

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)

The purpose of the CPCE is to assess counseling students' knowledge of counseling information viewed as important by counselor preparation programs. The CPCE will cover the eight common-core areas as defined by the CACREP Standards for Preparation:

1. Human growth and development
2. Social and cultural foundations
3. Helping relationships
4. Group work
5. Career and lifestyle development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and program evaluation
8. Professional orientation and ethics

Prior to taking the CPCE, students should have completed the following courses:

HCE 500 Orientation to the Counseling Profession (or HCE 607, HCE 610, or HCE 641)
HCE 604 Career Development
HCE 605 Psychological Measurement & Evaluation
HCE 621 Fundamentals of Counseling Theories
HCE 620 Fundamentals of Counseling Skills
HCE 626 Group Process & Procedures
HRD 668 Human Development
HRD 664 Culture, Tradition & Diversity
(or HCE 612 Disability & Family in a Multicultural Society)
EDU 600 Research Methods & Techniques

The CPCE consists of 160 multiple-choice items, with 20 items per each of the eight CACREP areas. Of the 20 items per sub-test, 17 will be scored items and the remaining 3 will be pretest items that are not identified to the student. Pretesting allows the test publisher to select items for future test construction that have the most desirable psychometric attributes. Scores for each sub-test and a total score will be reported to us for each student. USM Counselor Education faculty will be responsible for determining minimum passing total scores. Results will be available three weeks after the date of the administration.

Students will be allowed four hours to complete the examination, including the demographic questionnaire. The cost of the CPCE is \$35.00 per student. Each student will be responsible for the cost of the examination and any subsequent retake of the examination.

The CPCE will be offered three times a year:

<u>Examination Date:</u> (1st Friday)	<u>Application Deadline Date:</u>
April	March 1
August	July 1
December	November 1

Passing the CPCE. Passing the CPCE can be obtained by either receiving a passing total score on a given administration or passing all sub-tests within three administrations

A student will initially be given two opportunities to pass the CPCE. If the student fails to receive a passing total score on their first attempt, they must retake the exam a second time. On their second attempt the student must receive either a passing total score or pass all subtests failed on the first administration.

If a student fails to pass the CPCE on their second attempt, they will be given three options. Within 14 days of being notified, students must submit, in writing, their selected option to their advisor.

Option 1: Retake courses reflective of all failed sub-tests and pass all courses. (A passing grade is a grade of B- or better.) A failing grade on any course will result in termination from the program.

Option 2: Write and defend an in-depth research paper in response to a question created by a committee of three counselor education faculty. (The question will be presented to the student within 14 days following the notification by the student of this option. The student will then have 14 days to review the question and set a date for completion of their research paper and defense of its' content.) Paper and defense must be completed prior to the administration of the next CPCE. Following the paper's defense, the committee will determine whether the student was successful or unsuccessful.

A successful defense would entitle the student to continue with the program. An unsuccessful defense would entitle the student to select between Option 1 or Option 3. Failure to pass Option 1 or Option 3 will result in termination from the program.

Option 3: Retake the CPCE for the third time. If a student fails to obtain a passing total score or pass all sub-tests previously failed they will be terminated from the program.

Students cannot enroll in the internship until the CPCE is passed satisfactorily.