Course Description

Catalog - Prerequisites: Completion of the counseling and development program except for practicum and internship; permission of advisor; overall GPA of 3.000; no grade of C in any skills courses [EDCD 603, 605, 607, 608, 609, 610]; no more than two grades of C in any other graduate course work required by the counseling and development program. Provides supervised practice in a counseling setting similar to the setting in which the student may work. This is a weekly graduate class with an emphasis on the counseling process.

The practicum course is an arranged, supervised experience in counseling. The course aims to provide skills in working towards social justice, developing advanced multicultural counseling intervention skills, developing skills in leadership and advocacy in order to effectively design and implement community prevention programs, and develop ways to improve theoretical conceptualizations of applied interventions. Thus the focus of the course will be on providing professional counseling within the parameters of the George Mason University Counseling and Development Program mission, e.g., multiculturalism, advocacy, leadership, and social justice.

During the semester, students will present, discuss, and conceptualize their counseling work, explore culturally specific interventions, explore applications of social justice to their counseling work, examine countertransference as it relates to the counseling process, and plan and develop required activities which include an evaluation of their practicum site. Students will be required to see at least two (2) clients for a minimum of four (4) sessions each during the semester. Clients should consist of individual, family, and group cases. Class seminars will consist of role-plays, case processing, discussion of professional issues, personal reactions to clients, and program evaluation and development. Because of the serious nature of this work, it is essential that students discuss their reactions and feelings. Such discussions, however, cannot take place outside the context of a supervised class or appropriate site circumstance. You may not discuss cases in other classes, with friends or relatives, or in social situations since it is essential to maintain confidentiality. Violations of this principle in any form will be treated as a serious ethical/legal infraction. It is also imperative that you discuss cases with your on-site supervisor. If you have questions or concerns that need immediate attention, please call or email the instructor.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Additional readings may be assigned by the Instructor

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

- To provide an opportunity for practicing competencies developed throughout the graduate training program;
- To provide an orientation to organizational structure, protocol, relationships, and working conditions in community agency counseling settings;
- To explore counseling strategies for individuals, groups, and families within a culturally diverse framework;
• To more effectively understand the nature of the changing role of the professional counselor that includes advocacy, leadership, multiculturalism, and social justice.
• To stimulate the formulation of, and identification with, a professional role.
• To inculcate high standards of professional ethics; to give experience involving ethical decision-making and practice related to counseling.

Course Requirements/Assignments – See P/I Manual for detailed instructions/expectations.

Each student will:
1. Attend each class and complete reading assignments for class. Two or more unexcused absences will result in course failure.
2. Participate and contribute to class discussions and activities.

All written assignments must be typed and must follow APA format unless indicated by instructor. Grading on written work will take into account the following factors: quality of written work and adherence to requirements of assignment. As a graduate student, it is expected that all of your work will be turned in on the assigned dates. A late assignment will be subject to a grade penalty.

1. A minimum of 200 (Agency) hours in the field placement. Fifty percent of your counseling hours should be face-to-face hours. Hours spent on off site training experiences (no more than 10) may be counted towards your 200-hour minimum. Hours spent in class or at home preparing GMU assignments may not be counted toward the 100 or 200 hours. Site contract due by September 12th or after site visit by university supervisor.

2. Two individual transcripts and tapes (one from an individual session, one from a group or family session if possible). Include “permission to tape” form [See Manual – Appendix]. Remember: You must have written permission prior to taping session with a minor. Both tapes must include:
   1. A typed transcription of the entire session.
   2. Highlight and label all specific interventions and rationale for use of interventions.
   An analysis of the counseling interventions – strengths and areas for growth

NOTE: Students will need to provide their own recording equipment. Instructor has the prerogative to request additional counseling tapes from the student based on requests from On-Site Supervisor and/or University Supervisor.

3. Site Evaluation Project. This assignment is designed to encourage an in-depth evaluation of a site program (or project) that is aligned with the C&D mission statement and will be developed in conjunction with your on-site supervisor and university supervisor. This project will consist of data collection from your site through interviews, surveys, observations, etc, data analysis, summary of findings and recommendations. You will present your information in class during a 20-minute presentation as well as provide a written copy to the instructor. Written paper (no more than 5 pages) will include needs assessment, evaluation methodology, summary of findings, and recommendations based on findings.

4. Case Processing Presentations. This is an informal presentation of your client where you will be able to discuss presenting your client’s concerns, personal reactions to your client, difficulties with your client, etc. Bring in a tape (and tape recorder) from a session with your client and cue it up to an area where you want feedback from your counseling interventions. This tape should be different from the tape you use for your transcript assignments. Presentation dates will be assigned during the first night of class.

5. Treatment Plan. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate effective treatment plan writing skills. One (1) treatment plan will be submitted. Follow this format:
   • Describe client’s background and presenting client concerns
   • Describe goals/objectives of counseling and projected timeline
• Describe interventions provided
• Describe challenges including transference/countertransference issues

6. Professional Role Statement Paper. A written 3-page personal statement that discusses your personal reflections regarding your experiences in the program and whether or not these experiences have changed how you view the counseling profession, the clients you would like to work with, your theoretical counseling framework, and focus for the future. This paper is to help me understand who you are now as a counselor, how and why you want to work with others, and your counseling strengths and areas for growth.

Grading
EDCD 754 is a graded course. Students must achieve a “B” or higher in order to successfully complete/pass the requirements of the Practicum. Included in the assignments is the requirement that the following must also be met to receive a passing grade:
• Completion of all assignments of acceptable quality, turned in by date due;
• Attendance at all classes and at practicum site. Absences must be pre-arranged, unless due to an emergency. Please call instructor and on-site supervisor, as appropriate. Two or more unexcused absences will result in course failure.
• Active classroom participation, including providing constructive feedback and suggestions for classmates.
• Completion of required site hours.
• Satisfactory evaluation from on-site supervisor.

Summary of Grading System & Course Requirements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plan</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Tapes – transcripts &amp; analyses</td>
<td>20 points (10 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Evaluation Project</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role Statement Paper</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor Evaluation</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due at the Last Class (Required to complete practicum):</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Log of Activities (Signed by Student and On-site Supervisor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-Site Evaluation of Student Counselor (Signed by On-Site Supervisor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Clinical Field Experience (Signed by Student)</td>
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Grading
In accordance with the George Mason University Grading Policy, the following grades may be achieved:

Counseling & Development Program Professional Dispositions
Professional Performance Criteria (Effective February 25, 2003).
The American Counseling Association (ACA) code of ethics requires counselors and counselor trainees to maintain standards of professional competence and possess good moral character. The Counseling and Development Program in the Graduate School of Education at George Mason University has adopted a set of professional performance criteria that is consistent with the ACA code of ethics. Please refer to the dispositions found on the C & D Homepage at:
http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/counseling/professional_performance.htm

College of Education and Human Development Statements of Expectations
The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) expects that all students abide by the following:
Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. See http://gse/gmu.edu/programs/counseling/professional_performance.htm for a listing of these dispositions.

Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#TOC_H12 for the full honor code.

Students must agree to abide by the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See http://mail.gmu.edu and click on Responsible Use of Computing at the bottom of the screen.

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See www.gmu.edu/student/drc or call 703-993-2474 to access the DRC.

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**Course Outline**

**August 29**
- Introduction to Course / Practicum Manual
- Exploring the C&D Mission Statement and Site Culture
- Review of Ethics
- Review of Assignments
  **Bring:** P/I Manual  
  **DUE:** Class Goals and Site Expectations (Written)

**September 5**
- No Class (Labor Day Holiday)

**September 12**
- Review of Theories/First Interviews (Role Plays)
- Site Evaluation Guidelines and Procedures
  **DUE:** Site Contracts/Payment forms for site supervisors
  **Bring:** P/I Manual

**September 19**
- No Class (Site Visits)

**September 26**
- Professional Issues-Licensure Regulations
- Case Processing

**October 3**
- Case Processing
- Discussion of Site Evaluation Projects
  **DUE:** Site Evaluation Project Proposal (Written)

**October 10/11**
- Professional Issues: Racial and Cultural Identity Models
  **DUE:** Treatment Plan

**October 17**
- Case Processing
  **DUE:** Hand in transcript/ 1st tape

**October 24**
- Individual supervision meeting (60 minutes) with Dr. Talleyrand (to be scheduled in advance)

**October 31**
- Case Processing
  **Bring:** Site log of hours to evaluate hours
November 7  Case Processing  
**DUE:** Hand in transcript/ 2nd tape

November 14  Case Processing  
**DUE:** Role Statement Paper

November 21  Professional Issues: Termination in Counseling (Role Plays)  
Site Evaluation Presentations

November 28  Site Evaluation Presentations  
Case Wrap Ups  
**DUE:** Site Evaluation Papers Due

December 5*  Class Evaluations  
**DUE:** 1. Log of hours and activities. 2. Written evaluation of intern from on-site supervisor. 3. Written evaluation of site from GMU student.

*FINAL SIGNED LOG OF HOURS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO DR. TALLEYRAND BY DECEMBER 12th.

**COMMUNITY AGENCY INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 1st. YOU MUST GO ONLINE TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE REMAINING AT THE SAME SITE.**