

COUN5103 Professional Orientation
Midwestern State University
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

Instructor/Contact Information:

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Office:
Office Hours: By appointment

Required Text:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Other readings, handouts, and other materials will be posted online or distributed class.

Catalog/Course Description:

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

CACREP Common Core Area Standards Addressed in this Course:

- 1.a. history and philosophy of the counseling profession and its specialty areas
- 1.d. the role and process of the professional counselor advocating on behalf of the profession
- 1.e. advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients
- 1.f. professional counseling organizations, including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current issues
- 1.k. strategies for personal and professional self-evaluation and implications for practice (KPI)
- 9.1.a. history and development of clinical mental health counseling
- 9.2.i. legislation and government policy relevant to clinical mental health counseling
- 9.2.k. professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling
- 9.2.m. record keeping, third party reimbursement, and other practice and management issues in clinical mental health counseling

9.3.e. strategies to advocate for persons with mental health issues

Learning Objectives:

- LO1. To develop an understanding of a “professional self” within the context of community and mental health services and settings.
- LO2. To become knowledge regarding the history and development of community and mental health counseling, and the implications for current and future practice.
- LO3. To become aware of the many ethical and legal issues in mental health care, and be prepared to address those as they occur in practice.
- LO4. To become familiar with local, state, regional, and national professional organizations in the community/mental health counseling.
- LO5. To become aware of advocacy efforts in the clinical mental health profession and how to apply professional advocacy.

Focus of the Course:

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the rapidly evolving field of clinical mental health counseling. It is further designed to enhance the professional development and acculturation of graduate students in order to facilitate their success as graduate students and counseling professionals.

Course Calendar and Activities:

Session	CACREP Standards	Topics	Materials	Activities/ Assignments
Week 1 Jan 11	9.2.k.			Discussion: Introductions
Week2 Jan 18 th	9.2.k	Online learning experiences Professional listserv Select Professional Organization to research for paper due on January 25th	Online resources: http://www.lsoft.com/SCRIPTS/WL.EXE?SL1=CESNET-L&H=LISTSERV.KENT.EDU	DiscussionvDue: Online learning experiences Assignment: Join a Professional Listserv by January 25th Identify Group Members for Professional Organization paper identified and sent via email by January 25th
Week 3 Jan 25 th		Professional Organizations	Journal article: Burns, S.T. & Cruikshanks, D. R. (2018). <i>Independently licensed counselors' connection to CACREP and state</i>	Assignment Due: <i>Join a listserv and professional organization selection completed.</i>

			<i>professional identity requirement.</i> The Professional Counselor, 8(1), 29-45. Professional organizations online resources.	Assignment: Professional Organization Paper Due by February 8th
Week 4 Feb. 1st	1.f., 9.2.k.	Professional organizations	Work with Group	Work with Group, Assignment: Professional Organization Paper Due by February 8th
Week 5 Feb. 8th		Social Change/ Advocacy		Assignment Due: Professional Organization Paper Due Today Have Partners Identified and sent via email by Feb. 13th
Week 6 Feb. 15th	1.d., 1.e., 9.3.e.	Social Change/ Advocacy	https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/competencies/multicultural-and-social-justice-counseling-competencies.pdf?sfvrsn=20	Discussion Due: Social Change/Advocacy Assignment: Advocacy Project Due March 8th
Week 7 Feb. 22nd	1.d., 1.e., 9.3.e.	Social Change/ Advocacy	Advocacy Project	Work with Partner Assignment: Advocacy Project Due March 8th
Week 8 March 1st	1.d., 1.e., 9.3.e.	Social Change/ Advocacy	Advocacy Project	Work with Partner Assignment: Advocacy Project Due March 8th
Week 9 March 8th	1.d., 1.e., 9.3.e.	Social Change/ Advocacy		Assignment Due: Advocacy Project
Week 10 March 15th	9.2.i., 9.2.m.	Mental Health Managed Care Funding	MSU online library. Journal article.	Discussion: Mental Health Managed Care Funding
Week 11 March 22nd	9.2.i., 9.2.m.	Professional Development		Assignment: Professional Development Paper Due: Friday April 16th
Week 12 March 29th	Class break		Class Break	Class Break
Week 13 April 5th	1.a., 1.k., 9.1.a.	Professional Development		Assignment: Professional Development Paper

				Due April 16th (FRIDAY)
Week 14 April 12th	1.a., 1.k., 9.1.a.	Professional Development	Professional Development	Assignment Due Friday: Professional Development Paper
Week 15 April 19th	Any makeup requirements due			Any Makeup requirement if needed

Assessment and Assignments:

Student performance of knowledge and skills will be formally assessed through discussion posts and course papers.

Discussions: The discussions in this course give the student an opportunity to examine certain topics in the course. Discussions do not require on-campus attendance to complete. All discussions will be completed in DISCUSSIONS area in D2L.

The discussions will require some reflection before you respond. Students may offer personal experiences and/or opinions in some instances and facts in others. **The minimum word count must be 200 words** on each discussion. I do expect to see evidence that you have put some thought into these assignments. A quick way to earn a grade of zero is a low word count and also by simply rewording what someone else has written already. Therefore, you must write more than a few sentences.

Submission of all discussions must occur by particular due dates noted in the Proposed Class Schedule of Activities. Non-completion of any or all of the discussion will result in a grade of zero. This is a subjective evaluation made by the professor to determine the quality of the student's work. Simply writing something will not result in receiving full credit. Your professor is the final judge on the grade.

Please use citations in your discussion post when referring to someone else's work to be sure not to plagiarize.

Join a Professional Listserv

CESNET is an electronic listserv for professional counselors, counselor educators and supervisors. You will be joining this listserv for the semester and tracking major topics, which are often related to professional ethics, advocacy, and best practices. There is a quite a bit of activity on this listserv so be prepared! You do not have to read all postings, but do read areas of interest as well as following topics that provoke significant responses. We will discuss relevant threads in class. Please join this listserv

no later than Sunday 6/10. You can access subscription information by doing a Google search for “cesnet kent state” (the link will be at the top of the page) or by going directly to: <http://www.lsoft.com/SCRIPTS/WL.EXE?SL1=CESNET-L&H=LISTSERV.KENT.EDU>. After joining you should copy and paste the subscription page and submit to me in class.

Professional Organization Paper

Review the following article: Burns, S.T. & Cruikshanks, D. R. (2018). *Independently licensed counselors' connection to CACREP and state professional identity requirement*. *The Professional Counselor*, 8(1), 29-45.

In groups of 4, students will prepare paper and on a topic regarding professional organization. Organizations include: ACA (American Counseling Association) & TCA (Texas Counseling Association); AAMFT (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy); ACES (Association for Counselor Education and Supervision); SACES (Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision); CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs); NBCC (National Board for Certified Counselors); AMCD (Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development); ASGW (Association for Specialists in Group Work) ; CSI (Chi Sigma Iota); and AHEAD (Association on Higher Education and Disability). Papers should focus on the history, purpose or mission statement, benefits, eligibility requirements, costs, applications, links, activities, and uniqueness. Please include references in your paper. This paper does not have a page requirement, as long as you include everything asked for above. (100 pts)

Rubric for Professional Organization Paper

Criterion	Improvement Needed (1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Accomplished (4)
History and Mission	The mission statement is not included or incorrect. or The history of the organization is not addressed.	Organization's mission statement is included. The history of the organization needs elaboration.	Organization's mission statement is clearly stated. A brief history is included.	Organization's mission statement and purpose are clearly stated. A comprehensive history is included.
Benefits	Identification of member benefits is missing. or Explanations of the member benefits are missing.	Member benefits are identified. Explanations of the benefits are vague or need elaboration.	A list including a variety of benefits to the members is included. Some explanations of the benefits are provided.	A detailed list including a variety of benefits to the members is included. Detailed explanations of the benefits are provided, including personal insights on why the benefits would be important to counselors.
Eligibility and Costs	Eligibility requirements or membership costs are missing.	Eligibility requirements or membership costs need elaboration.	Eligibility requirements and membership costs are clearly stated.	Eligibility requirements and membership costs are clearly stated. Additional details are provided. Some cost/benefit analyses are provided.
Application and Links	Application procedures or links are not included.	Some application procedures are included. Some procedures are vague or inaccurate. Appropriate links are provided.	All application procedures are included. A link to the application or application information is provided.	Detailed application procedures are included. Appropriate links are provided and accompanied by detailed explanations.
Activities	Activities provided by the organization are missing or incomplete. Explanations of the activities are vague or missing.	One or more activities provided by the organization are identified and listed. Additional details are needed in the activity explanations.	A variety of activities provided by the organization are presented with general explanations.	A variety of activities provided by the organization are presented with detailed explanations.

Uniqueness	The discussion of the uniqueness of the organization is missing or is inaccurate.	Discussion of the unique nature of the organization is general, vague, or needs elaboration. The discussion does not demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the organization within the counseling field. Rationale for the uniqueness are unsupported.	A discussion of the unique aspects of the organization is included. The unique elements are clearly stated and some details are provided. A comparison of the organization within the counseling field and rationale for uniqueness are included.	Discussion of the unique nature of the organization is well-articulated, compelling, and persuasive. Discussion demonstrates a strong understanding of the organization. An insightful comparison of the organization and how it strengthens the counseling profession is included. Rationale are supported by professional sources.
References	Reference listing is missing, incomplete, or do not follow APA format guidelines.	At least one reference is provided to support the ideas in the paper. or Reference(s) are not appropriate for academic assignments or are not relevant. Or Reference(s) have multiple APA formatting errors.	At least one reference is provided to support the ideas in the paper. References have minor APA formatting errors. Reference is appropriate and relevant.	Two or more references are provided to support the ideas in the paper. References are in correct APA format. References are appropriate and relevant.

Advocacy Project

As counselors and agents of social change, we impact the community and the profession in a variety of ways. Our voices and knowledge create change for our profession and for our clients. Two avenues to effect such change include contacting legislative bodies that create laws that effect our profession and clients and/or researching human services for our clients and ourselves. Both opportunities involve education and advocacy. *In pairs (2)*, You are to write a letter or email related to legislative action. You will need to explore the ACA and state counseling association websites to become aware of the need for various legislative actions. Examples include legislative actions that provide reimbursement for counselors' services, that promote counselors' rights to practice within the limits of their training, that advocate for services for students in schools etc.

To create a thoughtful and well-informed letter/email, you will need to engage in your own research on the subject and include that information in your letter/email with correct referencing of resources (you must cite at least two professional references of research

in the body of your letter and include a references page). You may not use a standard letter that an organization has prepared. This letter/email must be in your own words. Make sure to address what you learned about the role of advocate, what you learned about yourself as an advocate, and as a result of this project what role advocacy will have in the future. The project is worth 100 points. Grading will be based on content, clarity, creativity of presentation, ownership, and enthusiasm for the project. See attached grading rubric for this assignment.

Rubric for Advocacy Project

Criterion	Improvement Needed (1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Accomplished (4)
Legislative Action Identified in letter	A letter/email of the identified action of advocacy is missing or inaccurate.	Includes brief or vague information on an identified action of advocacy. Letter/email discussion needs elaboration.	Includes general information on an identified action of advocacy.	Includes explicit, detailed, and sequential information on an identified action of advocacy.
Role of what advocacy will have in future discussed	One or more of the following elements are missing: role of advocacy, plans for advocating for the counseling field, or future work in the counseling field.	Lists one or more key learnings related to the counseling field. Strategies or plans for advocating for the counseling field are vague and need elaboration. Plans for future work in the counseling field are vague and need elaboration.	Includes self-reflections on your role as a person, student, and future counselor. Identifies key learning related to the counseling field. Provides general strategies for advocating on behalf of the counseling field. Includes general plans for future work in the field.	Includes insightful self-reflections on your role as a person, student, and future counselor. Alignment between self and the counseling field are explicit and supported by clear rationale. Identifies key learning related to the counseling field. Presents specific and detailed strategies for advocating on behalf of the counseling field. Includes detailed plans for future work in the field.

<p>APA Format and Mechanics</p>	<p>Paper is less than 3 pages.</p> <p>Assignment has significant errors.</p> <p>References are missing.</p> <p>Book is not used to support the ideas in the paper.</p> <p>Citations are missing to identify ideas from outside sources in the body of the text.</p>	<p>Paper is less than 3 pages.</p> <p>Less than three references are listed and have multiple APA formatting errors.</p> <p>One source is used to support the ideas in the paper.</p> <p>Citations are inconsistently used throughout the paper and have APA formatting errors.</p>	<p>Paper is 3-4 pages.</p> <p>Three references are listed with only minor APA formatting errors.</p> <p>One book is used to support the ideas in the paper.</p> <p>Citations are included to identify ideas from outside sources in the body of the text.</p>	<p>Paper is 5-6 pages.</p> <p>Three or more reference listings are included and follow APA format guidelines.</p> <p>Multiple books are used to support the ideas in the paper.</p> <p>Citations are included to identify ideas from outside sources in the body of the text and are correctly formatted.</p>
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Professional Development Paper (KPI 1.k)

Paper should include information on the history of counseling and how the profession came into existence. It should also include a reflection on and integration of what you have learned about yourself (as a person, student, and future counselor), about the counseling field in general, the role of advocacy in the counseling profession, and about your future plans (what you plan on doing with your degree after graduation). It should also include what you think the “best” and “worst” parts of being a counselor/therapist will be. Paper must be written in APA format (refer to APA manual). Length of paper should be at least 3-6 pages and must include at least three references. You may use your book as one reference.

Rubric for Professional Development Paper

Criterion	Improvement Needed (1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Accomplished (4)
History of Counseling	A discussion of the history of the counseling profession and/or the clinical mental health specialization is missing or inaccurate.	Includes brief or vague information on the history of the counseling profession and/or the clinical mental health specialization. History discussion needs elaboration.	Includes general information on the history of both the counseling profession and the clinical mental health specialization.	Includes explicit, detailed, and sequential information on the history of the counseling profession and the clinical mental health specialization.
Reflection	One or more of the following elements are missing: self-reflection on roles, key learning, plans for advocating for the counseling field, or future work in the counseling field.	Includes self-reflections on your role as a person, student, or future counselor. Lists one or more key learnings related to the counseling field. Strategies or plans for advocating for the counseling field are vague and need elaboration. Plans for future work in the counseling field are vague and need elaboration.	Includes self-reflections on your role as a person, student, and future counselor. Identifies key learning related to the counseling field. Provides general strategies for advocating on behalf of the counseling field. Includes general plans for future work in the field.	Includes insightful self-reflections on your role as a person, student, and future counselor. Alignment between self and the counseling field are explicit and supported by clear rationale. Identifies key learning related to the counseling field. Presents specific and detailed strategies for advocating on behalf of the counseling field. Includes detailed plans for future work in the field.

APA Format and Mechanics	Paper is less than 3 pages.	Paper is less than 3 pages.	Paper is 3-4 pages.	Paper is 5-6 pages.
	Assignment has significant errors.	Less than three references are listed and have multiple APA formatting errors.	Three references are listed with only minor APA formatting errors.	Three or more reference listings are included and follow APA format guidelines.
	References are missing.	One source is used to support the ideas in the paper.	One book is used to support the ideas in the paper.	Multiple books are used to support the ideas in the paper.
	Book is not used to support the ideas in the paper.	Citations are inconsistently used throughout the paper and have APA formatting errors.	Citations are included to identify ideas from outside sources in the body of the text.	Citations are included to identify ideas from outside sources in the body of the text and are correctly formatted.
	Citations are missing to identify ideas from outside sources in the body of the text.			

Grading Procedures:

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Discussion posts (50pts each x 3)	150
Professional Listserv	50
Professional Organization Paper	100
Advocacy Project	100
Professional Development Paper	100
Total Points	500

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	500-450
B	449-400
C	399-350 (C's are unacceptable in this program)
F	349 or below

Counseling 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.

Attendance Policy

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 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, which 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. For help, log into D2L.

Class Format

This class is entirely taught and experienced online. Students are responsible for submitting all assignments on time. No exceptions. Participation is required in all on-line discussions. Weekly assignments will be given and may be submitted on D2L.

Incompletes

No Incompletes ("I") will be given in this class unless under extreme circumstances, which will be determined by the instructor of this class.

Late Policy

All papers and assignments must be turned in the day they are due. *No exceptions.* If you have an emergency please let me know in advance, and/or email me your assignment the same day it is due. Emergency documentation is required for me to consider accepting late weekly assignments. Any late papers will be lowered five (5) points for each day it is late. Please observe that your assignments are worth a considerable amount of points and skipping even one assignment will most likely significantly lower your grade. Please begin planning your semester schedule accordingly.

Academic Honesty

MSU students demand of themselves the highest level of academic honesty as delineated in their honor creed. Academic honesty involves the submission of work that is wholly the student's own work, except in the case of assigned group work. Additionally, academic honesty involves the proper citation of other author's works.

Senate Bill 11

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at: [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.

References: