

Professional Dispositions

George Mason University Counseling & Development Program
Adopted Fall 2017

Professional Performance Criteria

The American Counseling Association code of ethics requires counselors and counselor trainees to maintain standards of professional competence and possess good moral character. Dispositions are a critical component of a student's development as a counselor. Dispositions reflect one's attitudes and beliefs, and are not directly "visible," but are inferred from one's actions. Throughout a student's program of study at GMU, they should demonstrate behaviors that reflect positive dispositions befitting a professional.

Professional & Ethical Attitudes and Behaviors

- Demonstrates the ability to express thoughts and feelings effectively and appropriately through sound judgement that promotes social justice and diversity
- Demonstrates respect, honesty, integrity, confidentiality, and care for others.
- Demonstrates an understanding of ethical and legal standards/codes
- Accepts responsibility for decisions and actions
- All work is student's own; does not copy or plagiarize
- Able to work and understand working with others that have different beliefs without imposing their own values on others

Multiculturalism & Social Justice

- Demonstrates an appreciation, commitment, and value for human diversity in words and behaviors.
- Displays behavior that is sensitive to age, gender, sexual orientation, language, ability/disability, culture, religions, race, ethnicity, and nationality.
- Acts as a social justice advocacy for a just world on behalf of students, self, and profession
- Recognizes and respects dignity, worth, and rights of all people and individuals

Professional & Personal Growth

- Actively engages in activities, learning, development, and reflective practices that will improve counseling competency
- Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional and personal growth
- Ability and willingness to flex or adapt to changing circumstances, unexpected events, new ideas, people and situations.
- Demonstrates toleration for ambiguity

Self-Awareness & Self-Care

- Demonstrates an ability, willingness, and awareness to self-reflect honestly and objectively on their own belief systems, values, needs, biases, and limitations on the effects of "self" on their work with clients including barriers in promoting social justice and diversity
- Ability to recognize one's own limitations and barriers including those in promoting social justice
- Demonstrates an understanding of the importance of caring for self and follows through with this practice
- Maintains appropriate boundaries

Interpersonal Relationships & Collaboration

- Able and willing to cooperate and collaborate with peers, professors, supervisors and other professionals respectfully and effectively
- Able and willing to receive and integrate feedback from faculty, supervisors, and peers
- Able and willing to work collaboratively and contribute equally to group projects
- Values and demonstrates effective interpersonal and intrapersonal communication