

COUN 568: Counselor as Professional
University of Bridgeport
Fall 2022

Instructor: Fredrick Dombrowski, PhD, LPC, LADC, NCC, CCMHC, MAC

Course Day/Time: Wednesdays 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Class Location: Mandeville Hall Room 308

Zoom Link: <https://bridgeport.zoom.us/j/95805280118>

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Office: 304 Bates Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30pm, Thursdays, 11:00am-12:30pm, by appointment

Text: Remley, T.P., & Herlihy, B. (2015). *Ethical, legal, and professional issues in counseling* (5th ed.). Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Course Description:

This course serves as an orientation to the helping profession by addressing issues that impact the provision of services such as ethics, law, certification, and professional role expectations. Completion of this course must precede internship.

Learning Objectives:

Identify issues that affect practice in counseling.

Discuss the history, philosophy, and trends in clinical mental health counseling.

Describe counselor competence and scope of practice.

Continue to develop and implement self-care and wellness plan.

Describe the considerations needed to provide a high level of professional service.

Describe rights and responsibilities of the counselor and client.

Apply legal, ethical and moral standards.

Recall local, state, and national legislation and laws pertaining to counseling.

Professional Standards Addressed:

CACREP Standards	Course Objective	Instructional Methodology	Measure of Student Learning
	Understands professional issues relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.	Weekly Reading	Final Exam
II. G. 1. c.	Understands effective strategies to support client advocacy and influence public policy and government relations on local, state, and national levels to enhance equity, increase funding, and promote programs that affect the practice of clinical mental health counseling.	Small group work	Referral & Advocacy Assignment
II. G. 1. h.		In-class worksheets	Ethical Decision Making Assignment and Presentation
II. G. 1. i.			
II. G. 1. f.	Knows public policies on the local, state, and national levels that affect the quality and accessibility of mental health services.		Quizzes 1-11
II. G. 1. a.	Understands the range of mental health service delivery—such as inpatient, outpatient, partial treatment and aftercare—and the clinical mental health counseling services network.	Weekly Reading	Quizzes 1-11
II. G. 1. f.			Final Exam

			Professional Identity Reflection Final Exam
II. G. 1. b.	Understands the roles and functions of clinical mental health counselors in various practice settings and the importance of relationships between counselors and other professionals, including inter-disciplinary treatment teams.	Weekly Reading	Professional Identity Reflection
II. G. 5. f.		Small group work	
	Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.		Quizzes 1-11 Final Exam
		Weekly Reading	Referral & Advocacy Assignment
II. G. 1. b.	Is aware of professional issues that affect clinical mental health counselors (e.g., core provider status, expert witness status, access to and practice privileges within managed care systems).	In-class presentations	Ethical Decision Making Assignment and Presentation
II. G. 1. c.			
II. G. 1. e.		In-class role play activities	
	Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in clinical mental health counseling.		Self-care Plan Assignment
			Quizzes 1-11
	Advocates for policies, programs, and services that are equitable and responsive to the unique needs of clients.		
II. G. 1. g.	Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.	Weekly Reading	Final Exam
		Small group work	

Knows the professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

In-class role play activities

Referral & Advocacy Assignment

Ethical Decision Making Assignment and Presentation

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

Professional Identity Reflection

Applies knowledge of public mental health policy, financing, and regulatory processes to improve service delivery opportunities in clinical mental health counseling.

Quizzes 1-11

Understands professional issues relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

Advocates for policies, programs, and services that are equitable and responsive to the unique needs of clients.

Course Policies:

1) Attendance: Student grades and understanding of course content are dependent upon consistent study and attendance. Each week of coursework is expected to require 5 – 7 clock hours (including time spent in class) of effort to complete activities, assignment, and assessments.

2) Make-up Policy: Make-up policy is at the discretion of the instructor.

3) Academic Integrity & Honesty: The University of Bridgeport is committed to fostering an environment of academic integrity, mutual respect, and individual responsibility. We are a community that values the voice of students in their pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth. By choosing to be a member of this community, each student demonstrates respect for the core values of trust, honesty and ethical behavior, and commits to upholding these standards. These principals guide conduct both in and out of the classroom and on and off campus. This applies to interactions with all members of the community as well as the use of university resources and facilities.

In addition to the guidelines outlined in the Key to UB and the Catalog of University of Bridgeport, note that student that are found to be responsible for plagiarism may be separated from the counseling program immediately.

Minimally, university policy calls for the following:

1st offense – fail the assignment

2nd offense – fail the class

3rd offense – separation from school

A record of student plagiarism cases in the Provost's Office in order to determine 1 – 3 offensives.

4) Drop/Add: Please refer to the current school catalog for policy related to schedule changes, dropping and/or adding classes, dates and deadlines.

Course Requirements/Evaluation Criteria:

Weekly Online Quizzes: (10 points each X 11 weeks = 110 points total)

Weekly online quizzes will be available on Tuesdays after class and will close the following Tuesdays at 11:59pm. Students will have one chance to complete the timed quiz. Late quizzes will not receive any credit.

Self-Care Plan: (40 points)

Students will create a personalized wellness plan intended to identify areas of clinician self-care.

Ethical Decision Making Assignment: (50 points)

Recently, the state of Tennessee signed into law an extremely controversial bill (HB 1840) with enormous consequences for the counseling profession. Your assignment is to educate yourself on all aspects of this law (a copy of it is available in Module 2) and write a 2 to 4 page paper addressing the following:

1. Give a brief description of HB1840. (This section is informational only and should NOT include your opinion).
2. Use the information from your text as well as the PowerPoints provided in this course thus far to identify if this is a moral, ethical, or legal issue. You must DISCUSS your rationale for your choice and provide SPECIFIC EXAMPLES from the actual HB1840 document to support your answer.
3. Use the ACA Code of Ethics Preamble and ethical codes to argue either for or against HB1840. You MUST CITE SPECIFIC ethical codes in your argument.
4. Discuss how to apply the ACA ethical decision making model (from the PowerPoint in Module 2) to HB1840. Identify ways to resolve potential conflicts using this model.
5. DISCUSS how you believe this law impacts the profession of counseling as a whole. Provide SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

Please see the American Counseling Association website <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/109/Bill/HB1840.pdf> for more information and additional links to resources for learning what the law proposes.

Please also remember that "discuss" means to talk or write about (a topic) in detail, taking into account different ideas and opinions. There is no right or wrong answer to this assignment only supported or unsupported and logical and illogical arguments.

Referral and Advocacy Assignment: (50 points)

Students will select an area of specialty and prepare a list of local therapeutic resources for the given specified need. Students will share their resources with the class and will include any barriers to access, specific requirements for aid, application procedures for assistance, etc...

Professional Identity Reflection: (100 points)

A 6-8 page paper discussing the student’s understanding of their own professional identity given the summation of material presented throughout the course. Components of the paper must include:

1. a) In what capacity do you see yourself in the therapeutic role? Discuss.
2. b) Career plan inclusive of specific steps to achieve this goal.
3. c) What do you foresee as your greatest strengths and challenges as a counselor? Discuss how will you work to improve areas that you perceive require growth?
4. d) Describe and discuss issues of transference and counter transference you may experience as a counselor? How might these elements impact your future work with clients?
5. e) In your practice as a counselor, discuss how will you honor multiculturalism?

Final Exam: In-class exam (100 points)

Tentative Course Schedule

CLASS DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS DUE
	- Introductions	
	- Syllabus Review	
In-class meeting	- Non-academic Standards	
9/7/22	- The Therapeutic Relationship	
		Reading: Online Canvas reading
In-class meeting	- History of Counseling	
9/14/22		Assignments Due: Quiz 1

In-class meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Identity - Self-care 	Reading: Chapter 2
9/21/22		Assignments Due:
		Quiz 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Client Welfare & Rights - Informed Consent 	Reading: Chapter 4 & 5
In-class meeting	- Confidentiality & Privilege	Assignments Due:
9/28/22		Self-Care Plan DUE
		Quiz 3
		Reading: Chapter 1 & Ethical Codes
In-class meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical Decision Making Models - Ethical Codes & Standards 	Assignments Due:
10/5/22		Quiz 4
		Reading: Chapters 7-9
In-class meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competence & Malpractice - Boundaries 	Assignments Due:
10/12/22		Quiz 5
		Reading: Online Canvas reading
In-class meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Assessment - Mandated Reporting 	Assignments Due:
10/19/22		

Ethical Decision Making Assignment DUE

Quiz 6

In-class meeting - Multicultural Competencies
- Client Advocacy
10/26/22 - Technology in Counseling

Reading: Chapter 3

Assignments Due:

Quiz 7

Reading: Chapter 15

In-class meeting - Supervision
- Consultation
11/2/22

Assignments Due:

Quiz 8

Reading: Chapter 6 & Online canvas reading

In-class meeting - Treatment Planning
- Case Conceptualization
11/9/22 - Record Keeping

Assignments Due:

Referral & Advocacy Assignment DUE

Quiz 9

Reading: Chapters 11 & 12

In-class meeting - Treatment Teams
- Evaluation & Testing
11/16/22

Assignments Due:

Quiz 10

In-class meeting - Professional Relationships

Reading: Chapter 13

11/23/22	- Private practice	
	- Health Care	Assignments Due: Quiz 11
In-class meeting		Assignments Due:
	- Final Exam Review	
11/30/22		Personal Identity Reflection DUE
	- Course wrap-up	
In-class meeting		Assignments Due:
	- Final Exam Review	
12/7/22		Personal Identity Reflection DUE
	- Course wrap-up	
12/14/22	Final Exam	

NOTE: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. All changes will be announced in class or through e-mail. If class is canceled for any reason, continue with assignments and readings as listed on the syllabus AND look for an email from me with any additional changes. If you are absent, you are still responsible for any assignments due.