



# M.A./BC

## BC 305 Practicum I

### Professional Disclosure & Client Rights Statement

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#### **THE NATURE OF COUNSELING**

As students/clients discuss thoughts, feelings, and experiences, the student/client and counselor will work as partners to gain the understanding and insight necessary for growth and change to take place. Goals for counseling and/or decisions students/clients make to facilitate change are ultimately up to the student. At any time, either the student/client or counselor may initiate discussion about possible positive or negative effects of using or not using certain techniques. Students/clients have the right to ask questions about the procedures used during therapy. If the student/client wishes, counselors will explain therapeutic procedures to the student/client.

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#### **COUNSELING SESSIONS & THE COUNSELING RELATIONSHIP**

Sessions are held weekly for 50 minutes. Although the sessions may be psychologically intimate, the relationship between the student/client and counselor is a professional relationship, rather than a social one. Therefore, contact between student/client and counselor will be limited to the counseling sessions that the student/client arranges with the counselor except in the case of an emergency, at which time the student/client may contact the counselor by means given.

Due to ethical guidelines, the counselor asks that the student/client do not invite the counselor to social gatherings, offer the counselor gifts, ask the counselor to write references for the student/client, or ask the counselor to relate to the student/client in any way other than the professional context during counseling sessions. Student/clients will be best served if the sessions concentrate exclusively on the student's/client's concerns. The counselor's services will be rendered in a professional manner consistent with accepted ethical standards. Please note that it is impossible to guarantee any specific results regarding the student's/client's counseling goals. However, together the student/client and counselor will work to achieve the best possible results for you.

Students/clients have the right to review their files at any time. Upon the student's/client's signed request, any part of his/her file may be released to any person or agencies that the student/client designates.

One of the student's/client's most important rights involves confidentiality. Information the student/client reveals during therapy will be kept strictly confidential and will not be revealed to any other person or agency without your written permission, except in circumstances in which, as a therapist, the counselor is required by ethical standards to reveal information obtained during therapy to other persons or agencies – even if you do not give permission. These situations are on the following page.

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**COUNSELORS MUST DISCLOSE INFORMATION WHEN:**

Counselors must disclose information regarding counseling session if one of the following apply:

1. If student/client threatens grave bodily harm or death to him/herself, the counselor is required by ethical standards to inform the appropriate law enforcement agencies
2. If student/client reports to the counselor his/her knowledge of the physical or sexual abuse of a minor child by an adult or of an elder (over 65) by an adult, the counselor is required by law to inform the appropriate child welfare agency which may then investigate the matter
3. If the counselor is required by a court of law (court order) to turn over records to the court or am ordered to testify regarding those records.

*NOTE: At the end of our time together, the counselor will fill out the attached evaluation of the sessions that will be placed in the student's/client's file.*

In addition to the situations listed above, as an LPCi, the counselor is under the supervision of a faculty member of the M.A./BC Program. Due to the nature of an internship and in accordance with state requirements, the counselor may discuss sessions and their contents with his/her supervisor, but the student's/client's identity will remain confidential.

If at any time the student/client is dissatisfied with his/her services, please let the counselor know. If the counselor is not able to resolve the concerns, the student/client may report his/her complaints to the Director of the M.A./BC Program. Student's/client's have the right to address complaints against licensed professional counselors to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, 1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78756, 1-800-942-5540.

**Student/Client Signature** (*Please print below*): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Counselor's Signature** (*Please print below*): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_