



Syllabus
ED 5315: Assessment in Counseling—School Counseling
Sul Ross State University
Summer II 2022

Instructor:

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Office Location: Morelock Academic Building (MAB) Room 304; [Alpine Campus Locations – SUL ROSS](#)

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:30pm-4:30pm (or by appointment)

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ED 5315 Assessment in Counseling (3-0). An introduction to testing and assessment for use in counseling individuals and groups, including: basic psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal; psychometric statistics; factors influencing appraisals, data and information gathering; and use of appraisal results in the helping process. Also addresses test selection, test administration, and the dynamics of test interpretation. Prerequisite: ED 5314

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Watson, J. C., & Flamez, B. (2015). *Counseling assessment and evaluation: Fundamentals of applied practice*. Sage Publications.

American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

CACREP REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

| | CACREP Standard | Activity | SLOs |
|-----------|--|--|-------------|
| II.F.7.a. | Historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment and testing in counseling | Assigned reading Chapter 1; Discussion Boards; Chapter 1 Quiz; | 1 |
| II.F.7.b. | Methods of effectively preparing for and conducting initial assessment meetings | Assigned reading chapter 5-12; Chapter quizzes 512; Discussion boards | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.c. | Procedures for assessing risk of aggression or danger to others, self-inflicted harm, or suicide | CSSR Discussion board; | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.d. | Procedures for identifying trauma and abuse and for reporting abuse | Trauma Instruments Discussion board; | 3 |
| II.F.7.e. | Use of assessments for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes | Assigned reading chapter 5-12; chapter quizzes 5- 12; Discussion Boards | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.f. | Basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing, norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessments, and group and individual assessments | Discussion Boards; Chapter Quizzes | 1, 2, 3 |
| II.F.7.g. | Statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations | Assigned reading chapter 2; Chapter 2 quiz; Discussion board | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.h. | Reliability and validity in the use of assessments | Assigned reading in Chapter 3 & 4; chapter 3 & 4 quiz; Discussion board | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.i. | Use of assessments relevant to academic/educational, career, personal, and social development | Assigned reading Chapter 11 & 12; Chapter 11 & 12 quiz; Discussion board; Instrument Critique Paper | 1, 3 |

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|-----------|---|---|------|
| II.F.7.j. | Use of environmental assessments and systematic behavioral observations | Assigned reading Chapter 11; Chapter 11 quiz; Discussion board | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.k. | Use of symptom checklists, and personality and psychological testing | Chapter 9 & 10 assigned reading; Chapter 9 & 10 quiz; Discussion board | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.l. | Use of assessment results to diagnose developmental, behavioral, and mental disorders | Chapter 13 and 14 assigned reading; Chapter 13 & 14 quiz; Discussion board; Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan paper | 1, 3 |
| II.F.7.m. | Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and test results | Chapter 15 & 16 assigned reading; Chapter 15 & 16 quiz; Discussion board; Instrument Critique Paper | 2 |

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will be able to:

1. Become familiar with the general purposes of appraisal;
2. Develop a base of knowledge concerning the historical bases and theoretical foundations of assessment techniques;
3. Learn to interpret different psychometric statistics including types of assessment scores, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, standard errors, and correlations;
4. Develop strategies for selecting, administering, interpreting, and using assessment and evaluation instruments in counseling;
5. Compare and contrast different methods for estimating reliability including methods for establishing stability, internal, and equivalence reliability;
6. Develop a knowledge base concerning different methods for establishing validation evidence including content, criterion-related, or empirical, and construct validity;
7. Develop a base of knowledge concerning aptitude and ability, intelligence, and personality assessment;
8. Become familiar with different appraisal methods including individual and group inventory/test methods, behavioral observation, performance assessment, and environmental assessment;
9. Understand general principles and methods for case conceptualization, assessment, and/or diagnoses of mental and emotional status;
10. Discuss topics related to age, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, and culture factors related to the assessment and evaluation of individuals and groups;

11. Describe the major concepts related to report writing;
12. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of technological applications in appraisal;
and
13. Understand ethical and legal considerations related to assessment and appraisal data.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to apply within guidance and counseling, knowledge of human development, diversity, and factors that affect the client's ability to achieve his/her potential.
2. Demonstrate the ability to plan, implement, and evaluate a developmental counseling program. This program will incorporate assessment, as well as individual and group counseling services utilizing appropriate theoretical frameworks, techniques, and interventions to address personal, interpersonal/social, and educational needs.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with others in diverse settings, including the community, in order to facilitate client success, and will demonstrate the ability to apply ethical, legal, and professional standards.

COUNSELOR EDUCATION MARKETABLE SKILLS:

1. Graduates will demonstrate oral and written communication skills to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
2. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of ethics, social justice issues, and multicultural concerns to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
3. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of human growth development throughout the lifespan to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

Since the Counselor Education Program is a predominately web delivered program, students are required to have their own computers and internet that can handle the required technology, including audio, a camera, Chrome, Blackboard, Zoom, YouTube, and other applications. Not having the technology at your disposal at any time is not an excuse for failure to submit an assignment, join in a TEAMS or Blackboard session, or take an exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students in this class are required to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be timely, prepared, and focused. Meaningful, respectful, and pertinent online participation is also expected.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: submitting work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation.

ALPINE DISABILITY STATEMENT:

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartz@sulross.edu Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

PARTICIPATION POLICY: *(for online classes)* Since ED 5315 is an online course, participation will be evaluated in Blackboard online discussions. It is the student's responsibility to check the Discussion Board and Sul Ross email DAILY for the duration of the course. In order for you to remain enrolled in ED 5315, you must reply to the Blackboard Discussion Board "Online Participation Policy" forum by the deadline posted on the Due Dates listing contained in this syllabus. It is policy at Sul Ross State University that if a student is enrolled in an online course and fails to stay active for a period of 3 weeks, fails to submit assignments, and/or does not reply to emails from the instructor, he/she will receive a final grade of "F." You may access the "Online Participation Policy" forum by entering Blackboard, then selecting Discussion Board. Please follow the directions regarding your required response.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will:

- ✓ thoughtfully participate in Blackboard discussions;
- ✓ complete reading assignments and study the material **prior to** completing assignments;
- ✓ complete written assignments;

- ✓ complete quizzes;
- ✓ practice professional conduct and ethics; and
- ✓ practice respectful learning exchanges.

EVALUATION/GRADING POLICY:

Your grade for this course will be determined by evidence of the **quality** of your learning as **demonstrated by your performance** in the following areas:

Chapter Quizzes 30%
 Discussion Board Postings & Replies 35%
 Dyslexia Training Module 5%
 Instrument Critique Paper 15%
 Case Conceptualization & Treatment Plan Paper 15%

Course Grades:

91% - 100%
 81% - 90%
 71% - 80%
 F Below 71%

NOTE: Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing. Effective Fall 2019 and following, counseling students will be required to maintain A/B grades in all graduate coursework.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

Chapter Quizzes: (30% of overall grade)

There will be 15 chapter quizzes worth 100 points each. Each quiz is timed (60 minutes), and you must complete each quiz in one sitting. You may not logon, logoff, and logon again. You may take the quiz only one time. **You MAY NOT collaborate on the chapter quizzes.** To do so will violate stated rules regarding academic integrity, and you will be dropped from the course. Answers will not be provided until all students have taken the quiz. Chapter quizzes are available, and you may take them in advance of the due date listed; however, you must complete each quiz by 11:59pm CST on the date each is due.

Discussion Board Postings & Replies: (35% of overall grade)

Each Discussion Board assignment requires one substantial post and a reply to at least one other student. Always utilize APA format on written assignments, and support your work with professional references with proper citations. Each discussion post is worth 15 points, and you must reply to at least one other student to gain the additional 5 points for a total of 20 points.

Dyslexia Training Module: (5% of overall grade)

Download the "Dyslexia Activity Form1," watch the 3 training videos, & submit completed form.

Written Papers: (30% of overall grade)

Papers must be typed using APA format which includes 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and double line spacing throughout. Begin numbering with the title page, edit for spelling, grammar, clarity, and logical development of ideas. You may be asked to submit your work via plagiarism prevention tools such as SafeAssign.

- Instrument Critique Paper (15% of overall grade)
- Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper (15% of overall grade)

Instrument Critique Paper
DUE FRIDAY, JULY 29, 11:59PM CST

Locating an appropriate instrument is an important part of the assessment process. Submit a thorough review of one test designed to measure a construct, such as personality, academic development, intelligence, social development, types of psychological diagnoses, career discernment, substance use disorder screening, process addiction screening, values inventory, skills inventory, interest inventory, or career readiness. **The instrument you choose must be approved by me.**

The instrument reviewed should pertain to your specific training emphasis whether clinical mental health counseling or school counseling. Sources for information should include the Mental Measurement Yearbook, Tests in Print, or the official test manual from the assessment's publisher. Be sure to appropriately cite sources and to include quotation marks for direct quotes.

Helpful Hints: *direct quotes should only be utilized when you cannot say it any better. One of the most helpful ways to reduce similarity percentages noted by tools such as Turnitin or SafeAssign is to avoid direct quotes.*

The instrument critique should be reported in the following outline form:

1. Test name
2. Test author
3. Publication
 - a. Publisher
 - b. Date of initial publication and most recent revision (if applicable)
 - c. Current total cost of examination
 - d. Individual costs of examination (booklets, answer sheets, manuals, etc.)
4. Test description
 - a. Item types
 - b. Available forms
 - c. Appropriate age groups
5. Test/scale development
 - a. Development history
 - b. Version changes (if applicable)
6. Test use
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Target population as well as any groups for which the test is not applicable
7. Administration details
 - a. Time required
 - b. Training required

- c. Standardization procedure and administration format (e.g., large group, small group, individual, paper vs. electronic, quiet environment, lighting, spacing, etc.)
 - d. Any special materials needed
 - e. Other administrative details
8. Scoring procedures
9. Normative data
 - a. Initial norming group
 - b. Subsequent norming groups
10. Reliability
 - a. Test-retest
 - b. Alternate form
 - c. Internal consistency
 - d. Reviewer's comments on reliability
11. Validity
 - a. Content, concurrent, predictive, and/or construct validity
 - b. Reviewer's comments on validity
12. General evaluation
 - a. Special merits and strengths of the test
 - b. Criticisms and limitations of the test
 - c. Reviewer's recommendation
 - d. Personal recommendation (i.e., would you use this test in the future? Why or why not? This section can be written in first person using I, me, we, etc.)
13. Multicultural Considerations
 - a. Discuss cultural considerations for this instrument. Has this instrument been normed for communities of different cultures?
14. References

This assignment has been adapted from Dr. Erin West's course on Assessment Techniques in Counseling.

Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper

DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:59PM CST

Choose **one** of the following case studies, and write a case conceptualization and treatment plan for the client. In this paper, you will use appropriate scholarly materials (i.e., professional, peer reviewed journal articles, books, or textbooks, etc.) to support your treatment choices. Please include the following sections in your paper.

Introduction

- Client Demographic Information
 - This section includes name (formal and preferred), cultural background (race, ethnicity, age, gender, religious or spiritual affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, etc.), occupation, relationship status, current living

situation, family history of mental health difficulties, and any other pertinent demographic information.

- History of Treatment
 - This will include any past clinical counseling, substance abuse counseling, mental health facility or program admission (e.g., inpatient level of care [IP], residential [RES], partial hospitalization [PHP] or intensive outpatient [IOP]) or any other areas of treatment.
- Assessment
 - Using your textbook and other professional resources (Sul Ross Library), you will identify 2-3 assessments you recommend the client take for evaluation. These can include any number of assessments we have discussed throughout the course.
- Diagnosis
 - Using the DSM-5-TR, identify the client's diagnostic symptomatology including severity, duration, and frequency. Identify a preliminary diagnosis for the client.
- Conceptualization
 - Using your developing clinical judgement, conceptualize the client. Identify what you believe to be causing the client clinical distress including your discussion of both internal and external factors.
- Treatment Plan
 - Identify 3 clinical goals for your client. Using evidence-based treatment interventions (this is where your theory becomes relevant), identify how you will help the client achieve his/her goals and address his/her current symptoms.
- References
 - Identify any references you use. Only academic resources will be allowed (i.e., no popular sources like Wikipedia, *Psychology Today*, etc.).

Choose **one** of the following case studies. All case studies are fictitious and have been retrieved from:

Division 12 of the American Psychological Association. (n.d.). <https://div12.org/case-studies/>

Client #1

Chris is a 20-year-old Caucasian male who is in his second year of college. He is seeking treatment due to persistent fears that campus security and the local police are tracking and surveilling him. He cites occasional lags in his internet speed as evidence that surveillance devices are interfering with his electronics. His intense anxiety about this has begun getting in the way of his ability to complete schoolwork, and his friends are concerned. He says they have told him, "You're not making sense." Chris occasionally laughs abruptly and inappropriately and sometimes stops speaking mid-sentence, looking off in the distance as though he sees or hears something. He expresses concern about electronics in the counseling room (phone, computer) potentially being monitored and asks repeatedly about patient

confidentiality, stating that he wants to be sure the police won't be informed about his treatment. His beliefs are fixed, and if they are challenged, his tone becomes hostile.

Client #2

Victor is a 27-year-old man who comes to you for help at the urging of his fiancé. He was an infantryman with a local Marine Reserve unit who was honorably discharged in 2014 after serving two tours of duty in Iraq. His fiancé has told him he has "not been the same" since his second tour of duty, and it is impacting their relationship. Although he offers few details, upon questioning, he reports that he has significant difficulty sleeping, that he "sleeps with one eye open" and, on the occasions when he falls into a deeper sleep, he has nightmares. He endorses experiencing several traumatic events during his second tour but is unwilling to provide specific details. He tells you he has never spoken with anyone about them, and he is not sure he ever will. He spends much of his time alone because he feels irritable and doesn't want to snap at people. He reports to you that he finds it difficult to perform his duties as a security guard because it is boring and gives him too much time to think. At the same time, he is easily startled by noise and motion and spends excessive time searching for threats that are never confirmed both when on duty and at home. He describes having intrusive memories about his traumatic experiences on a daily basis, but he declines to share any details. He also avoids seeing friends from his Reserve unit because seeing them reminds him of experiences that he does not want to remember.

Client #3

Tina is a 17-year-old high school junior who resides with her parents and 14-year-old brother. Tina's mother is concerned about her daughter's recent 22-pound weight loss. Tina counts calories and exercises each morning and evening. Despite her weight loss and low-average Body Mass Index (BMI), Tina says that she is "fat," and she weighs herself several times a day. Tina has always felt close to her family, especially to her mother. She is an excellent student, active in cheerleading and works a part-time job. Tina's mom tells her that she looks too thin, but Tina still believes she needs to lose more weight. Tina quickly is offended and reacts defensively. When Tina's father encourages her to eat more, she argues with him during dinner. Tina's brother teams up with Dad, sometimes calling Tina names. On several occasions, Tina has left the table and locked herself in her bedroom. Tina's parents are unsure if she is showing some ordinary teenage rebellion or if she is developing an eating disorder. Until now, Tina has never given them any problems.

COURSE SCHEDULE/DUE DATES

All weekly assignments are due by 11:59pm CST on the last date of the week unless otherwise specified below or in Blackboard.

Late assignments will not be accepted!

Week 1:
July 6-12

Module 1:

Nice to Meet You! **DUE FRIDAY, JULY 8, 11:59PM CST**

Online Participation Policy (Response Required) **DUE FRIDAY, JULY 8, 11:59PM CST**

Read Chapter 1.

Chapter 1 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz

Module 2:

Read Chapter 2.

Chapter 2 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz

Module 3:

Read Chapter 3.

Chapter 3 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz

ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Instrument Critique Paper **DUE FRIDAY, JULY 29, 11:59PM CST**
- Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper **DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:59PM CST**

Week 2:
July 13-19

Module 4:

Read Chapter 4.

Chapter 4 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz

Module 5:

Read Chapter 5.

Chapter 5 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz

Module 6:

Read Chapter 6.

Chapter 6 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz

Dyslexia Training Module:

Download the "Dyslexia Activity Form1," watch the 3 training videos, & **submit completed form.**

ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Instrument Critique Paper **DUE FRIDAY, JULY 29, 11:59PM CST**
- Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper **DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:59PM CST**

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|---|
| <u>Week 3:</u> July 20-26 |
| Module 7: Read Chapter 7. Chapter 7 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz |
| Module 8: Read Chapter 8. Chapter 8 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz |
| Module 9: Read Chapter 9. Chapter 9 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz |
| ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrument Critique Paper DUE FRIDAY, JULY 29, 11:59PM CST • Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:59PM CST |
| <u>Week 4:</u> July 27-August 2 |
| Module 10: Read Chapter 10. Chapter 10 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz |
| Module 11: Read Chapter 11. Chapter 11 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz |
| Module 12: Read Chapter 12. Chapter 12 - Discussion Board posting, reply to at least one other student, & Quiz |
| PTSD Training Module: Watch training video, & familiarize yourself with the (free) electronic assessment tool. |
| ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrument Critique Paper DUE FRIDAY, JULY 29, 11:59PM CST • Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:59PM CST |
| <u>Week 5:</u> August 3-8 NOTE: Week 5 only has 6 days in it! |
| ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Conceptualization and Treatment Plan Paper DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 11:59PM CST |
| Module 13: Read Chapter 13. Chapter 13 - Discussion Board posting & reply to at least one other student (DUE SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 11:59pm CST) Chapter 13 - Quiz |
| Suicide Risk Assessment Training: |

Watch video, review & download numerous free resources.

Module 14:

Read Chapter 14.

Module15:

Read Chapter 15.

Chapter 15 - Quiz

Module 16:

Read Chapter 16.

Chapter 16 - Quiz

WRITING RUBRIC FOR ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

| Sub-skill | Beginning 1 | Basic 2 | Proficient 3 | Advanced 4 | Exceptional 5 | Score |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--------------|
| Integration of Knowledge | The paper did not incorporate knowledge from the literature or class in relevant and meaningful ways | The paper somewhat incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways | The paper incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways | The paper effectively incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways | The paper very effectively incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways | |
| Organization and Presentation | The paper lacked topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow | The paper occasionally included topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow | The paper consistently included topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow | The paper consistently and effectively employed topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow | The paper uniformly and very effectively employed topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow | |
| Focus | The paper's topic lacked focus and a clear direction | The paper's topic had occasional focus, direction, and purpose | The paper's topic had focus and clarity of direction and purpose | The paper's topic had effective focus and clarity of direction and purpose | The paper's topic had very effective focus and clarity of direction and purpose | |
| Level of Coverage | The paper lacked depth, elaboration, and relevant material | The paper occasionally included depth, elaboration, and relevant material | The paper included depth, elaboration, and relevant material | The paper effectively included depth, elaboration, and relevant material | The paper very effectively included depth, elaboration, and relevant material | |

