

MISSION OF THE PROGRAM

The Mental Health Worker certificate program and associate's degree prepares students to enter the workforce as a paraprofessional in community-based mental health programs. Students will be trained in psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery paradigm.

The recovery based training program was established at Cerritos College to meet a need in the community for well trained mental health professionals.



JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of behavioral disorder and mental health counselors is projected to grow 22 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. There are roughly 43,600 openings for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health workers each year, on average, and in 2021, the median pay was \$48,250.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm> (visited August 30, 2023).



MENTAL HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MENTAL HEALTH WORKER CORE COURSES UNITS

SEMESTER 1

PSYC 101	General Introductory Psychology	3
INST 151	Principles of Recovery and Psychosocial Rehabilitation	3
INST 272	Special Populations	3

SEMESTER 2

PSYC 271	Abnormal Psychology	3
INST 152	Helping Relationships	3

SEMESTER 3

PSYC 273	Mental Health Worker Field Experience	3
Total Certificate Requirements		18

RECOMMENDED COURSES (MUST TAKE 6 UNITS)

PSYC 103	Critical Thinking in Psychology	3
PSYC 150	Personal and Social Adjustment	3
PSYC 210	Elementary Statistics	4
PSYC 220	Research Methods	4
PSYC 241	Introduction to Psychobiology	3
PSYC 245	Drugs and Behavior	3
PSYC 251	Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 261	Social Psychology	3

ASSOCIATES IN ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 60 units must be completed to include: the core courses listed above, A.A. Degree general requirements, and at least six units of recommended courses.

SALARY EXAMPLES

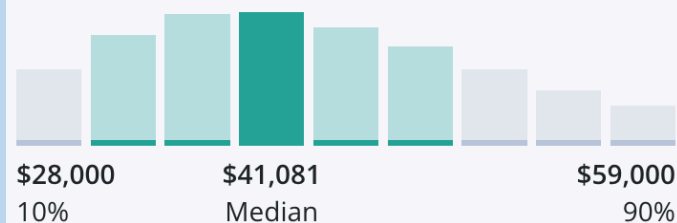
Average Mental Health Worker Salary

\$41,081 ⓘ

\$19.75 hourly rate

Entry-Level Mental Health Worker Salary

\$28,000 yearly salary



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our students experience the progressive, active, empathic culture to help people regain their lives.

Students receive classroom and real world experience at a social service agency. The Mental Health Worker Program practices a hands-on approach to education.

People are more than an illness. In learning about psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery, you will be able to help people with mental illness achieve their goals at an internship site at a local social service agency.

Students have the opportunity to gain employment at several of these mental health agencies and have moved forward in their academic careers including graduate school.

Students will be able to design treatment plans, create progress notes, and demonstrate knowledge of case management and documentation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**CERRITOS
COLLEGE**

MENTAL HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM

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