

**LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

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**Department of Counseling Psychology**  
**Professional Mental Health Counseling**

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**MHC 580 – Wednesday Afternoon Section**  
**Practicum in Professional Mental Health Counseling**

Meets: Wednesdays, 2-8pm September 9<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>

Class Room: Lewis Clark Community Counseling Center/ 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Instructor: Amy Rees                      Email: [arees@lclark.edu](mailto:arees@lclark.edu)

Office hours by appointment: 503-768-6060

Site Supervisor: Kristin Tand              Email: [ktand@lclark.edu](mailto:ktand@lclark.edu)

Phone: 503-702-7244

Office Hours: I am adjunct faculty and do not have an office on campus. If you need to speak with me between class sessions feel free to contact me via phone or email.

**Course Description:** This class is designed to provide instruction and supervision to first and second semester practicum students working with clients at the Lewis and Clark Community Counseling Center. Students will receive live supervision and feedback as designated by CACREP requirements. The focus of the class will be to provide ethical and competent client care while working within the parameters of time (typically one semester), student theoretical orientation and client issues/goals. Skills that will receive particular attention will include developing a therapeutic relationship, counselor empathy and compassion. The recognition of the impact of race, culture, gender, sexual orientation and poverty as well as other societal and political influences that define the context of the therapeutic relationship will be highlighted as well. A beginning knowledge of client assessment and the development of treatment planning (including articulating the goals, objectives and interventions) will be developed. The establishment of a self-care practice and development of professional boundaries will be central as students become aware of countertransference and vicarious trauma while growing professionally as a counselor.

**Catalog description:** Working with clients in the practicum clinic, agency or school setting (eight to 10 hours per week, 100 hours total) under intensive supervision from CPSY faculty, developing the therapeutic relationship and basic counseling competencies. Students are expected to demonstrate personal characteristics and professional conduct necessary for effective, ethical counseling. [Up to] two semesters, 3 credit hour each required.

*Note: If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in the Albany Quadrangle (x7156). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork there for the current semester requesting accommodations, staff in that office will notify me of the accommodations for which you are eligible.*

**Required Text:**

Edward Teyber, Interpersonal Process in Psychotherapy. Any Edition.

**Recommended Texts:**

Weeks, G.R.; Treat, S.R. (2011 or 2014). Couples in Treatment: Techniques and approaches for effective practice.

Yalom, I. D. (2002). The gift of therapy: An open letter to a new generation of therapists and their patients. HarperCollins: New York.

*Please note: Other selected readings may be recommended throughout the term.*

**Course Requirements:** To successfully complete the clinical practicum, the student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 100 clock-hours of counseling activities with at least 40 of these hours in direct contact with clients over the two semesters of practicum. Students must keep approved and complete documentation of client sessions and other documentation required by the Lewis and Clark Counseling Center. Students must receive minimal 1s and no 0s on the Professional Qualities Evaluation and must perform at a satisfactory level on the Practicum Evaluation Form. Activities that can be counted toward the 100 hours may include such professional activities as consultation, coordination, supervision, documentation, case conceptualization, and research/study/learning related to counseling or client issues. In the course of completing these activities, the student will be expected to demonstrate a wide variety of counseling techniques and communication skills. At the end of the semester, the student must document the amount of time they were engaged in these activities, and submit to your instructor.

Additionally, *students will be required to transcribe a section of a client session..* The transcription and a transcription-response narrative (minimum of five pages) will be due at the end of the semester.

**CACREP objectives/student learning outcomes:**

Student will understand and apply:

- 1j. ethical standards of professional organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling
- 2d. individual, couple, family, group, and community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse populations, including multicultural competencies;
- 5c. essential interviewing and counseling skills;
- 5g. crisis intervention and suicide prevention models, including the use of psychological first aid strategies.

## Clinical Mental Health Standards

- A2. Understands ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling. (2001-A4)
- B1. Demonstrates the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in clinical mental health counseling.
- D2. Applies multicultural competencies to clinical mental health counseling involving case conceptualization, diagnosis, treatment, referral, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders.
- D3. Promotes optimal human development, wellness, and mental health through prevention, education, and advocacy activities
- D4. Applies effective strategies to promote client understanding of and access to a variety of community resources.
- D5. Demonstrates appropriate use of culturally responsive individual, couple, family, group, and systems modalities for initiating, maintaining, and terminating counseling
- D7. Applies current record-keeping standards related to clinical mental health counseling.
- D9. Demonstrates the ability to recognize his or her own limitations as a clinical mental health counselor and to seek supervision or refer clients when appropriate.
- F1. Maintains information regarding community resources to make appropriate referrals.
- F3. Demonstrates the ability to modify counseling systems, theories, techniques, and interventions to make them culturally appropriate for diverse populations.
- H2. Demonstrates skill in conducting an intake interview, a mental status evaluation, a biopsychosocial history, a mental health history, and a psychological assessment for treatment planning and caseload management.
- H3. Screens for addiction, aggression, and danger to self and/or others, as well as co-occurring mental disorders.
- J1. Applies relevant research findings to inform the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

**Grading:** This class is graded using Credit/No Credit. Each student will be evaluated in the areas of counseling competence including effective use of micro skills, theoretical knowledge, self-awareness, and ethical practice. Case presentations during group supervision, case conceptualization, effectiveness of oral and written communication, as well as openness to feedback and supervision will all be considered in the grade. Evaluation methods may include (any and/or

all) written work, observation, tape or audio review, transcriptions, case presentations, supervisor evaluations and in class participation along with timely completion of all class assignments. Evaluation of satisfactory performance will be made by your instructor.

Additional notes about grades:

- The instructor will make final decisions about grading with input from your site supervisor.
- Failure to complete class requirements may include a deferred grade as well as the possible enrollment in an additional semester of practicum.
- Failure to complete the required number of direct service hours in a semester may result in a deferred grade with the possible enrollment in an additional semester of practicum.
- Failure to follow Ethical Guidelines of the profession will require a meeting to determine the next steps for addressing the concerns.
- Some students require more than two semesters of practicum to develop and demonstrate the requirements of a master's level counselor.
- Students must be ready to move onto Internship in order to pass Practicum.
- Occasionally personal issues or life events will make it impossible for a student to move forward in their growth as a counselor and they will be encouraged or required to take some time off for self-care.

**Ethical Guidelines:** Students are expected to follow the ethical guidelines put forth by the American Counseling Association and to seek supervision when there is case confusion or an ethical dilemma to be resolved. Failure to follow ethical guidelines and/or non-disclosure of ethical problems and the seeking of appropriate supervision may result in dismissal from the practicum and/or counseling program. To follow ethical guidelines in relation to clients and to respect the work of our peers it is of fundamental importance that the contents of group discussion be regarded as absolutely confidential.

**Confidentiality and Informed Consent:** Students will make their clients aware they are enrolled in the M.A. or M.S. program in Professional Mental Health Counseling at Lewis and Clark College and that they are working under supervision. Clients should know that they are being observed and videotaped and that the counseling experience will be discussed for training purposes.

**Informed Consent, Professional Disclosure Statement, and other forms** will be used with all clients that delineate what information about them will be used (and how it will be protected) and for what purpose. Clients under the age of 14 must have the forms signed by a parent or legal guardian. This informed consent is required in addition to any of the other forms. Students will be vigilant in keeping records and tapes secure during transportation for the purpose of keeping client information confidential.

**Mandated Reporting:** Students will make mandated reports in accordance with Oregon law. Any questions about what constitutes a report or how to make a report should be immediately discussed with your instructor or the back-up supervisor. Students will utilize policies and forms related to making mandated reports as provided at the Lewis and Clark Community Counseling Center.

**Attendance:**

- It is essential that students attend each class session to receive credit for the required supervision and to provide reliable, ethical, and competent client care.
- Any missed classes will require make-up work including any of the following; written work including research, transcript of counseling session and professional reading with written review.
- Any “planned absences” must be discussed with and approved by the course professor at least two weeks in advance of the absence.
- In case of illness and true emergencies, please notify site supervisor, center supervisor, and your client as soon as possible.
- More than one absence a semester could result in a failure to complete the class.
- Any unexcused absences or failure to notify supervisors of absences will also result in the loss of supervision credit and counseling hours for that week as well as a meeting with the campus supervisor to determine outcome which might include receiving a failing grade for the class.
- Late to class: More than 20 minutes will require make-up work at the discretion of the professor. Please implement the necessary boundaries for leaving work or internship sites on time. Arriving late impacts the work of your classmates.

**Laptops and Cell Phones:** Due the experiential nature of the class laptops may be used only when designated by the instructor. Cell phones must be silenced and text messaging is not allowed during class time. If there is an emergency you may exit the class to use your cell. Laptops and cells phones may of course be used on breaks. Please come prepared to take hand written notes. If a disability requires the use of a laptop please let the instructor know at the beginning of the semester.