



Counseling Program

Signature Assignment for COUN 515

Personal Counseling Approach

Student Learning Outcome(s) Assessed:

SLO #4: Apply theory to practice by knowing what fits for them and their future professional environments and client populations.

Description of the Signature Assignment

Candidates identify one of the theories covered in the class and, using texts and peer-reviewed journal articles, write a comprehensive paper that synthesizes information and increases their knowledge and awareness of the theory and how it applies to the counseling profession.

Directions for Students

Prepare a 9-11 page paper that describes your personal theory of counseling at this point in your professional development and integrates your learning in this course. This paper should reflect your critical thinking about the theory/ies that you choose to integrate into your work. Do not simply summarize information from the textbook or other sources; this paper should reflect your synthesis of these ideas and reflect your evolving approach to counseling.

Scoring Rubric:

Criteria	4 = Exceeds expectations			3 = Meets expectations			2 = Meets some expectations			1 = Does not meet expectations			0 = Unable to score; incomplete or missing work	Final Score
Brief introduction summarizing theor/ies, assumptions about humankind, the change process	Thorough summary of theor/ies, demonstrates deep understanding of concepts and synthesis of ideas.			Good summary, adequately explains assumptions about humankind and the change process			Covers some of the requirements of the assignment			The purpose of the assignment is not achieved				
	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals of counseling Conditions for counseling Role of the counselor Techniques and strategies 	Masterful demonstration of theoretical goals & techniques, clearly articulates therapeutic understanding.			Goals, conditions and techniques are effectively communicated.			Although many of the components are present, the section lacks clarity of ideas and organization.			All sections of the assignment are not fulfilled adequately.				
	10	9		8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicability to specialization Limitations/criticisms Implications for diverse clients 	Clear relationship between theoretical choices and specialization. Demonstrates strong understanding of multicultural implications.			Applies theoretical choices to desired work setting, clearly discusses limitations, criticisms, and implications for diverse clients			Demonstrates beginning understanding of specialization and diverse clients and their relationship to theoretical choices.			Fails to demonstrate understanding of specialization and implications of theoretical choices for diverse populations.				
	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
Discussed at least three empirical research studies applicable to theory	Good choice of research, demonstrates understanding of methodology and importance of empirically validated treatment approaches			Chose appropriate research studies, competently discussed three			Choose three research studies which may not be directly related to chosen theory. Developing understanding of empirical research.			Decisions about research do not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.				
	10	9		8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0		

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	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
Followed APA style and overall quality of writing Self-evaluation of work in class	Used appropriate spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure. Followed all the rules of the APA style.			Minor errors in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure. Followed most of the rules of the APA style.		Frequent errors in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure. Did not follow all the rules of the APA style.			Writing contains numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure. Failed to follow APA style.			Nothing was submitted.	
Total												0	

Legend

Total Points	College of Education Assessment Scale Equivalent
50-55	4 (Exceeds Expectations)
44-49	3 (Meets Expectations)
39-43	2 (Meets Some Expectations)
33-38	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
0-32	0 (Can't Score)