Student Learning Outcomes

**Students understand their professional identity as a counselor.**

- Articulate the foundations of the counseling profession, its history, and its philosophical underpinnings.
- Develop an identity as a mental health community counselor and understand the licenses and the scopes of practice in the state of California for the LPCC and LMFT.
- Be able to identify the ethical and legal guidelines of the profession as an integral part of constructing a professional identity.
- Compare and contrast the roles of the various counseling professional organizations and licenses (LMFT and LPCC).
- Demonstrate participation in professional development activities (e.g. join a professional organization; attend a conference or workshop; volunteer at a conference or workshop).

**Students are aware of the impact of diversity on the counseling process and are sensitive to differences.**

- Identify major cultural constructs and how they intersect with the mental health of clients (e.g. culture, race, ethnicity, social class, gender, sexual or affectual orientation, transgender, religion, oppression, social justice, advocacy, privilege, identity development, and white guilt).
- Articulate pluralistic trends among groups locally, nationally, and internationally and their potential impact on community mental health.
- Explore and articulate the cultural sources of existing personal value system and acknowledge that these cultural values create biases that may affect clients who are culturally different from the counselor.
- Apply culturally sensitive treatments to clients in community mental health.
- Identify stereotypes and how they derive from systematic oppression and the traditional values and norms of various cultural groups.
- Articulate counselors’ roles in developing cultural awareness, promoting cultural social justice advocacy, facilitating conflict resolution, and other culturally supported behaviors that promote optimal wellness and growth of the human spirit, mind, or body.

**Students demonstrate effective counseling skills with clients.**

- Demonstrate effective counseling skills with individuals (adults and children), couples, families, and/or groups.
- Evaluate client’s progress toward treatment goals during practicum experiences.
- Display an awareness of, and an appreciation for, the intersection of social and cultural influences on human behavior and the impact of individual differences on the counseling process.
- Recognize counter-transference that may be interfering with the client’s process, minimize counter-transference through personal work, and understand how counter-transference can be used in therapy.
- Identify ethical and legal issues, understand professional ethical codes of conduct, and appropriately apply an ethical decision-making model to clinical cases (hypothetical vignettes and/or actual).

**Students can conceptualization cases and write effective treatment plans for clients.**

- Utilize knowledge of major counseling theories in the context of individual (adult and child), couple, family, and group counseling, to formulate case conceptualizations and treatment plans.
- Appropriately apply the diagnostic categories of the DSM 5.
- Recognize the impact of issues and formulate treatment plans for clients with severe mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders.

**Students are able to conduct research and demonstrate the ability to think critically and problem solve.**

- Collect and integrate theoretical knowledge, the relevance of evidence-based practice, clinical information, and client perspectives in order to form clinical hypotheses of clients and their issues.
- Critically analyze biases in theories, assessment and diagnoses.
- Utilize a formal system of inquiry that integrates the work of researchers and counselors, and apply it in a “practicum on research.”
- Critically analyze research methodology and can critique the professional literature.
- Demonstrate knowledge regarding a specific clinical issue relevant to community counseling in Southern California.

**Students are able to write papers well using APA style, proper grammar, and organization.**

- Demonstrate writing that includes correct grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate writing that uses non-biased language regarding labeling and dimensions of diversity (e.g., gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, age, disability).
- Demonstrate writing that is structurally and mechanically correct according to APA style.
- Demonstrate original writing that correctly references sources and is not plagiarized.
- Demonstrate awareness of the intended audience and purpose for which the writing is done.
- Demonstrate writing that meets the stated objectives in a concise, organized, and logical manner.
- Demonstrate writing that is professional, ethical, and respectful with regard to clients.