

**Program in School Counseling  
15:297:604 - Professional Ethics**

**Fall 2012**

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**Course Description:**

Experiential and problem-based learning in the area of ethical standards for counselors is addressed in this professional seminar. Standards for school counseling programs and the legal and ethical responsibilities in school counseling roles and functions are established through course objectives.

**Course Objectives:**

- Review the counseling profession and the role of professional school counselors as leaders in an increasingly diverse society. (CACREP II.K.1.a.b.; 2.d; 5.a.c.g.h)
- Develop an awareness of professional, ethical, moral, and legal issues in professional counseling practice. (CACREP II.K.1.b.h; 5.g)
- Explore personal beliefs and values as well as culturally diverse perspectives influencing the application of ethical codes and principles. (CACREP II.K.2.a.b.c.d.f; 5.a.c.f)
- Discuss professional counseling credentialing and memberships in associations (CACREP II.K.1.d.e)
- Examine laws, ACA Code of Ethics and ASCA Ethical Standards. (CACREP II.K.1.b.d.h; 5.a.c)
- Develop ethical decision-making models to assist in ethical practice and research. (CACREP II.K.5.a.c.g)
- Understand ethical principles related to assessment and research. (CACREP II.K.7.f.i. 8a.e.f)

**Text:**

Remley, T. P., Jr. & Herlihy, B. (2010). Ethical, legal, and professional issues in counseling (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill.

## **Course Requirements:**

- **Ethical Issues Cases (40 points).** A variety of ethical cases, many of which present ethical dilemmas will be presented. In responding, explain the reasons for your position, and develop your points of point. Be prepared to reference cases with supporting research and to demonstrate your awareness of the ACA and ASCA Ethical Standards and Codes as appropriate. Note any personal struggles you anticipate as a result of your own values, beliefs, and experiences.
- **Ethical Issues Final Group Project (40 points).** You will work in a group on a selected case(s). Each group will present their case and document relevant ethical codes and standards. State any dilemma(s), relevant questions as well as ethical and legal implications for counselors. Offer suggested resolutions based on your critical examination of the situation and your professional judgment. Again, note any personal struggles you anticipate due to your own beliefs and experiences as well as issues that raised differences of opinion within the group. You will be graded on your ability to present professionally examined questions and to utilize critical thinking and professional judgment.

*Note: high quality presentations will show depth of thinking, critical evaluation, the ability to apply theory and decision-making strategies to practical situations and evidence that you have read all class materials. Critical thinking and professional judgment are key in all responses.*

- **Class Participation/Discussion (20 points).** The class includes active participation including small group and large group threaded discussions and reflection based on weekly readings. Your presence in the threaded discussions and in-class is necessary.

## **Relevant Web Sites:**

American Counseling Association <http://www.counseling.org>

American School Counselor Association: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>

Association for Counselor Education and Supervision: <http://www.acesonline.net>

## **Course Structure**

This course is designed to provide a blended experience which includes both face-to-face and online interactions. This is not self pacing course. It is extremely important that you complete the assignments by the due date.

**Online sessions** will be a blend of activities using eCollege and activities such as threaded discussions, email, and web posting.

**eCollege Access** - This course will be delivered partially online through the eCollege course management system. Accessing this course on eCollege requires the Internet and a supported Web browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari).

**Face-to-face sessions** will be held in the GSE Room 347 on the following dates: 9/5, 9/19/ 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, \*11/28, 12/12. Please check email for any changes to the in-class scheduled dates.

**Email** - It is extremely important that you check your email regularly for course announcements.

## **Technical Assistance**

People in this course will be using different types of computers and software, and you may experience technical problems from time to time. If you are having technology problems, such as linking to email, accessing RutgersOnline.net, problems with buttons on RutgersOnline.net, problems downloading and viewing documents, password problems, or other tech problems, you must first contact the HELP Desk at 1-877-778-8437. The Help Desk staff is trained to address many different types of technology problems. If it turns out that there is a problem that I must correct, The Help Desk staff will contact me.

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check eCollege for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcements and email.

## Weekly Class Schedule

		<b>Activity</b>
<b>9/5</b>	<b>Section 1: Foundations of Professional Counseling</b>	
	<b>Course Introduction</b>	<i>in-class</i>
	<b>Inventory of Counselor Attitudes and Beliefs</b>	
	<b>Ethical, Professional, and Contextual Considerations / Chapter 1</b>	
<b>9/12</b>	<b>Identity as a Professional Counselor</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
	<b>Counselor as a Person and Professional</b>	
	<b>Professional Associations / Chapter 2 - Appendix B</b>	
<b>9/19</b>	<b>Review of Codes of Ethics/ Standards of Practice (ACA/ASCA)</b>	<i>in-class</i>
	<b>Practice Behavior- Ethical Decision-Making / Appendix A</b>	
<b>9/26</b>	<b>Ethics in a Cultural Context</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
	<b>Values in the Helping Relationship---Ethical Dilemmas / Chapter 3</b>	
<b>10/3</b>	<b>Section 2: Issues and Standards of Practice</b>	
	<b>Competence</b>	<i>in-class</i>
	<b>Ethical and Professional Decision-making</b>	
	<b>Legal and Ethical Issues / Chapters 7 &amp; 16</b>	
<b>10/10</b>	<b>Client Rights and Counselor Responsibilities</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
	<b>Informed Consent, Record Keeping / Chapter 4 - Appendix E, F</b>	
<b>10/17</b>	<b>Confidentiality and Privileged Communication / Chapter 5 - Appendix C</b>	<i>in-class</i>
<b>10/24</b>	<b>Records and Technology / Chapter 6 - Appendix D</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
<b>10/31</b>	<b>Boundaries and Multiple Relationships / Chapter 8</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
<b>11/7</b>	<b>Professional Practice in School Counseling / Chapters 9 &amp; 10 - Appendix G</b>	<i>in-class</i>
<b>11/14</b>	<b>Evaluation and Diagnosis / Chapter 11</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
<b>11/21</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
<b>11/28</b>	<b>Issues and Professional Relationships / Chapters 12 &amp; 13</b>	<i>in-class</i>
<b>12/5</b>	<b>Professional Competence and Responsibility / Chapters 14 &amp; 15</b>	<i>eCollege</i>
<b>12/12</b>	<b>Group Cases Presented</b>	<i>in-class</i>