

# Common Course Outline

## CMDP 233

### Ethics in Counseling

3 Credit Hours

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

CMDP 233 – 3 Credits – Ethics in Counseling explores the many actual and potential ethical issues inherent in the counseling and mental health fields. The focus will be on the student being able to identify ethical issues when they occur (or as they are developing) and apply a decision-making model to solving the issue. Key areas of inquiry will include ethical issues in the helping professions, boundaries and multiple relationships, confidentiality, client and counselor rights and responsibilities, professional relationships and credentialing/regulating agencies. A specific focus will be on ethical issues relevant to working with addicted populations, including the impact of federal confidentiality regulations and working with mandated client populations. This course was designed to meet the requirement of the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for applicants to LCADC licensure.

**3 credits; 3 lecture hours; Prerequisite: At least 15 credits of CMDP core courses, working toward LCADC certification, or consent of instructor.**

### Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the ethical and legal responsibilities of helping professionals;
2. identify the professional regulating bodies and codes of ethics that regulate the chemical dependency, counseling field, mental health counseling field, or other related professional fields;
3. apply a model of ethical decision making to address common ethical issues.
4. describe the personal attitudes and beliefs that underlie the student's ethical standards, as well as the professional values that drive the codes of professional ethics.
5. discuss multicultural and diversity issues that are relevant to the helping professions.
6. discuss the client right of informed consent, and implications for ethical practice in special situations (impaired client, court mandated client, client with HIV, etc.).
7. accurately describe the rights of a client to confidentiality, as well as situations in which confidentiality cannot be assured.
8. describe special confidentiality considerations in working with drug-addicted individuals, individuals with HIV/AIDs, suicidal and homicidal clients and other special populations.
9. discuss helping professional liability issues related to poor practice, and identify ways to manage risks of malpractice action.
10. describe ways to effectively manage boundary issues in helping practice, and to avoid or manage multiple relationship issues.
11. explain ethical issues in helping related to professional competence or lack of competence,
12. identify the role of clinical supervision in ongoing professional growth.
13. discuss the ethical issues in helping related to the professionals chosen theoretical stance, practice applications and research, and
14. define special ethical considerations when working with groups, families and in the community.

## **Major Topics**

Major topics include:

- I. Introduction to professional ethics and values in the helping professions.
- II. Diversity and Multicultural issues in counseling.
- III. Client rights and informed consent.
- IV. Confidentiality of records, especially in the chemical dependency counseling field.
- V. Boundaries and multiple relationships
- VI. Special Issues in working with addicted populations
- VII. Working with groups, families or in the community
- VIII. The Code of Ethics of the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

## **Course Requirements**

Students must participate in online instructional activities such as written assignments, discussions with classmates, quizzes and tests.

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- At least 2 Examinations
- At least 3 Written Assignments
- Participation in online discussions of materials.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Chemical Dependency Counseling elective.  
This course is taught in an online environment.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending classes, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities and preparing for tests.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many forms such as surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvements of CCBC's courses and programs.

Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.