

MODULE CODE: M5X02249
TITLE: Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues in Mental Health
DATED: 03/04/2019

LEVEL: 5
CREDITS: 20

JACS CODE: C848

AIM(S)

- To develop a critical understanding of the many legal and ethical frameworks and challenges presented when working in the field of mental health.
- To encourage students to consider and identify their own professional development needs for working in the field of mental health.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Understand and apply the legal framework of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act of 2007 to critically explore mental health service provision.
- Identify and discuss the legal, ethical and moral boundaries of professional practice in the field of mental health.
- Evaluate the ways in which students' own skills relating to working in the field of mental health need to be developed and refined.
- Organise their knowledge and learning through the use of information resources and present their work at the appropriate level.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The content of this module will consider the current discourses and disputes associated with the field of mental health, the current legislation, current diagnostic tools and regional and international strategies. Early module content will encourage students to consider the duty of care that those working in the field of mental health need to provide to those that they work with or care for. The core competencies and training routes required by various roles for those working within the field of mental health and in professional practice will be discussed.

Online Lectures and workshops will then consider the importance of maintaining appropriate relationship boundaries and the moral and ethical challenges that this can sometime create with vulnerable individuals. Expectations of client confidentiality and the times when confidentiality may need to be broken for exceptional circumstances will be identified and discussed.

The module will then move to consider the challenges that individuals experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder face in the workplace and the ways in which these individuals can be supported to maintain meaningful employment. The culture of fear and stigma around mental health problems in the workplace

will be critically explored using case studies and empirical evidence. Ways in which the workplace and recruitment and selection strategies should be designed in order to support people with a range of mental health problems to continue to make a contribution to the workplace. Government policies and legal requirements (e.g. the Equality Act and the Health & Safety at Work Act) for managing stress and mental health in the workplace will be critically evaluated and examples of good and bad practice will be explored, including how to support managers in understanding and managing mental health issues amongst their employees. The impact of novel workplace interventions such as green-space provision and mindfulness will also be evaluated.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

This module will be delivered online, with lectures introducing the students to the concepts, principles and practices. Using case studies and empirical articles, online seminars will introduce practical examples which will be used to support the application, discussion, reflection of the issues.

The allocation of teaching to deliver the module is:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled online learning	30	15%
Independent learning	170	85%
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1 – Coursework: written essay 2,500 words (50%)

This assessment will enable students to demonstrate their understanding of the empirical literature surrounding interventions designed to tackle mental health issues in the workplace.

Exemplar: Using empirical evidence, evaluate the strategies that organisations should use to support people with mental health issues at work.

Assessment Component 2 – Coursework: Risk assessment 2,500 words (50%)

Students will be asked to complete a written risk assessment identifying the legal, ethical and professional issues that need to be considered in working within the given case study.

Exemplar: Using the provided headings, produce a written risk assessment identifying the factors that need to be considered in working within the case-study provided.

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	100%
Practical	
TOTAL	100%

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Does the module contribute to ESD?	Yes
If yes please provide brief details (no more than 100 words):	
The development of students' own awareness and self-reflection of these issues is achieved through promoting a critical understanding of the links between their self-identity and their professional role, with students developing critical reflective skills in the line with the QAA (2013) Education for Sustainable Development guidelines the ability to effectively engage with real-life problems relevant to mental health and wellbeing and the capacity for independent, evidence based integrated thinking as the foundation or developing their own personal ethical code.	

READING LIST (EXEMPLI GRATIA)

Essential Reading

Bowen, P. (2007) *Blackstone's guide to the Mental Health Act 2007*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Brown, R., Martin, D. & Barber, P (2009) *Mental Capacity Act 2005: A guide for practice*. Exeter: Learning Matters.

Recommended

Barker, P. ed. (2011). *Mental Health Ethics: the human context*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. (ebook)

DuBois, J.M. (2008). *Ethics in Mental Health Research: Principles, Guidance, and Cases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Dwyer, P., (2010). *Understanding Social Citizenship: Themes and Perspectives for Policy and Practice (Understanding Welfare Series: Social Issues, Policy and Practice)*. Bristol: Polity Press.

Graham, M. & Cowley, J., (2015) *A Practical Guide to the Mental Capacity Act of 2005*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publication

Race, M. & Furnham, A. (2014). *Mental Illness at Work: A manager's guide to identifying, managing and preventing psychological problems in the workplace*. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.

Journals

British Journal of Guidance and Psychotherapy Counselling and psychotherapy research (BACP) Evidence based mental health

Journal of Humanistic Psychology

Journal of mental health counseling

Journal of psychotherapy practice and research Therapy Today (BACP)

Websites

Code of Practice for Social Workers

http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_112315-7.pdf

Health Care and Professions Council (HCPC) Ethics

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/standards/standardsofconductperformanceandethics/>

Ethical Issues in Health and Social Care Professions

http://www.academia.edu/2333670/Ethical_Issues_in_Health_and_Social_Care_Profession

Social Care Institute for Excellence

<http://www.scie.org.uk>