

# PACES Learning Pathway – Phase 1 (Beginning)

## General Information

The Provincial Addiction Curricula & Experiential Skills Learning Pathway (PACES) is an evolving four-phase sequential learning pathway providing self-paced, personalized addiction and mental (AMH) education for all skill levels. It advances learners from a basic understanding to a mastery of the competencies required to assess and treat primary addiction and/or psychiatric comorbidities (concurrent disorders) through e-learning modules, educational videos, simulated patient scenarios, and virtual skill-building sessions.

## Phase 1: Beginning

### Course Access:

AHS Staff: MyLearning Link

Non-AHS: [www.ahs.ca/PACES](http://www.ahs.ca/PACES)

Duration: Varied due to length of individual modules – see below for more details.

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## Global Learning Objective

Describe foundational concepts related to substance use disorders, behavioural addiction (gambling and gaming), and co-occurring mental health disorders that commonly present in individuals accessing AMH treatment services.

## Course Descriptions

Module Title	Learning Objectives	Approx. Duration
Expectations for Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recognize the importance of engagement when developing relationships with those in need of addiction &amp; mental health services.</li><li>Identify evidence-informed approaches to addiction and mental health care that meet the needs and expectations of patients and families.</li><li>Identify personal biases regarding addiction and mental health that may impact care provision.</li></ul>	60 mins
Understanding Addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Define addiction and understand its complexities.</li><li>Explain the biopsychosocial-spiritual model of addiction.</li><li>Identify the criteria and level of severity required for diagnosing a substance use disorder.</li></ul>	60 mins
Understanding Psychoactive Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR)</i> drug classes associated with substance use disorder.</li></ul>	60 mins



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the prevalence and impact of each substance.</li> <li>• Explain the addiction liability and short and long-term effects of each substance.</li> </ul>	
Understanding Gambling Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the three essential components of gambling and the various gambling activities.</li> <li>• Define problem gambling and understand its complexities, including the impacts of gambling disorder.</li> <li>• Recognize the vulnerability and risk factors for gambling disorder among higher-risk groups.</li> </ul>	60 mins
Understanding Internet Gaming Disorder (IGD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define Gaming and review the elements of Game Design.</li> <li>• Identify the advantages and disadvantages of game playing.</li> <li>• Define IGD; and the diagnostic criteria for IGD.</li> <li>• Learn preventative measures to reduce excessive game playing and the development of IGD.</li> <li>• Identify the similarities and differences between electronic gaming and gambling.</li> </ul>	60 mins
Understanding Mental Health and Mental Health Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define Mental Health along its continuum from mental wellness to mental health disorder.</li> <li>• Identify the biopsychosocial-spiritual components of mental health.</li> <li>• Characterize the most common mental health conditions classified within the DSM-5-TR.</li> <li>• Distinguish strategies to prevent stigmatization of mental health conditions and promotion of mental wellness.</li> </ul>	60 mins
Understanding Concurrent Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the term concurrent disorders.</li> <li>• List the causes, connections, and risk factors for concurrent disorders.</li> <li>• Identify the most common combinations of concurrent disorders.</li> <li>• Describe an integrated approach to concurrent capable care.</li> </ul>	60 mins