



GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY™

CNL-505 | Professional Counseling, Ethical, and Legal Considerations

Topics & Objectives

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad understanding of counseling ethics, legal standards, and responsibilities, including professional identity, report writing, record keeping, and service reimbursement for clinical mental health and school counselors. Additionally, the history of and current trends in counseling are addressed. Important goals of this course are to help students develop a strong personal and professional ethic, as well as an appreciation of the value of professional collaboration and identity.

CREDITS

3

PREREQUISITES

None

CO-REQUISITES

None

Topic 1: Introduction to Professional Orientation, Ethics, and Legal Standards

Objectives:

- 1.1: Discuss the history, philosophy, and counseling theories in specialty areas of the counseling profession. [CACREP 2.F.1.a]
- 1.1: Examine the history, philosophy, and counseling theories in specialty areas of the counseling profession. [CACREP 2.F.1.a]
- 1.2: Explain the history and development of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling. [CACREP 5.C.1.a, 5.G.1.a]

- 1.3: Examine legal and ethical standards, best practices, technology, and current trends in the counseling field in order to successfully practice counseling in your state. [CACREP 2.F.1.h, 2.F.1.j, 5.C.2.1]
- 1.3: Differentiate legal and ethical standards, best practices, technology, and current trends in the counseling field in order to successfully practice counseling in your state. [CACREP 2.F.1.j, 5.C.2.1]
- 1.3: Differentiate legal and ethical standards, best practices, technology, and current trends in the counseling field in order to successfully practice counseling in your state. [CACREP 2.F.1.h, 2.F.1.j, 5.C.2.1]
- 1.4: Describe your own personal attitudes and beliefs about professional ethics.
- 1.4: Evaluate moral principles that should guide the decision-making processes of professional counselors and how these principles are reflected in ethical decision-making models.
- 1.4: Examine moral principles that should guide the decision-making processes of professional counselors and evaluate how these principles are reflected in ethical decision-making models.
- 1.5: Identify your own personal attitudes and beliefs about professional ethics.
- 1.5: Describe your own personal attitudes and beliefs about professional ethics.
- 1.5: Evaluate how a counselor's personal life (including his/her needs and problems) and issues in the counselor/client relationship can contribute to ethical dilemmas and conflicts for the counselor.
- 1.6: Describe how being a member of state and national professional associations contribute to the development of professional identity.
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- 1.6: Identify how a counselor's personal life (including his/her needs and problems) and issues in the counselor/client relationship can contribute to ethical dilemmas and conflicts for the counselor.
- 1.7: Describe how being a member of state and national professional associations contribute to the development of professional identity.

Topic 2: Professional Orientation, Licensing, and Credentialing

Objectives:

- 2.1: Describe steps that counselors can take to minimize their professional liability and the likelihood that complaints will be filed against them for failing to maintain a professional standard of care.
- 2.1: Describe the ethical issues encountered by counselors who work in private or public mental health organizations or school settings.
- 2.1: Describe the key roles and functions of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling licensure/certification and credentialing boards and how such boards attempt to protect the public from substandard counseling practices. [CACREP 2.F.1.i, 5.G.2.1]
- 2.2: Describe steps that counselors can take to minimize their professional liability and the likelihood that complaints will be filed against them for failing to maintain a professional standard of care.
- 2.2: Determine professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling. [CACREP 5.F.2.n, 5.C.2.k]
- 2.2: Present ethical ways that a counselor can manage limited resources, respond to discrimination, advocate for mental health clients and the counseling profession, and promote community change. [CACREP 2.F.1.d, 5.C.3.e]

- 2.3: Determine the requirements for credentialing, licensure, certification, accreditation practices, and standards, including tiered levels, in the state in which the counselor in training plans to practice clinical mental health counseling or school counseling and how public policy affects the requirements. [CACREP 2.F.1.g]
- 2.3: Differentiate dynamics between private and public practice and professional obligations regarding report writing, record keeping, and service reimbursement. [CACREP 5.C.2.m]
- 2.3: Describe the ethical obligations and limitations that face counselors who work with clients who are the victims of discrimination, injustice, poverty, or lack of access to needed behavioral health services.
- 2.4: Describe the key roles and functions of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling licensure/certification and credentialing boards and how such boards attempt to protect the public from substandard counseling practices. [CACREP 2.F.1.i, 5.G.2.1]
- 2.4: Describe the counselor's ethical duty of utilizing best practice community interventions and programs.
- 2.5: Describe steps that counselors can take to minimize their professional liability and the likelihood that complaints will be filed against them for failing to maintain a professional standard of care.

Topic 3: Values and Cultural Issues in Professional Ethics

Objectives:

- 3.1: Explain the concept of therapeutic objectivity (or value objectivity) as a professional goal.
- 3.2: Examine how cultural factors and personal values affect the counseling relationship. [CACREP 5.C.2.j]

- 3.2: Analyze how cultural factors and personal values affect the counseling relationship. [CACREP 5.C.2.j]
- 3.3: Identify legislation and government policy relevant to clinical mental health counseling or school counseling. [CACREP 5.C.2.i, 5.G.2.m]

Topic 4: Client Rights, Counselor Responsibilities, and Confidentiality

Objectives:

- 4.1: Describe how the concepts of self-determination and informed consent are important foundations of an ethical counseling practice.
- 4.2: Differentiate a counselor's professional roles and responsibilities, including client rights, confidentiality, and limits of confidentiality in various mental health settings. [CACREP 5.C.2.a]
- 4.2: Examine a counselor's professional roles and responsibilities, including client rights, confidentiality, and limits of confidentiality in various mental health settings. [CACREP 2.F.1.b, 2.F.1.l, 5.C.2.a]
- 4.2: Differentiate a counselor's professional roles and responsibilities, including client rights, confidentiality, and limits of confidentiality in various mental health settings. [CACREP 2.F.1.b, 2.F.1.l, 5.C.2.a]
- 4.3: Describe moral principles that should guide the decision-making processes of professional counselors and how these principles are reflected in ethical decision-making models.
- 4.3: Examine a counselor's roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams.
- 4.3: Explain why careful documentation is both an ethical obligation and a legal protection for counselors.

- 4.4: Explain why careful documentation is both an ethical obligation and a legal protection for counselors.
- 4.4: Explain why careful documentation is both an ethical obligation and a legal protection for counselors.
- 4.4: Analyze initial intake ethical issues that may influence client attrition rates and establishing a collaborative therapeutic relationship between the client(s) and counselor.
- 4.5: Analyze initial intake ethical issues that may influence client attrition rates and establishing a collaborative therapeutic relationship between the client(s) and counselor.
- 4.5: Describe each specific situation of: autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice, and fidelity when deciding to refer a client to another counselor or agency.
- 4.5: Examine the role and process of the clinical mental health counselor or school counselor in advocating on behalf of the profession and the advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers for clients. [CACREP 2.F.1.d, 2.F.1.e]
- 4.6: Examine initial intake ethical issues that may influence client attrition rates and establishing a collaborative therapeutic relationship between the client(s) and counselor.
- 4.6: Describe each specific situation of: autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice, fidelity, and veracity when deciding to refer a client to another counselor or agency.
- 4.7: Describe each specific situation of: autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice, and fidelity when deciding to refer a client to another counselor or agency.
- 4.7: Describe a counselor's roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams. [CACREP 2.F.1.c]

Topic 5: Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships: Making Ethical Decisions

Objectives:

- 5.1: Describe the difference between crossing boundaries and violating boundaries.
- 5.2: Describe how a counselor who is contemplating crossing boundaries or engaging in a dual relationship with clients can ensure that his/her behavior remains within ethical practice guidelines.
- 5.3: Describe how the concepts of exploitation and client harm are evaluated within the framework of multiple relationships.
- 5.4: Identify ways in which an ethical counselor can handle issues of physical attraction that may occur between counselors and clients.
- 5.4: Determine ways in which an ethical counselor can handle issues of physical attraction that may occur between counselors and clients.
- 5.5: Demonstrate the role and process of the clinical mental health counselor or school counselor in advocating on behalf of the profession and the advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers for clients. [CACREP 2.F.1.d, 2.F.1.e]
- 5.6: Identify that counselors engage in self-care activities to maintain and promote their own emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing to best meet their professional responsibilities.
- 5.6: Identify that counselors engage in self-care activities to maintain and promote their own emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing to best meet their professional responsibilities. [CACREP 2.F.1.1]

Topic 6: Ethical Issues in Family and Group Work

Objectives:

- 6.1: Describe the methods used to ensure family and group members understanding of confidentiality as well as how breaches of confidentiality will be managed.
- 6.2: Describe the specific ethical issues inherent in group counseling and identify ways that they can be managed by a professional counselor.
- 6.3: Describe the strategies for interfacing with the legal system regarding court-referred clients. [CACREP 5.C.3.c]
- 6.4: Identify professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling. [CACREP 5.F.2.n, 5.C.2.k]
- 6.4: Synthesize ethical responsibilities regarding technology's impact on the counseling profession in a clinical counseling scenario. [CACREP 2.F.1.j]
- 6.5: Assess personal values and gender/cultural issues that may create ethical dilemmas in couples/family counseling.
- 6.5: Determine the requirements for credentialing, licensure, certification, accreditation practices, and standards, including tiered levels, in the state in which the counselor in training plans to practice clinical mental health counseling or school counseling and how public policy affects the requirements. [CACREP 2.F.1.g]
- 6.6: Present ethical ways that a counselor can manage limited resources, respond to discrimination, advocate for mental health clients and the counseling profession, and promote community change.

Topic 7: Ethical Issues in Private Practice and Community Counseling**Objectives:**

- 7.1:

Describe the ethical issues encountered by counselors who work in private and public mental health organizations and school settings. [CACREP 5.C.2.1, 5.G.2.m]

- 7.2: Present ethical ways that a counselor can manage limited resources, respond to discrimination, advocate for mental health clients and the counseling profession, and promote community change. [CACREP 2.F.1.d, 5.C.3.e]
- 7.2: Differentiate dynamics between private and public practice and professional obligations regarding report writing, record keeping, and service reimbursement. [CACREP 5.C.2.m]
- 7.3: Analyze ethical issues and practices related to record keeping, third party reimbursement, state insurance laws, managed care, and counselors as service providers in private and community-based practice. [CACREP 5.C.2.m]
- 7.3: Describe ethical implications of conducting community program assessment, program implementation, and evaluation.
- 7.4: Describe the ethical obligations and limitations that face counselors who work with clients who are the victims of discrimination, injustice, poverty, or lack of access to needed behavioral health services.
- 7.4: Determine professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling. [CACREP 5.F.2.n, 5.C.2.k]
- 7.5: Determine the requirements for credentialing, licensure, certification, accreditation practices, and standards, including tiered levels, in the state in which the counselor in training plans to practice clinical mental health counseling or school counseling and how public policy affects the requirements. [CACREP 2.F.1.g]
- 7.5: Describe the counselor's ethical duty of utilizing best practice community interventions and programs.
- 7.6:

Describe ethical implications of conducting community program assessment, program implementation, and evaluation.

- 7.6: Describe the key roles and functions of clinical mental health counseling or school counseling licensure/certification and credentialing boards and how such boards attempt to protect the public from substandard counseling practices. [CACREP 2.F.1.i, 5.G.2.l]
- 7.7: Describe a counselor's roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams.
- 7.7: Synthesize ethical responsibilities regarding technology's impact on the counseling profession in a clinical counseling scenario. [CACREP 2.F.1.j]
- 7.8: Describe steps that counselors can take to minimize their professional liability and the likelihood that complaints will be filed against them for failing to maintain a professional standard of care.
- 7.8: Examine personal values and gender/cultural issues that may create ethical dilemmas in couples/family counseling.
- 7.9: Analyze ethical issues and practices related to record keeping, third party reimbursement, state insurance laws, managed care, and counselors as service providers in private and community-based practice. [CACREP 5.C.2.m]

Topic 7: Professional Competence: Issues in Supervision and Consultation

Objectives:

- 7.1: Describe how an ethical counselor addresses issues of professional competence in his or her own practice.
- 7.2: Compare the ethical issues involved in the counselor-client relationship to those involved in the supervisor-counselor relationship.

- 7.3: Describe a decision-making process that an ethical counselor can use to respond to issues of incompetence and/or other unethical conduct by fellow counselors.
- 7.4: Discuss the different roles of a counselor, supervisor, and consultant within the counseling field. [CACREP 2.F.1.m]
- 7.5: Analyze the role of counseling supervision in the profession. [CACREP 2.F.1.m]

Topic 8: Professional Competence: Issues in Supervision and Consultation

Objectives:

- 8.1: Describe how an ethical counselor addresses issues of professional competence in his or her own practice.
- 8.2: Compare and contrast the ethical issues involved in the counselor-client relationship to those involved in the supervisor-counselor relationship.
- 8.3: Describe a decision-making process that an ethical counselor can use to respond to issues of incompetence and/or other unethical conduct by fellow counselors.
- 8.4: Discuss the different roles of a counselor, supervisor, and consultant within the counseling field. [CACREP 2.F.1.m]
- 8.5: Analyze the role of counseling supervision in the profession. [CACREP 2.F.1.m, 5.G.2.m]
- 8.6: Describe a counselor's roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams.

Topic 8: Ethical Issues in Private Practice and Community Counseling

Objectives:

- 8.1: Differentiate dynamics between private and public practice and professional obligations regarding report writing, record keeping, and service reimbursement. [CACREP 5.C.2.m]
- 8.2: Describe ethical implications of conducting community program assessment, program implementation, and evaluation.
- 8.3: Describe the ethical obligations and limitations that face counselors who work with clients who are the victims of discrimination, injustice, poverty, or lack of access to needed behavioral health services.
- 8.4: Describe the counselor's ethical duty of utilizing best practice community interventions and programs.
- 8.5: Analyze ethical issues and practices related to record keeping, third party reimbursement, state insurance laws, managed care, and counselors as service providers in private and community-based practice. [CACREP 5.C.2.m]

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