

# COU 599

## 2 Credits

### Professional Orientation to Counseling: Development of Skills and Attitudes

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**Course Description:** This course is a graduate level introduction to the foundational skills necessary for mental health practitioner students. This course will cover a wide variety of topics including; development of professional identity, critical thinking skills, information gathering skills, competencies in the classroom, e-learning tools, academic and professional writing styles, and exploration of theoretical orientation.

**Required Text:** No required text for this course

#### Course Objectives:

1. Students will begin to conceptualize and clarify their professional goals as a mental health counselor.
2. Students will be introduced and challenged to gain proficiency in the use of tools of a professional graduate student in the Doane MAC program.
3. Students will be introduced to and apply skills for using Doane Learning Commons.
4. Students will be challenged to understand and master a full range of writing skills, allowing for growth as a professional.
5. Students will be challenged to understand their central role and responsibility in the transformational learning process.

**Course Format:**

This course will be structured in a modular format; each module will begin and end with group meetings to allow students to begin to view themselves as contributing members of a learning and intellectual community. Participation and sharing within the learning community will be a strong component of this course. Guest speakers, lecture, group discussions, small group activities, and outside assignments will provide students opportunities to expand their knowledge in the field of counseling.

**Course Requirements/Assignments:**

**Attendance** is required and will be taken for each session. Loss of points (up to one letter grade is possible) will occur for more than 1 absence.

**Readings/Blackboard Activities** are required before the beginning of the course night discussion as well as Blackboard activities related to the readings and topics.

**Writing Module** will be completed and student will select one example of their work to be reviewed by 3 peers.

**Professional Identify Statements** will be developed by the end of the term.

**Theoretical Orientation Development** will begin in this course.

**Assignments** will be expected on time, if late 50% of grade will be deducted.

**Grading Criteria:**

To receive a grade of B or better all assignments must be completed. Grades will be calculated based upon the percent of points earned out of the total possible points. The following percentages will apply: **Warning: Text messaging, cell phone use during class will result in loss of all participation points for that session.**

**A=100-95**

**A-=94-90**

**B+=89-86**

**B=85-82 C-=71-69**

**B-=81-79 Anything below a 69 will**

**C+=78-76 require a meeting with**

**C=75-72 instructor.**

**Points for assignments:**

<b>Blackboard activities</b>	<b>100 points (20 points each activity)</b>
<b>Peer responses</b>	<b>75 points (25 points each response)</b>
<b>Participation/Activities</b>	<b>100 points (20 points per session)</b>
<b>Professional Identity Statement</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Theoretical Orientation Development</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Writing Module</b>	<b>75 points</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>450 points</b>

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

All individual student work will represent the student's own work. Any use of others' ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and /or dean of the Master of Art in Counseling program.

**Module 1: Week 1 of term**

*Introduction to the concept of professionalism and a practitioner oriented program.*

- a) Professionalism exploration
- b) Orientation to academic life at Doane College
- c) Expectations of the program
- d) Grading/PPE's
- e) Student directed learning
- f) E-learning tools introduction and application (Blackboard, E-Portfolio, PowerPoint, ect.)

**Module 2: Week 2 of term**

***Information gathering skills - Guest Speaker (Julie Pinnell)***

- a) Search strategies
- b) Doane College Learning Commons (library)
- c) Module assignment discussion

**Module 3: Week 4 of term**

***Critical thinking, review, analysis***

- a) Discover critical thinking and application within course/program
- b) Elements & Practice

**Module 4: Week 6 of term**

***Writing Skills***

- a) Business letters
- b) Research papers
- c) Literature Reviews
- d) Writing process

**Module 5: Week 9 of term**

***Professional Identity Development***

- a) Professional Identity
- b) Professional Orientation
- c) Theoretical Orientation
- d) Formal Petition for Promotion process/expectations