

Teaching Certificate Program
Capstone Project

Barbara Carlson
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For my Capstone project I chose to involve my Class Health Science 456, Assessment of Chemical Dependency. This course is designed to develop student's competency in performing chemical dependency assessments, as part of their licensing requirements defined by the Minnesota Department of Health.

This is the first semester I have taught this course. To facilitate a more active learning process I implemented the following:

1. Instead of using a prepared case study for student's to complete an assessment, I had students pair up and conduct an actual interview on each other. In the interests of maintaining confidentiality, fictitious names were used, and content information was also fictional. At first students were unsure of themselves, apprehensive regarding the process of delving into someone else's background, and indicated the process felt very foreign to them.
2. Students were required to write up a formal assessment for their "client" complete with a recommendation for treatment if necessary.

After completion of the project, students indicated they felt it was a valuable learning experience. They felt the process of conducting an assessment interview, and preparing an assessment on an actual client helped him to gain "hands on" experience which will be

much more beneficial when they are in the field practicing as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor.