

**Program in School Counseling  
Professional Ethics  
15:297:604  
Spring 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).** You will present a response to ethical case dilemmas. In taking a position; explain why you take such a position, then, develop your viewpoint(s). Be prepared to reference your case with supporting research and to demonstrate your awareness of the ACA and ASCA Ethical Standards and Codes as appropriate. Also, be prepared to present your position in class or through the threaded discussions explaining reasons for your decision and supporting viewpoints. 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 to the class and document relevant ethical codes and standards. State any dilemma(s), 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 struggle 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 hybrid experience, including 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 other Web sites. Activities will consist of threaded discussions, email, and web posting.

**eCollege Access** - This course will be delivered partially online through a course management system- eCollege. To access this course on eCollege you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer, Safari).

**Face-to-face sessions** will be held in the GSE Room 347 on the New Brunswick Campus. Dates are: **1/23, 3/5, 4/9, 4/30**. Please check email for changes to these scheduled dates.

**Email** - It is extremely important that you check your email 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 or through eCollege email.

### **Weekly Class Schedule**

- Foundations of Professional Counseling*
- 1/23 Course Introduction  
Inventory of Counselor Attitudes and Beliefs
- 1/30 Domains and Dimensions of Ethical Thinking and Decision-making  
Model for Professional Practice  
Ethical, Professional, and Contextual Considerations / **Chapter 1**
- 2/6 Identity as a Professional Counselor  
Counselor as a Person and Professional  
Professional Associations / **Chapter 2**
- 2/13 Review of Codes of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Counselors  
(ACA/ ASCA)  
Practice Behavior- Ethical Decision-Making
- 2/20 Ethics in a Cultural Context  
Values in the Helping Relationship---Ethical Dilemmas / **Chapter 3**
- 2/27 Ethical and Professional Decision-making  
Legal and Ethical Issues / **Chapter 16**
- 3/5 Competence / Malpractice
- 3/12 **SPRING BREAK**
- Standards of Professional Practice*
- 3/19 Client Rights and Counselor Responsibilities  
Informed Consent, Record Keeping / Personal Notes / **Chapters 4 & 6**
- 3/26 Confidentiality and Privileged Communication / **Chapter 5**
- 4/2 Conflict of Interest, Boundaries, Multiple Relationships / **Chapter 8**
- 4/9 Ethical and Professional Practice in School Counseling / **Chapters 9 & 10**
- 4/16 Professional Competence and Responsibility- Issues in Training, Theory Research  
and Practice / **Chapters 11 & 14, 15**
- 4/23 Professional Relationships / **Chapters 12 & 13**
- 4/30 **Group Cases Presented- Final Group Project Due**