

ONLINE TRAININGS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

Reviews

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1. Environmental Prevention Strategies

Self-Paced Distance Learning Course From the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technology (CASAT)

Course Overview

This online course provides basic information about substance abuse prevention, with areas of emphasis in evidence-based environmental strategies and overcoming barriers to implementing environmental strategies. The material also provides information specifically targeted for substance abuse professionals and other professionals in related fields who need an introduction to environmental prevention strategies. The overarching goal of the course is to increase the level of knowledge about environmental prevention strategies among a broad audience of individuals who influence decisions regarding prevention planning and practices, including prevention practitioners, policymakers, and State and local administrators.

The course objectives are to:

- Inform about the powerful potential of employing environmental strategies as part of a comprehensive effort to reduce alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use among children and youth.
- Identify evidence-based environmental practices for substance abuse prevention.
- Identify potential barriers to implementing environmental strategies and explore ways to overcome them.
- Explain the evidence-based outcomes of environmental strategies.

Impressions

For a self-paced course, this online workshop is one of the more rigorous online courses due to the quality of the reading material provided, the small quiz and the short answer/essay component. Although there is no interaction with other students, the freedom to move through the course material at a pace which is comfortable for the individual student is helpful. If anything, the reading material is highly recommended.

Target Audience: Substance abuse prevention professionals/Community coalition coordinators

Course Length: Approximately 8 hours

Course Requirements: Small quiz and final short essay/short answer assignment to be emailed to course moderator for grade to pass and certification.

Cost: \$64

Website: <http://casat.unr.edu/>

2. Prevention Pathways

From the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

CSAP's *Prevention Pathways* offers a variety of self-directed online courses for professional development (with most offering CEUs).

a. Environmental Strategies for Prevention

A Guide To Helping the Prevention Professional Work Effectively in the Community”

Course Overview

This online course provides a foundational overview of environmental strategies and their role in prevention. Five categories of environmental strategies are discussed -- policies, enforcement, education, communication, and collaboration. The course also presents specific examples of effective programs from the field and from SAMHSA's Model Programs. The material in this particular course is appropriate for individuals new to the prevention field.

Throughout the course, links are provided to other Web sites that can provide more information about topics (some links are outdated, but most work). The course is intended as a starting point for prevention professionals and others to plan interventions appropriate to their community's needs. At the end of each module is a quiz to gauge the learner's progress and understanding. This online course is a strong compliment to other professional development opportunities.

Impressions

This online course covers environmental strategies more broadly and provides information more foundational in scope. The course is not as challenging as other online sites, however, it is a good lesson in the basics of environmental prevention strategies. Not recommended for seasoned prevention professionals.

Target Audience: Substance abuse prevention professionals/Community coalition coordinators (new to the field)

Course Length: 4-8 hours

Course Requirements: Small quizzes at the end of each module

Cost: Free

Website: <http://preventionpathways.samhsa.gov/>

b. CSAP's Prevention Platform

Course Overview

This course offers the opportunity to learn the basics of substance abuse prevention. It provides information on prevention principles, approaches, and strategies, as well as guidance for planning effective programs and measuring results. If you are involved in the design, development, or implementation of prevention programs, you may benefit from taking the course. If you are a professional prevention specialist or a community leader who is involved in shaping a prevention program, this course may be just what you need. If you are not actively involved in prevention, you may still take the course. Access is not restricted in any way. Anyone who wants to learn about prevention is welcome to take this course. Optional continuing education units (CEUs) are available through the Department of Public and Community Health at the University of Maryland College Park for \$25. Payment of this fee is the student's responsibility. The course includes the following instructional units:

- Unit 1 Prevention and the Public Health Model
- Unit 2 Risk and Protective Factors
- Unit 3 Prevention Strategies
- Unit 4 Individual and Social Change
- Unit 5 Health Communication and Social Marketing

- Unit 6 Needs and Resource Assessment
- Unit 7 Planning for Successful Outcomes
- Unit 8 Resources for Prevention Planning

Impressions

This online course is very basic and not interactive but the content is very good. This training provides a very broad overview to prevention and is a strong orientation to the field.

Target Audience: New prevention practitioners, coalition members, volunteers

Course Length: 2-6 hours

Cost: Free (unless CEUs desired)

Website: <https://preventionplatform.samhsa.gov/fop/Index.cfm>