



# 2025 *Distinguished* GRADUATE

## **MARK NICOLAS** | Human Services, Addiction Counseling

Mark Nicolas is a former U.S. Navy Corpsman who served in Fallujah, Iraq alongside the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines. With 13 years of experience in the medical field, his dedication to caring for others was unwavering — even as his own unseen wounds from war began to surface.

Seeking transformation and healing, Mark relocated to Texas, where he began rebuilding his life. Amid personal challenges, including the loss of his mother to addiction and becoming the sole caregiver for his grandmother living with Alzheimer's, he found strength in growth and resilience.

Mark recently earned his associate degree in human services with a focus on addiction counseling and has continued his academic journey with a 4.0 GPA. His goal is to pursue a master's degree in experimental psychology, where he can expand his research and clinical focus.

Passionate about breaking down barriers to healing, Mark aims to combine science with compassion. His work centers on trauma and neuropsychopharmacology, and he is committed to pushing the boundaries of mental health care. With a heart for service and a mind for research, Mark envisions a future where healing is not only possible — but transformative.

“Perfer et obdura, dolor hic tibi proderit olim.” (“Be patient and tough; **someday this pain will be useful** to you.”)

— OVID

