

Western Seminary Counseling Program

Guidelines for Readiness Exam, Portland Campus

Introduction

Students entering the Counseling Program are expected to bring a foundational knowledge of psychology. Proficiency in this foundational knowledge will be confirmed through a “Readiness Exam,” required of all incoming counseling students. If deficiencies are indicated, remedial work will be required. Counseling students may satisfy these deficiencies in one of the following two ways: Complete appropriate undergraduate course(s) at an approved institution, or complete a self-guided instructional program provided through Western Seminary. **Keep this guideline paper until you have completed your exam and received your scores.**

Deadlines

The Readiness Exam must be taken at least once before or during your first semester. You must pass all sections of the exam before your second semester registration is permitted.

Exam Content

The Readiness Exam consists of 80 multiple-choice questions. The exam is self-administered via an online classroom and instructions given from the Counseling Department Administrative Assistant. The exam covers eight areas:

- Social Psychology
- Personality Theory
- Abnormal Psychology
- Historical Foundations
- Research and Evaluation
- Human Lifespan Development
- Biopsychology
- Therapeutic Approaches

Procedure

Each sub-section of the exam will be scored separately. A 70% score on each section will be necessary for a passing score. Scores of 69% or less on a particular sub-section will indicate a need for remedial work in that subject matter. For example, if a student receives scores of 70% or better on all subsections except Human Development, where he or she receives a 60%, that student would then complete the remedial work in Human Development only, not all 8 sub-sections. However, students may take the exams as many times as necessary to earn a passing score.

The following checklist will guide you through the readiness exam process:

- Complete all eight sections of the exam.
- If you do not pass one or more sections, follow the “Remedial Work” instructions below.

Remedial Work Instructions

- ❑ Review suggested study materials
- ❑ After completing the remedial work, re-take the subsection(s) on the computer.
- ❑ After successfully passing all sections of the exam, notify the Counseling Administrative Assistant of your completion.

Suggested Study Materials

Kring, Ann M., Davison, Gerald C., Neale, John M. and Johnson, Shari (2016). *Abnormal Psychology* (13th ed.). New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Gerrig, Richard J., Zimbardo, Phillip G., (2009). *Psychology and Life* (19th ed.). New York: Harper Collins.

Myers, David., Dewall, Nathan. (2015). *Psychology* (11th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.