



6. Explain, define, and/or discuss the concepts of confidentiality, privacy, and privileged communication and the relationship between these concepts;
7. Recognize and explain the difference between ethical issues and ethical dilemmas;
8. Apply an ethical decision making model in resolving an ethical dilemma.

## **Course Content**

1. Ethical Principles
2. Ethics for professional counselors
3. Basic legal concepts for professional counselors
4. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
5. Texas law related to counseling
6. Tort (case) law related to counseling
7. Ethical decision making

## **Course Requirements**

### *Prerequisites*

Students are expected to be able to: 1) Navigate the World Wide Web using a web browser (e.g., Safari, Explorer, Opera, Firefox, Chrome) and a search engine (e.g., Google); 2) Communicate electronically via email; 3) Send attachments via email; and, 4) Use a word processing computer program, preferably MS Word.

Students should own, or have access to, a computer or similar device connected to the internet; speakers, headphones, or earbuds; and a microphone; or a headset that combines speakers and a microphone.

### *Test(s)*

Two tests will be administered. Items may be multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay. Item construction will reflect all 6 domains of Bloom's revised taxonomy (Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001): Remember, Understand, Apply, Analyze, Evaluate, and Create. Tests will be evaluated on a 100-point scale. Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 40%.

### *Discussions*

The instructor will post a discussion prompt by midnight on Sunday. Students are expected to post an educated and informed response by the following Tuesday at midnight. Students are then expected to reply with educated and informed comments by Thursday following to at least 3 of their peers initial contributions.

Discussion contributions are evaluated according to the following basic scale, with the quality of the contribution notwithstanding:

Initial Contribution	10 points
Response to 1 <sup>st</sup> colleague	5 points
Response to 2 <sup>nd</sup> colleague	3 points
Response to 3 <sup>rd</sup> colleague	2 points

Points assigned will be adjusted depending upon the quality of students' commentary.

Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 25%.

## *Projects*

### Project 1

Students will prepare an informed consent document that addresses all necessary considerations, depending upon students' concentration area (Community Counseling or School Counseling). School Counseling students should keep in mind that minors give **assent** while their parents give **consent**. Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 15%

### Project 2

Students will prepare a summary in which they discuss, in their own words, their understanding of each of the 9 sections of the ACA Code of Ethics. Students are expected to describe relationships between the Code sections and ethical principles. The typical project will include an introductory paragraph, a summary paragraph for each section, and a concluding paragraph. Contribution to final grade in COUN 549 – 20%.

Projects will be evaluated and assigned a letter grade. Project quality within a specific grade range will be differentiated by “+” or “-.” For the determination of the final grade in the class, letter grades will be assigned the following values:

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72	D-	62

Letter grades in the “F” range will be assigned values that the instructor deems appropriate for the exerted effort.

### *Late Assignments*

Students are expected to submit assignments by indicated deadlines. In the unlikely event that someone requires additional time in order to adequately complete an assignment, he or she may purchase that additional time by surrendering 2 possible assignment points for each day after the assignment deadline, up to a maximum of 5 days. Thus, someone purchasing the maximum 5 days can only earn a grade of 90 on an assignment.

### *Grading*

A	≥ 90	Defined as consistently excellent performance which distinguishes the individual as being hard-working and highly motivated to succeed
B	80 - 89	Defined as above average performance, occasionally submitting work of superior quality distinguishing the individual as being of high caliber
C	70 - 79	Defined as average performance with little or no distinction.
D	60 - 69	Defined as below average performance. Considered to be a failing grade for graduate students.
F	< 60	Defined as unacceptable performance in relation to standards.

### **University Closing due to Weather**

Check <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) *Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08.11*

### **Honesty**

Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. (Academic Honesty, *Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A13.12.*)

### **For Students Needing Special Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu**