



## Information of Master's Comprehensive Exams

The Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) is required to be taken by all students enrolled in Department of Counselor Education master programs. The purpose of the CPCE is to assess counseling students' knowledge of counseling information viewed as important by counselor preparation programs. The CPCE covers the eight common-core areas of CACREP Standards for Preparation: Human Growth and Development, Social and Cultural Foundations, Helping Relationships, Group Work, Career and Lifestyle Development, Appraisal, Research and Program Evaluation, and Professional Orientation and Ethics. The CPCE also serves as a preparation exam for the National Counselor Examination (NCE). There is a positive correlation between success on the CPCE and success on the NCE.

The CPCE consists of 160 objective-test items with 20 items per CACREP core-area. It is a on-line computer based examination. Students are given four hours to complete the examination. For more information, please go to <http://www.cce-global.org/Org/CPCE> . To prepare for the CPCE, two books are recommended for students:

1. Erford, B. T., Hays, D. G., & Crockett, S. (2014). Mastering the national counselor examination and the counselor preparation comprehensive examination (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York City, NY: Pearson. ISBN: 978- 0133861914
2. Rosenthal, H. (2017). Encyclopedia of counseling (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boca Raton, FL: Routledge. ISBN: 978- 1138942653

Students in the MCFC program must also take and successfully complete a specialty exam. This exam will always take place on the last day of the comps exam period. There will be no exemptions to this time frame. Students in need of special accommodations will need to contact Disability Support Services at [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu) or 936-294-1720. Please contact Dr. Henriksen at [rch008@shsu.edu](mailto:rch008@shsu.edu) to arrange a time for you to take the MCFC specialty exam.

There are two fees for the CPCE. One fee is paid to Pearson Vue at the time of registration and an additional fee is charged by the SHSU Testing Center at the time you make your reservation to take the CPCE exam. There are no other fees collected by SHSU.

### General Information

1. The comprehensive examination is taken during the semester when the student is enrolled in Supervised Practicum, COUN 6376. **Beginning with the Fall 2019 semester, ALL master's students must take and pass the CPCE and any specialty exams while registered for and attending COUN 6376 Supervised Practicum. Students must**

**successfully pass the CPCE and any specialty Key Performance Assessments before they are allowed to enroll in COUN 6386 Internship.**

2. The comprehensive examinations are scheduled three times each year. The examinations are administered on the Huntsville campus in the SHSU Testing Center. The exam is offered during a two week period from 8:00am to 5:00pm. See <https://www.shsu.edu/centers/testing-center/> for more information about the testing center, its location, and associated fees. The dates are usually two weeks in late March, October, and June. Additional MCFC examinations are given to students enrolled in the MCFC program on the last date of the testing period.
3. Students must register for the examination by completing the Comprehensive Examination Application and submitting it to the Counselor Education Center at least **14 days** before the scheduled testing date together with an unofficial transcript of the current semester. Additionally, students must register with Pearson Vue in order to be able to gain access to the exam. Fees for the CPCE exam are payable to CCE at the time of registration with Pearson Vue. Information as to the registration process will be made available at the time of notification that it is time to register for the exam.
4. Students should make a serious effort to prepare for the examination, as failing will delay graduation and/or certification. **All students MUST pass the CPCE exam in order to graduate and continue to take classes in the Department of Counselor Education in subsequent semesters.**
5. Students who fail the comprehensive examination will have to retake the whole examination on an assigned date. If the comprehensive examination is failed a second time, the student will meet with faculty to develop a remediation plan focused on successful completion of the comprehensive exam process.
6. Students will NOT be permitted to enroll for new courses until the comprehensive examination is successfully completed.

Good Success as you complete this important step in your journey to completing a Master's degree in Counseling.