



Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues in Counseling

COU 6501

Total Credit Hours: 3

Instructor:

Course Description

This course introduces students to the characteristics, roles, and functions of the professional counselor with special attention to legal, ethical, and professional issues. The course affords a comprehensive overview of programs and services in professional counseling.

Rationale for Course

The focus of this course is to provide an orientation to the counseling profession and an overview of legal, ethical and professional issues, including, but not limited to ethical standards and laws relevant to the counseling profession, the use of technology, boundary issues, advocacy, ethical bracketing, credentialing and training, counselor identity, managed care, liability, and decision making. Focus is also on counselor specializations, with a special focus on degree programs offered in our department - school counseling, mental health counseling, and marriage and family counseling - and issues regarding ethical practice including multicultural and social justice competency.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, successful students will have gained knowledge, understanding and skills regarding:

1. history and philosophy of the counseling profession and its specialty areas
2. the multiple professional roles and functions of counselors across specialty areas, and their relationships with human service and integrated behavioral health care systems, including interagency and interorganizational collaboration and consultation
3. counselors' roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams
4. the role and process of the professional counselor advocating on behalf of the profession
5. advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients
6. professional counseling organizations, including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current issues
7. professional counseling credentialing, including certification, licensure, and accreditation practices and standards, and the effects of public policy on these issues
8. current labor market information relevant to opportunities for practice within the

- counseling profession
9. ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling
 10. technology's impact on the counseling profession
 11. strategies for personal and professional self-evaluation and implications for practice
 12. self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role
 13. the role of counseling supervision in the profession
 - 14.

Prerequisites

Graduate Standing

Instructional Materials

Required Textbook: Remley, T. P., & Herlihy, B. (2020). Ethical, legal, and professional issues in counseling (6th ed.). Pearson.

Supplementary Information:

www.counseling.org (American Counseling Association)

<http://www.counseling.org/Resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf> (ACA 2014 Ethical Codes)

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Resource%20Center/Legal%20and%20Ethical%20Issues/Sample%20Documents/EthicalStandards2010.pdf> (ASCA Ethical Codes)

<http://www.amhca.org/?page=codeofethics> (AMHCA Code of Ethics)

<https://www.lpc.ms.gov/secure/index.asp> (MS State Board of Examiners for LPCs)

<http://www.counselor-license.com/> (Professional counselor licensure requirements for each state)

Methods of Instruction

Instructional methods for this course may include: Lecture, Discussion, Case Study, Demonstration/Role Play, Recordings, Podcasts, Presentations, Written Assignments, Personal Reflection, Research, Group Work

Methods of Evaluation

Objectives will be assessed through multiple means including class participation, satisfactory completion and timely submission of assignments, and satisfactory performance on the examination.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's): Key performance indicator assignments are integrated throughout the curriculum in all master's level counseling programs. These assignments are meant to check your academic progress throughout your time in the program & help prepare you for the CPCE/NCE core areas. All students must earn a satisfactory score on any assignment labeled as a KPI. If you do not earn a satisfactory score, you are required to repeat the assignment per the Department of Counseling. If you do not earn a satisfactory score on the second attempt, you will be placed on a formal academic remediation plan.

Required, Graded Assignments and Weight:

Weekly Quiz/Case Studies	100 points
Informed Consent Assignment	100 points
Mid-Term Exam	150 points
Ethical Decision-Making Case Study Paper	200 points *KPI*
Ethical Issue Research Paper on Chosen Topic	200 points
Ethical Issue Presentation, Handouts & Class Involvement Activity	100 points
Cumulative Final Exam	150 points

Total:
1000 points

Grading Scale

94-100%	=	A
89-93%	=	B+
80-88%	=	B
73-79%	=	C+
66-72%	=	C
59-65%	=	D
Below 59%	=	F

MC Syllabus Statement

The MC Syllabus contains all policies and procedures that are applicable to every course offered by Mississippi College, both on campus and online. The policies in the MC Syllabus describe the official policies of the University as they relate to instruction and will take precedence over those found elsewhere. It is the student's responsibility to read and be familiar with every policy. The MC Syllabus may be accessed at any time on the MC website at the following: <https://www.mc.edu/provost/mcsyllabus>.

Grading Policy

My goals are to (1) meet the course objectives and (2) ensure fairness. Accordingly, please do not contact the instructor at the end of the course to request an extra assignment, bonus opportunity, or grade change for any reason except an error in the calculation of the final grade. Grade appeals should follow the process outlined in MC Policy 4.20.

Additional Course Policies

- Attendance - **Four (4) class absences will lead to mandatory failure.**
Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. Class attendance is an essential part of college education, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. Cumulative absences will result in a lowered grade or loss of credit for the course. The university policy will be followed concerning absences.
- Please see Appendix A at the end of this syllabus for the applicable CACREP 2016 Standards.

Best Practices

Students should approach graduate level courses in the master's level counseling programs with professionalism and openness to learn including accepting feedback graciously. Students should complete all assigned reading, assignments, and exams outlined by the instructor of the course. Students must adhere to the ACA code of ethics while enrolled in the counseling programs at MC.

Course Outline / Schedule

Developed per semester and at faculty discretion; therefore, this is subject to change.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments/Materials due
Week 1	Introduction to the course Professional Counselor Identity	Syllabus Textbook Ch. 1 - 2
Week 2	Multiculturalism and Social Justice in Professional Counseling	Textbook Ch. 3 Weekly Quiz
Week 3	Client and Counselor Rights and Responsibilities	Textbook Ch. 4 Weekly Quiz
Week 4	Confidentiality, Privileged Communication, and Records	Textbook Ch. 5 - 6 Weekly Quiz
Week 5	Competence, Assessment, and Diagnosis	Textbook Ch. 7 Weekly Quiz
Week 6	Malpractice and Resolving Legal and Ethical Challenges Boundary Issues in Professional Counseling	Textbook Ch. 8 - 9 Informed Consent Assignment
Week 7	Technology in Counseling	Textbook Ch. 10 Weekly Quiz
Week 8	MIDTERM EXAM	Textbook Chapters 1 - 10
Week 9	Counseling Children and Vulnerable Adults Counseling Families and Groups	Textbook Ch. 11 - 12 Weekly Quiz
Week 10	Professional Relationships, Private Practice, and Navigating Managed Care	Textbook Ch. 13 Ethical Decision-Making Case Study Paper *KPI*
Week 11	Issues in Counselor Education Gatekeeping in the Counseling Profession	Textbook Ch. 14 Weekly Quiz
Week 12	Supervision and Consultation in Professional Counseling	Textbook Ch. 15

		Weekly Quiz
Week 13	Professional Writing, Conducting Research, and Publishing in the Counseling Profession	Textbook Ch. 16 Ethical Issue Research Paper
Week 14	PRESENTATIONS	Ethical Issue Presentation
Week 15	PRESENTATIONS	
Week 16	FINAL EXAM	COMPREHENSIVE

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule proposed in the syllabus as necessary. Modifications will be provided in writing.

**APPENDIX A
CACREP STANDARDS (2016)**

Obj = Learning Objectives/Course Objectives

Prof. Perspective = Professional Perspective (answering why included)

MCC = Multicultural counseling competence

ECT Director = Electronic Clinical Training Director

SECTION II - PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION AND ETHICAL PRACTICE

II.F.1.a. history and philosophy of the counseling profession and its specialty areas;

Assignment: Book exam	
Task:	Improve student understanding of counseling history & philosophy
Prof. Perspective:	Develop counselor professional identity and advance profession
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies
Course Obj:	1

II.F.1.b. the multiple professional roles and functions of counselors across specialty areas and their relationships with human service and integrated behavioral health care systems, including interagency/interorganizational collaboration and consultation;

Assignment: Book exam	
Task:	Improve student understanding of counseling roles, functions, specializations, consulting and collaborating
Prof. Perspective:	Develop counselor professional identity and advance profession; Promote expectation of & characterize prof conduct and ethical responsibility; Prepare students to practice ethically, adhering to both the letter and spirit of the ethical standards, to foster aspirational ethics, successfully address ethical dilemmas, and practice within their area(s) of competence
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies
Course Obj:	2

II.F.1.c. counselors' roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams;

Assignment: Book exam	
Task:	Improve student understanding of interdisciplinary & crisis team membership
Prof. Perspective:	Develop counselor professional identity and advance profession; Promote expectation of & characterize prof conduct
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies
Course Obj:	3

II.F.1.d. the role and process of the professional counselor advocating on behalf of the profession;

Assignment: Book exam	
Task:	Improve student understanding of advocating for counseling profession
Prof. Perspective:	Develop counselor professional identity and advance profession; Declare & characterize behavior that's to govern counselors; Inform students of counseling's mission, core values, and guiding principles
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies
Course Obj:	4

II.F.1.e. advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients;

Assignment: Book exam; Case Study	
Task:	Improve student understanding of social justice competencies
Prof. Perspective:	Impart how MCC development and ethical practice align and work together as adherence to counseling's ethical standards, and multicultural & social justice and advocacy competencies work in conjunction
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies; Critical thought & individual completion of case study
Course Obj:	5

II.F.1.f. professional counseling organizations, including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current issues;

Assignment: Book exam	
Task:	Improve student understanding of counseling organizations & issues

Prof. Perspective:	Develop counselor professional identity and advance profession; Declare & characterize behavior that's to govern counselors; Inform students of counseling's mission, core values, and guiding principles
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies
Course Obj:	6

II.F.1.g. professional counseling credentialing, including certification, licensure, and accreditation practices and standards, and the effects of public policy on these issues;

Assignment: Book exam; Presentation; Case studies	
Task:	Improve student understanding of counselor credentialing, accreditation, public policy
Prof. Perspective:	Develop counselor professional identity and advance profession; Declare & characterize behavior that's to govern counselors; Inform students of counseling's mission, core values, and guiding principles; promote expectation of & characterize prof conduct and ethical responsibility; Prepare students to practice ethically, adhering to both the letter and spirit of the ethical standards, to foster aspirational ethics, and practice within their area(s) of competence
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies; Develop thorough but limited, ethically- and multiculturally-focused scholarly slides, handout, and class activity
Course Obj:	7

II.F.1.h. current labor market information relevant to opportunities for practice within the counseling profession

Assignment: Book exam; Class Lecture and Discussion; Case Study	
Task:	Improve student knowledge of current and future career opportunities for counselors both in-state and nationally and sources of additional information related to counseling careers
Prof. Perspective:	Prepare students to competently undertake their future counseling job searches and plan their future professional paths
Assessment:	Critical thought; Participation in classroom discussion & individual completion of case studies/exams
Course Obj:	8

II.F.1.i. ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling.

Assignment: Book exam; Presentation; Research Paper; Case Study	
Task:	Improve student understanding of current ethical standards, relevant national & state laws, and credentialing body's standards & rules

Prof. Perspective:	Promote expectation of & characterize prof conduct and ethical responsibility; Prepare students to practice ethically, adhering to both the letter and spirit of the ethical standards, to foster aspirational ethics, and practice within their area(s) of competence
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies; Individual or group development of thorough but limited, ethically- and multiculturally-focused scholarly slides, handout, and class activity; Critical thought & individual completion of case study
Course Obj:	9

II.F.1.j. technology's impact on the counseling profession

Assignment: Presentation; Research Paper; Case Study; Informed Consent Assignment	
Task:	Improve student understanding of current ethical standards, relevant national & state laws, and credentialing body's standards & rules as they apply to the use of technology in counseling practice
Prof. Perspective:	Promote expectation of & characterize professional conduct and ethical responsibility in their use of technology to enhance counseling practice while adhering to federal and state regulations
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies; Individual or group development of thorough but limited, ethically- and multiculturally-focused scholarly slides, handout, and class activity; Critical thought & individual completion of case study
Course Obj:	10

II.F.1.k. strategies for personal and professional self-evaluation and implications for practice;

Assignment: Book exam; Presentation; Research Paper; Case Study; Informed Consent Assignment; Ethical Decision-making Assignment	
Task:	Prepare students to regularly engage in self-reflection and self-evaluation of both personal and professional behaviors, decision-making, and case conceptualization
Prof. Perspective:	Promote expectation of & characterize prof conduct and ethical responsibility by effectively employing an ethical decision-making model and reflecting on ethical behaviors by thinking critically about ethical decisions related to case studies
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies; Critical thought & individual completion of ethical decision-making case study; development of informed consent brochure
Course Obj:	11

II.F.1.l. self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role;

Assignment: Homework assignment to create a personal self-care plan
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Task:	Improve student understanding of counselor self-care
Prof. Perspective:	Promote expectation of & characterize professional conduct through ongoing self-care; Prepare students to practice ethically, to foster aspirational ethics, and practice competently & promote competency as function of gatekeeping
Assessment:	Individual completion of exam/case studies
Course Obj:	12

II.F.1.m. the role of counseling supervision in the profession;

Assignment: Case Studies	
Task:	Improve student understanding of role & importance of counselor supervision, temporary and ongoing
Prof. Perspective:	Promote use of supervision, throughout students' career, for personal & professional development and to improve & increase area(s) of clinical & multicultural counseling competence; Prepare students to practice ethically, foster aspirational ethics, and assist in addressing ethical dilemmas
Assessment:	Individual completion of exams/case studies
Course Obj:	13

**SECTION III - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
FOUNDATIONS**

A. Knowledge

CMHC.III.A.2. Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

B. Skills and Practices

CMHC.III.B.1. Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in clinical mental health counseling.

COUNSELING, PREVENTION, AND INTERVENTION

C. Knowledge

CMHC.III.C.9. Understands professional issues relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

**MARRIAGE, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING
FOUNDATIONS**

A. Knowledge

MCFC.III.A.2. Understands the ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of marriage, couple, and family counseling. (Ethics)

B. Skills and Practices

MCFC.III.B.1. Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in marriage, couple, and family counseling. (Ethics)

COUNSELING, PREVENTION, AND INTERVENTION

D. Skills/Practices

MCFC.III.D.5. Adheres to confidentiality responsibilities, the legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, family law, record keeping, reimbursement, and the business aspects of practice. (Ethics)

MCFC.III.D.6. Demonstrates the ability to recognize his or her own limitations as a marriage, couple, and family counselor and to seek supervision or refer clients when appropriate. (Ethics?)

DIVERSITY AND ADVOCACY

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Foundations

A. Knowledge

SC.III.A.2. Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of school counseling. (Ethics)

B. Skills and Practices

SC.III.B.1. Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in school counseling. (Ethics)

COUNSELING, PREVENTION, AND INTERVENTION

D. Skills and Practices

SC.III.D.5. Demonstrates the ability to recognize his or her limitations as a school counselor and to seek supervision or refer clients when appropriate.

Assignment: Book exam; Presentation; Case Study	
Task:	Improve student understanding of ethics & laws relevant to mental health counseling, school counseling, and marriage & family counseling