

## COUNSELOR PREPARATION COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE) is a nationally administered multiple choice exam designed to evaluate professional knowledge students have acquired during their programs leading to licensure as either an MFT or an LPCC. The CPCE is designed to assess students' knowledge of counseling information viewed as important by programs preparing students for state licensing exams.

Additionally, the CPCE:

- Stimulates student integration of knowledge learned in separate courses
- Helps prepare students for the state licensing exams
- Gives students comparative strengths/weaknesses feedback
- Allows programs to examine student functioning in various curricular areas
- Gives programs an objective view of the knowledge level of their students
- Compares the program's results to national data

➤ **Passing the CPCE is a graduation requirement for MFT/ MAC students admitted in or after Fall 2012.**

## THE CPCE COVERS EIGHT CORE CURRICULUM AREAS

1. **Helping Relationships** [CNS 501, 502, 516]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of counseling and consultation processes.
2. **Professional Orientation & Ethics** [CNS 506]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of all aspects of professional functioning including history, roles, organizational structures, ethics, standards, and credentialing.
3. **Human Growth & Development** [CNS 507]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels.
4. **Group Dynamics** [CNS 512]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of group development, dynamics, counseling theories, group counseling methods and skills, and other group work approaches.
5. **Social & Cultural Foundations** [CNS 513]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society.
6. **Career & Lifestyle Development** [CNS 518]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of career development and related life factors.
7. **Research Methods & Program Evaluation** [CNS 524]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of types of research methods, basic statistics, and ethical and legal considerations in research.
8. **Appraisal or Assessment Techniques** [CNS 525]
  - Studies that provide an understanding of individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation.

The CPCE national norms are used to determine the minimum passing score on the exam. The minimum passing score varies each year. For more information about the CPCE, visit the official site: <https://www.cce-global.org/AssessmentsAndExaminations/CPCE>

## REQUIREMENTS TO REGISTER FOR THE EXAM

Each applicant must

- have successfully completed all six prerequisites for MAC Practicum prior to sitting for the Exam.
- have a 3.0 GPA and be in good standing in the MAC program

Students applying for the CPCE are encouraged, but not required to have completed coursework covering the eight core areas listed above.

## REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Students will apply to take the CPCE by filling out the MAC Program CPCE Application, and submitting it to the Counseling Program Administrative Assistant via email, fax, or mailbox. The Education Resource Fee paid each term will cover the \$75 exam fee.

## FORMAT OF THE CPCE

The CPCE consists of 160 items with 20 items per section. Western Seminary is responsible for determining a minimum required score for their students. A demographic questionnaire will be included on the answer sheet for research purposes. Students are allowed four hours to complete the examination. After the examination, we will contact students with their results. Results will be posted approximately 4 weeks after the test administration. Your score will place you on a continuum of percentiles in comparison to national norms. For example, if you score at the 50th percentile you are exactly at the center of the comparison group.

## PREPARATION FOR THE CPCE

The exam content is similar to the NBCC National Counselor Examination. Students may obtain free sample questions from the NBCC website: [www.nbcc.org/NCE/Sample](http://www.nbcc.org/NCE/Sample). A list of other study resources is available at [www.nbcc.org/Exams/Study#NCE](http://www.nbcc.org/Exams/Study#NCE). Also, *Study Guide for the National Counselor Examination and CPCE* by Andrew A. Helwig may be available on reserves at your campus library. Please note, these references are suggestions, not endorsements.

## EXAM RESULTS

Completed exams are scored by the Center of Credentialing and Education (CCE). Once scores have been calculated, they are returned to the Western Seminary San Jose Counseling Dept. within two weeks. Examinees receive a notification from the Counseling Dept. informing them of their score on the exam.

## RETESTING

If for some reason you do not pass the CPCE, you will need to be prepared to retake it with enough time prior to your graduation to ensure that you fulfill the requirement of having passed it. Each time you take the test you will need to go through the entire registration process.

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