



College of Education and Human Development

Counseling & Development

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<http://gse.gmu.edu/counseling/>

EDCD 604.001 Assessment and Appraisal in Counseling (3:3:0)

Fall 2015

Thursday, 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm

Krug Hall Rm 107

Instructor: Jennifer Carney PhD

Office hours: Mondays, 2-4pm

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A. Prerequisites/Corequisites

EDCD 601

B. University Catalog Course Description

Prepares students to become informed about psychological and educational tests and assessment procedures that are used and applied in a counseling context.

C. Expanded Course Description

The course will cover basic psychometric properties of tests, methods of gathering and interpreting data, the development and use of assessment tools, resources for learning about tests, and how to choose, administer, and interpret individual and group tests within a culturally appropriate framework.

LEARNER OUTCOMES or OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to enable students to:

- demonstrate an understanding of historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment;
- demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts of standardized and non-standardized testing and other assessment techniques including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, environmental assessment, performance assessment, individual and group tests and inventory methods, behavioral observations, and computer-managed and computer-assisted methods;
- demonstrate an understanding of statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations;

- demonstrate an understanding of reliability (i.e., theory of measurement error, models of reliability, and the use of reliability information);
- demonstrate an understanding of validity (i.e., evidence of validity, types of validity, and the relationship between reliability and validity);
- demonstrate an understanding of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, disability, culture, spirituality, and other factors related to the assessment and evaluation of individuals, groups, and specific populations;
- demonstrate an understanding of strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments and techniques in counseling;
- demonstrate an understanding of general principles and methods of case conceptualization, assessment, and/or diagnoses of mental and emotional status; and ethical and legal considerations.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (CACREP):

This course is a prerequisite for the career counseling class in the C & D Master's Program. In addition, this course adheres to the CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) standards regarding assessment as follows: CACREP-Section II.K.g: An understanding of individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Drummond, R. J., Sheperis, C. J., & Jones, K. D. (2016). *Assessment procedures for counselors and helping professionals* (8th ed.). New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

16 PF Mail-in scoring Profile Report (Instructions to order will be provided in class)

5-Factor Wellness Inventory (Assessment will be provided in class)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS:

****All assignments should be submitted to Blackboard unless otherwise noted in class****

Assignments

Observation Report (15 points): This assignment is designed to provide practice in conducting behavioral observations and writing observation reports. This method of assessment is most commonly used with children, so observing a child in a classroom setting or other setting (i.e., after-school program, extra-curricular activity, etc) is highly desired. If you do not have access to a child for the purpose of this assignment, discuss alternative options with Dr. Carney. Use the guidelines posted on Blackboard in conducting the observation and preparing the report. The report is to be a **maximum of three pages** in length.

Informal Assessment (15 points): Students will complete a card sort self-assessment. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class. The assignment will be graded on thought, effort, and depth of analysis. It is anticipated that the report will be a summary and should be a **maximum of three pages** in length.

Self-analysis and Report Writing (30 points): Students will complete a personality assessment (16PF) and a wellness assessment (WEL-5) as a part of the course requirements. Students will be expected to integrate the results of the assessments and develop a comprehensive assessment report. The report should be between 5-6 pages in length, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, and adhere to the *Publication Manual of the APA, 6th Edition*. Further instructions will be given in class.

Group Presentation of Standardized Assessment (30 pts): Identify a population (i.e., child, adolescent, adult, or geriatric) and an area of assessment that is of interest to you (i.e., achievement, behavior, pathology, education, intelligence, personality, etc.). Using the *Mental Measurement Yearbook* and/or The Buros Center for Testing website (<http://www.unl.edu/buros/>), identify possible assessment instruments in that area. Groups will choose one standardized assessment instrument of interest to research, evaluate and present. The presentation should include the title, author, publisher, and purpose of the instrument, as well as its strengths and limitations. You are to use the research from scholarly resources (including at least one peer-reviewed article), test manuals, *Mental Measurement Yearbook*, *Tests in Print*, AARC website (<http://aarc-counseling.org/test-reviews>) and other publications. Further instructions will be available on Blackboard.

Class participation (10 points): Class participation is both encouraged and expected. Class discussion and exercises will be held on a regular basis and engagement will significantly enhance your learning experience. Please alert the instructor if you will be missing class or significantly late. Only one unexcused absence is permitted, and excessive missed time may impact your grade. Unless there is an emergency, it is expected that all cell phones will be turned off during class time. Laptops should be used for note-taking or class-related purposes only. Please do not check email, Facebook, etc. during class out of courtesy for your instructor and fellow students. In general, my grading of class participation is determined as follows:

- 10:** Attends all classes, arrives on-time, and actively participates in most classes
- 9:** Attends all classes, arrives on-time, and moderately participates in most classes OR misses one class, arrives on-time, and actively participates in most classes
- 8:** Misses one class, arrives on-time, and moderately participates in most classes
- 7:** Misses one class and/or several times late to class and/or low participation in most classes
- 6-below:** Misses one class and/or chronic lateness and/or minimal participation in most classes

Grading Scale:

A	=	97-100
A-	=	92- 96
B+	=	87- 91
B	=	82- 86
C	=	75-81
F	=	Below 75

Attendance Policy:

EDCD 604 is a graded course. Included in the assignments is the requirement that the following must be met to receive a passing grade:

- Completion of all assignments of acceptable quality, turned in by date due.
- Attendance at all classes. More than one unexcused absence will result in course failure and lateness to class will affect your participation grade.
- Active classroom participation including discussion of reading materials, providing and accepting constructive feedback and suggestions for and from classmates and instructor is expected.

Grading also will be based primarily upon the significance, thoroughness, accuracy, relatedness, logic and degree to which points made are effectively supported. Papers receiving the highest numerical grade will be outstanding in each area. Grammar and style will be taken into account when they detract from the presentation or understanding of the professional arguments made. As noted above points/grade will be deducted from assignments that do not follow APA guidelines and/or exceed the page limit.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Every student registered for any Counseling and Development course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment to Blackboard (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course, or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in Blackboard. Failure to submit the assessment to Blackboard will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required Blackboard submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

George Mason University Policies and Resources for Students

- Academic integrity (honor code, plagiarism) – Students must adhere to guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].
- Mason Email – Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, division, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Counseling and Psychological Services – The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- Office of Disability Services – Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The Writing Center (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- University Libraries (Optional Resource) – The George Mason University Libraries provide numerous services, research tools, and help with using the library resources [See <http://library.gmu.edu/>].

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website <http://gse.gmu.edu/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

6

Class	Date	Topic	Due
1	9/3/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Course Objectives & Expectations • Use of Blackboard and resources • History of testing • Role and Purpose of Assessment 	TXT Chapter 1
2	9/10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and types of assessment • Observation • Interviewing skills • Intake interviewing 	TXT Chapter 2
3	9/17/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Resources Guest Speaker: (Meet in Library) • Assessment presentation discussion 	Order 16PF
4	9/24/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive Statistics, Scales of Measurement • Measures of Central Tendency • Measures of relationship • Computer Lab SPSS: <i>Descriptive Statistics / Running Frequencies/ Charts / Graphs/ Correlations</i> 	TXT Chapter 3
5	10/1/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard scores • Types of assessment scores • Statistics review • Reliability 	TXT Chapter 4 & 5 Observation Report DUE
6	10/8/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validity • Test Bias and multicultural issues • Alternative assessment methods 	TXT Chapters 6 & 15 BB: Test Bias and Use with Minority Groups
7	10/15/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Card Sort Assignment • 16PF and 5-Factor WEL (DUE 10/19) 	Standardized Assessments DUE (10/19)
8	10/22/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Selection • Technology and testing • Assessment preparation for presentation 	TXT Chapter 7 BB: Using the Internet to Enhance Testing in Counseling Card Sort DUE
9	10/29/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence and aptitude testing • Assessment presentations 1 & 2 	TXT Chapters 8 & 10
10	11/5/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality assessment • Achievement testing • A school counselor's perspective • Assessment presentations 3 & 4 	TXT Chapter 9 & 12 BB: School Counselors and Student Assessment
11	11/12/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic and Structured Interviewing • Clinical Assessment and Mental Status • Assessment and the DSM-V • Assessment presentations 5 & 6 	TXT Chapter 13 BB: 16PF reading
12	11/19/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing for wellness • Formats for Reports, Evaluations, and Summaries • Communicating assessment results 	TXT Chapter 16
13	11/27/15	Thanksgiving- No class	
14	12/3/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics in testing and assessment 	TXT Chapter 17
15	12/10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations in assessment with children • Assessment for SI/HI 	
16	12/17/15		Self- Analysis DUE

**Grading Rubric
Evaluation of Presentation**

	Below Expectations (Below 25 points)	Meets Expectations (25-28 points)	Exceeds Expectations 97-100% (29-30 points)
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of information is illogical • Ideas from different sources are presented without synthesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical, orderly presentation of information • Effort is made to synthesize ideas from different sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides are logical, orderly, well-developed • Ideas are well synthesized, following a logical outline
Grammar & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial grammatical, spelling, punctuation, format errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal grammatical, spelling, punctuation, format errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No grammatical, spelling, punctuation or format errors
Content & Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several required areas are neglected • Analysis is superficial • Pros and cons of instrument not addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All required areas are addressed • Adequate analysis • Pros and cons of instrument minimally addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All required areas are addressed • Evidence of thorough and critical analysis • Pros and cons of instrument fully explored
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate references • Many errors in the citations and/or reference section • Many citations in the body are not cited in the references, and vice versa • Many APA errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References are appropriate • A few incorrect citations or references • A few citations in the body do not match those in the references • Few APA errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References are appropriate and show a variety of sources • Citations are correctly referenced • Citations in the body match those in the references • No APA errors
Oral Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation is difficult to follow • Presenters read directly from slides/notes • Largely unequal contribution of members • No example of the instrument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation follows a logical outline • Effort is made to engage audience • Some members contribute less than others • Limited examples of instrument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation is clear and logical • All members contribute equally • Multiple examples of instrument provided (handouts, screenshots, etc).

**Grading Rubric
Evaluation Final Paper/Analysis**

	Below Expectations (Below 25 points)	Meets Expectations (25-28 points)	Exceeds Expectations 97-100% (29-30 points)
Grammar & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial grammatical, spelling, punctuation, format errors Several APA errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal grammatical, spelling, punctuation, format errors Few APA errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grammatical, spelling, punctuation or format errors No APA errors
Background Information & Behavioral Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fail to provide background information, or description of the “client” Includes mostly subjective or informal language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial background information about the “client” included Partial behavioral/physical description Effort is made to describe client objectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant background information included Full behavioral/physical description Description of attitude/behavior during testing Professional and objective language used
Test Data Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to list tests administered Procedures unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial list of tests administered Procedures are described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes complete list of tests administered Procedures are clearly described
Test Results & Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some scores interpreted inaccurately No themes are identified Information not synthesized across inventories/interview data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some scores are interpreted inaccurately One or two themes identified Information from inventories is synthesized and strengths and areas for growth identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory scores interpreted accurately At least three themes identified and fully discussed Information from inventories is synthesized and strengths/areas for growth fully explored
Summary & Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No summary or recommendations included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary is included, but does not relate to analysis of themes Lack of long term goals, and fewer than 3 short-term recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary is clear and reflects identified themes Includes 1-2 long-term goals and 3 or more recommendations Recommendations follow logically from analysis/ themes
Content & Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several required sections neglected Sections are not clearly delineated Analysis is superficial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required sections are addressed Sections have clear headings Adequate analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required sections are addressed Sections are clear and organized as required Evidence of thorough and critical analysis

