



COUN 5421 –Intensive I
Midwestern State University
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
Semester Credit: 1

Contact Information

Professor/Instructor: Dr. Terri Howe, PhD, LPC-S

Semester: Fall 2026

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Mandatory Zoom Class: Thursday, August 27 & Friday, August 28, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm CST

Instructor Response Policy:

During the week (Monday – Friday), I will respond within 24 hours. Do not expect a response from me on holidays and weekends. As professionals, it is important that we implement boundaries around home and work. Please ask your questions before the weekend.

***The MSU Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling track programs require at least a B average. C's are unacceptable, and more than 2 C's will put you in danger of being removed from the program. Please consult the Student Handbook for more information.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This virtual intensive will allow students to practice counseling microskills through practical experiences. This intensive will occur during the first fall semester.

Corequisite:

Must also concurrently enroll in COUN 5283 Counseling Microskills

COURSE RATIONALE

This intensive course provides students with an experiential foundation in the development and integration of essential counseling microskills. Through instruction, modeling, practice, and feedback, students will develop the ability to demonstrate active listening, attending, paraphrasing, reflection, appropriate questioning, summarizing, clarification, empathy, and the effective use of silence. Emphasis is placed on applying these skills in authentic counseling contexts and integrating individual microskills into a coherent counseling session. This experiential approach prepares students to establish effective counseling relationships and develop the foundational communication skills necessary for ethical and effective counseling practice.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Erford, B. T. (2020). *45 techniques every counselor should know*. Hoboken: Pearson Education.

Ivey, A., Ivey, M., & Zalaquett, C. (2023). *Intentional Interviewing and counseling* (10th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Knowledge and Skill Learning Outcomes: 2024 CACREP Standards

Upon successful completion of this course, students will learn:

- **3.A.1.** History and philosophy of the counseling profession and its specialized practice areas.
- **3.A.2.** The multiple professional roles and functions of counselors across specialized practice areas.
- **3.A.10.** Ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling across service delivery modalities and specialized practice areas.
- **3.A.11.** Self-care, self-awareness, and self-evaluation strategies for ethical and effective practice.
- **3.E.6.** Ethical and legal issues relevant to establishing and maintaining counseling relationships across service delivery modalities.
- **3.E.8.** Counselor characteristics, behaviors, and strategies that facilitate effective counseling relationships.
- **3.E.9.** Interviewing, attending, and listening skills in the counseling process.
- **3.E.10.** Counseling strategies and techniques used to facilitate the client change process.
- **3.E.16.** Record keeping and documentation skills.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to demonstrate counseling microskills in authentic settings.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate active listening, paraphrasing, attending skills, reflection skills, appropriate questioning, summarizing skills, clarification skills, empathy, and the use of silence.
3. Students will be able to integrate counseling microskills into a coherent counseling session.

Intensive I Schedule and Topics

Day 1: Introduction to the counseling profession, professional identity, counseling relationship foundations, and foundational counseling skills, including attending, reflection, paraphrasing, and summarizing. Students will participate in experiential skills practice and debriefing.

Day 2: Professional identity and dispositions, ethics and informed consent, documentation and treatment planning, counselor roles, advanced foundational counseling skills, and experiential practice involving questioning, empathy, feedback, broaching, here-and-now interventions, and confrontation.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, its faculty, and its students adhere to the University Code of Conduct, State of Texas licensure laws and regulations, and the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics (2014). The program has a professional responsibility to ensure that all students display ethical, professional, and personal behaviors that comply with these guidelines. Students are strongly encouraged to review, understand, and consult the [American Counseling Association website](#) for details related to these guidelines.

Department of Counseling students are expected to demonstrate appropriate classroom behavior, consistent with their counselor-in-training roles. Counselors-in-training are expected to convey attentiveness and respect in all professional and classroom settings.

Attendance:

Attendance at mandatory Zoom meetings is required for this two-day virtual course. Failure to attend scheduled class meetings will result in having to repeat the course. Attendance and active participation are required for all portions of both days of Intensive I. Because Intensive I is an experiential learning experience, students are expected to be fully present, engaged, and prepared to participate in all scheduled activities, including discussions, breakout room activities, counseling skills practice, debriefings, and reflections.

Students must attend and actively participate in the entire two-day virtual intensive to receive a passing grade. Students who do not attend all required portions of both days or who are unable to

actively participate will not meet the requirements for the course and will be required to retake Intensive I.

Technology/Zoom Expectations

To make the most of our time together and create a professional, engaging, and connected learning community, please:

- **Join prepared and ready to participate.** Treat the virtual intensive as you would a face-to-face class and be prepared to engage in discussions, activities, skills practice, and breakout room experiences.
- **Dress professionally** and participate from a quiet, appropriate space where you can focus and engage fully in the learning experience.
- **Arrive on time** and remain in the Zoom session for the duration of each scheduled class day.
- **Keep your camera on** throughout the intensive, except when a faculty member indicates otherwise or when a brief technical issue occurs. Camera use supports connection, engagement, and participation during experiential counseling skills activities.
- **Do not attend class while driving.** For your safety and the safety of others, please participate from a stationary and appropriate location.
- **Be fully present.** Minimize distractions, silence notifications when possible, and refrain from engaging in other work or activities during class.
- **Participate actively.** Be prepared to contribute verbally and through the Zoom chat, polls, breakout rooms, and other interactive activities.
- **Use the Zoom chat for questions.** Faculty will monitor the chat and address questions throughout the intensive as appropriate.
- **Use your first and last name in Zoom.** Please rename yourself in Zoom using your **first and last name** so that faculty can accurately document attendance and participation.
- **Have a reliable internet connection and appropriate technology** whenever possible. Please have your computer/device, camera, microphone, and Zoom application ready before class begins.
- **Notify faculty of significant technical difficulties** as soon as possible if a technology issue interferes with your ability to attend or participate.

Course Grading

This is a Pass/Fail course. Students will receive a Pass by attending and actively participating in all required components of both days of the Intensive I virtual experience. Students will receive a Fail if they do not attend and actively participate in all required components of both days of the Intensive I virtual experience. Students who fail to attend all required components of the Intensive I virtual experience will be required to retake the course.

Online Etiquette:

It is expected that students use formal, professional language when corresponding online. It is expected that they use complete sentences, address one another with respect, follow the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014), and treat all members of the class with respect.

Confidentiality:

Upholding confidentiality is a major responsibility of the student. Anything discussed during supervision, online in this class, or shared by individual students about themselves is considered confidential. Please do not share any information shared to you by other students.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library:

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Services for Students with Disabilities:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs:

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstueexas.edu.

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

The counselor education program is charged with the dual task of nurturing the development of counselors-in-training and ensuring quality client care. In order to fulfill these dual responsibilities, faculty must evaluate students based on their academic, professional, and personal qualities. A student's progress in the program may be interrupted for failure to comply

with academic standards or if a student's interpersonal or emotional status interferes with training-related requirements. For example, in order to ensure proper training and client care, a counselor-in-training must abide by relevant ethical codes and demonstrate professional knowledge, technical and interpersonal skills, professional attitudes, and professional character. These factors are evaluated based on one's academic performance and one's ability to convey warmth, genuineness, respect, and empathy in interactions with clients, classmates, staff, and faculty. Students should demonstrate the ability to accept and integrate feedback, be aware of their impact on others, accept personal responsibility, and be able to express feelings effectively and appropriately. For further clarification on review and retention refer to the handbook.

Classroom Behaviors:

Department of Counseling students are expected to demonstrate appropriate classroom behavior, consistent with their counselor-in-training roles. Counselors-in-training are expected to convey attentiveness and respect in all professional and classroom settings. Specifically, these include:

- Avoiding tardiness and late arrival to class.
- Being attentive and participative in class and online.
- Not using cell phones or text messaging during class.
- Not surfing the web, emailing, tweeting, or using instant messaging (IM) during class.
- Minimizing eating and disruptive snacking during class.
- Avoiding personal conversations with students during class, which are disruptive to fellow students and the learning environment.

STUDENT ETHICS AND OTHER POLICY INFORMATION

Student Handbook:

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Ethics:

For further information about Midwestern State University's policies regarding student ethics and conduct, please contact 940-397-4135 (Student Support Services).

Special Notice:

Students whose names do not appear on the class list will not be permitted to participate (take exams or receive credit) without first showing proof of registration (Schedule of Classes and Statement of Account).

Campus Carry:

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Limited Right to Intellectual Property:

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Midwestern State University Mission Statement:

MSU is a leading public liberal arts university committed to providing students with rigorous undergraduate and graduate education in the liberal arts and the professions. Through an emphasis upon teaching, augmented by the opportunity for students to engage in research and creative activities alongside faculty and to participate in co-curricular and service programs, Midwestern State prepares its graduates to embark upon their careers or pursue advanced study. The university’s undergraduate education is based upon a comprehensive arts and sciences core curriculum. The understanding that students gain of themselves, others, and the social and natural world prepares them to contribute constructively to society through their work and through their private lives.

Midwestern State University Values:

- People-Centered – Engage others with respect, empathy, and joy.
- Community – Cultivate a welcoming and belonging campus environment.
- Integrity – Always do the right thing.
- Visionary – Adopt innovative ideas to pioneer new paths.
- Connections – Value relationships with broader communities.

Midwestern State University Counseling Program Objectives:

- Reflect current knowledge and projected needs concerning counseling practice in a multicultural and pluralistic society
- Reflect input from all persons involved in the conduct of the program, including counselor education program faculty, current and former students, and personnel in cooperating agencies
- Address student learning
- Written so they can be evaluated

***Please refer to your Clinical Mental Health student handbook, and your practicum and internship manual located within the D2L shell for review.**

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Important Dates:

Last day for term schedule check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W” check date on [Academic Calendar](#). Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Online Computer Requirements:

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered as a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center.

****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes:

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor’s explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor’s prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy:

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Smoking/Tobacco Policy:

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building on campus. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy:

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process:

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Active Shooter:

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law:

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University’s Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [online title IX reporting](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [title IX website](#)

*Notice Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

RESOURCES

American Counseling Association. (2014). *2014 ACA Code of Ethics*. Retrieved from

<https://www.counseling.org/resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf>

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed. TR)*. Author.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *2020 APA Publication Manual*. Retrieved from

<https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition-spiral>

Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. (2016). *2016*

CACREP Standards. Retrieved from <https://www.cacrep.org/for-programs/2016-cacrep-standards/>

United States National Library of Medicine, & National Institutes of Health. (n.d.). *National*

Center for Biotechnology Information. Retrieved from

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>