as a counsellor. You will also compare other therapeutic models with the major model
- Advanced counselling skills - demonstrate a range of skills and learn that counselling is a managed activity, with emphasis being given to the importance of opening and closing sessions and a series of sessions
- Self-awareness for counsellors - increase self-awareness by analysing and evaluating the impact that counselling theory and practice has on yourself and relationships
- Research methodologies in counselling - explore the importance of research in counselling.
- Counselling placement (100 hours of client work) - analyse how their theoretical approach has influenced their practice, and evaluate learning gained from supervision

Additional qualification requirements include:

- Clinical supervision
- Personal therapy

The content of the qualification will support your development and expansion of your counselling skills, knowledge and understanding, at level 4.

You will produce a portfolio of evidence for example; observations, witness statements, group discussion observation sheets, case studies, reports/notes, placement diary, log book.

WHAT COULD THIS QUALIFICATION LEAD TO?

Will the qualification lead to employment, and if so, in which job role and at what level?

The Level 4 Diploma is concerned with the training of counsellors to a professional level of competency. Many learners progress towards national accreditation status with professional lead bodies. If learners wish to approach a professional regulatory body, they will need to ensure that they meet their requirements.

There is potential for this qualification to help learners looking for employment in a particular variety of settings e.g. GP practices and voluntary and statutory organisations.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

When you successfully complete the Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling you may progress onto Postgraduate and Post Qualifying courses in counselling studies that are designed to enhance the practice, skills and knowledge of a practising counsellor. This provides academic progression alongside a recognised career pathway. It combines the professional aspects, e.g. theoretical knowledge, counselling skills development, self-appraisal and commitment to provision of an ethical quality service and professional development element, which is necessary to ensure that the counsellor is fit to practice.

Examples of qualification to progress onto include:

- Level 5 Diploma in Counselling: Psychotherapeutic Counselling
- Level 6 Diploma in Counselling: Therapeutic Counselling Supervision

Many learners progress towards national accreditation status with professional lead bodies. If learners wish to approach a professional regulatory body, they will need to ensure that they meet their requirements – <http://www.bacp.co.uk/accreditation/>

WHO SUPPORTS THE QUALIFICATION?

Industry

- National Counselling Society - <http://www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org/>
- Hamilton Counselling Service
- Lifeforce

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Diploma is offered at a range of colleges and training centres so to find out if this qualification is offered near where you live please access:
<http://www.abcawards.co.uk/learners/>

Further information on the qualification can be found at
<http://www.abcawards.co.uk/Health-and-Social-Care/Counselling/Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling>