

NCE Content Categories – GSU Counseling Course Alignment Chart

Content Categories	Descriptions	Number of Scored Questions	Percentage of Exam	GSU Counseling Courses covering content categories
Professional Practice and Ethics	Assesses counselors' knowledge, skills, and abilities as they pertain to maintaining proper administrative and clinical protocols. This includes topics such as informed consent, client records, use of social media, and confidentiality.	19	12%	COUN 6600 Professional Orientation & Ethical Standards in Counseling
Intake, Assessment, and Diagnosis	Consists of items designed to assess a counselor's knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct client intake, assessment, and diagnosis. Items in this domain may reflect content such as performance of Mental Status Exams (MSEs), assessment for substance use, and evaluation of an individual's level of mental health functioning.	19	12%	COUN 6100 Research and Assessment
Areas of Clinical Focus	Integrates information regarding diagnoses and main presenting problems/client concerns that were identified in the job analysis as being the most prevalent in clinical work. For example, issues related to bullying, obsessive thoughts/behaviors, sleeping habits, etc. may be areas of focus on the examination.	47	29%	COUN 7620 Lifespan Developmental Issues COUN 7730 Lifestyle and Career Development COUN 7725 Family Systems: Theory and Practice COUN 8811 Interventions with Children & Adolescents
Treatment Planning	Is the domain of the exam that is built to assess a counselor's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they relate to	14	9%	COUN 7855 Assessment & Treatment Planning

	effectively treating clients. This domain houses items that may cover everything from a counselor's ability to identify barriers to client goal attainment, discussing termination, follow-up after discharge, revisions of the treatment plan, or collaboration with other providers.			
Counseling Skills and Interventions	Encompasses items written to assess counselors' knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct effective counseling. This is a broad and comprehensive domain that covers topics such as establishment of a therapeutic alliance, providing crisis intervention, use of self-disclosure, exploring the influence of family, and identifying group themes.	48	30%	COUN 6630 Counseling Theories COUN 7847 Group Dynamics and Interventions COUN 8811 Interventions with Children & Adolescents
Core Counseling Attributes	Assesses the behavior, traits, and dispositions of effective counselors. This domain is measured with items that address topics such as genuineness, empathetic responding, positive regard, and respect for and acceptance of diversity.	13	8%	COUN 7810 Beginning Counseling & Human Relational Skills COUN 7720 Social & Cultural Foundations

Time Limit: 3 hours and 45 minutes
Total Questions: 160 scored, 40 unscored (200 total)
Question Format: Multiple-choice questions
Exam Delivery: Computer-based
Cost: \$275.00

Note: Additional information regarding Exam 235 can be found at <https://www.nbcc.org/exams/nce>. GSU MA in Counseling faculty members also discuss this exam in various counseling courses (i.e. COUN 6600, etc.). Additionally, faculty are available upon request to provide individual and/or group study preparation assistance.