

COUN 6961 - Orientation and Ethical Issues in School Counseling

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 40033,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Danielle Matos

M. Ed., LSC, LPC

Professional Qualifications:

Part-Time Faculty, Department of Psychological Sciences and Counseling Youngstown State University

Licensed School Counselor, grades 6-12, Western Reserve Local School District

B.S., Journalism and Mass Communication, Kent State University, 2000

M.S., School Counseling, Youngstown State University, 2011

Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Youngstown State University, 2018

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Course Description

6961. Orientation and Ethical Issues in School Counseling. This course provides students with an introduction to the field of professional counseling, and the foundations of school counseling. The course addresses the following topics: history, philosophy, cultural dynamics, advocacy, consultation, technology applications, classroom management issues, and trends in professional and school counseling. The counseling profession's ethical standards are also addressed with an emphasis on the American Counseling Association (ACA) and American School Counselor Association (ASCA) code of ethics, and counselor ethical decision-making processes. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors. (2022).	American School Counseling Association	
Required	Transforming the school counseling profession (5th ed.)	Erford, B. T. (2021). Pearson	
Required	ACA Code of Ethics. (2014)	American Counseling Association	
Required	ASCA (2022). School counseling principles: Ethics and law (5th ed.).	American School Counseling Association	
Required	(2002) An ethics quiz for school counselors. Professional School Counseling, 6(1), 3-10.	Remley T. P., & Huey, W. C.	
Optional	(2016) When Values Blur the Lines: Navigating an Ethical Dilemma in School Counseling	Springer, Sarah I	

Online link: 2014 ACA Code of Ethics

Online link: ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Thu	8/27	Syllabus	Introductions Review Course Syllabus	Read Syllabus and Come prepared with questions (If needed)
Thu	9/3	Erford: Chapter 1 and 2 ASCA - Chapter 1 Remley T. P., & Huey, W. C. (2002). An ethics quiz for school counselors. Professional School Counseling, 6(1), 3-10. Murphy, S., & Kaffenberger, C. (2007). ASCA National Model®: The Foundation for Supervision of Practicum and Internship Students. Professional School Counseling, 10(3), 289-296.	Becoming a Professional School Counselor The ASCA National Model Introduction to Ethics and Law in School Counseling CACREP Standard 3A1 CACREP Standard 3A2	
Thu	9/10	Erford – Chapter 3 & 4 ASCA – Chapter 2	Transformational Thinking & Systemic, Data Driven School Counseling Professionalism in School Counseling CACREP Standard 3A10	
Thu	9/17	Erford – Chapter 5 & 6 ASCA – Chapters 3, 4, 5, & 6	Accountability Outcome Research Cyberspace; FERPA; Negligence; School Policy CACREP Standard 3A8 CACREP Standards 3G 7,8,9	
Thu	9/24	Erford – Chapter 7 & 8 ASCA – Chapter 12	Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in School Counseling Culturally Competent School Counselors Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Sexting CACREP Standard 3A10 CACREP Standard 3A11 CACREP Standard 3A4	DUE: Community Mapping
Thu	10/1	Erford – Chapter 9 & 10	Leadership and Advocacy for every student's achievement and opportunity Developmental Classroom Guidance CACREP Standard 3A4 CACREP Standard 3A2	DUE: GUIDANCE RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (IN SERVICE) BROCHURE/FLYER
Thu	10/8	Erford – Chapter 11 & 12	Academic Development and Planning for College and Career Readiness Promoting Career & Individual Planning in Schools CACREP Standard 3A5 CACREP Standard 3D	DUE: COMMUNITY SITE INFORMATION PAPER
Thu	10/15	No Class		
Thu	10/22	Erford – Chapter 13 & 14 ASCA – Chapter 7	Counseling Individuals and Groups in School Consultation, Collaboration, and Encouraging Parent Involvement Child Abuse CACREP Standard 3A4 CACREP Standards 3E13	
Thu	10/29	Erford – Chapter 15 ASCA – Chapters 8, 9, 10 & 11	Systemic Approaches to Counseling Students Experiencing Complex and Specialized Problems Individual and Small Group Counseling CACREP Standard 3A3	



Thu	11/5	Erford – Chapter 16	The Professional School Counselor and Students with Disabilities CACREP Standard 3A4	DUE: INTERVIEW PAPER / Prepare for DISCUSSION OF INTERVIEWS
Thu	11/12	Erford - Chapter 17 ASCA Chapter 13	Helping Students with Mental and Emotional Disorders Violence and Criminal Activity CACREP Standard 3A4	DUE: Ethical Decision Making Case Vignette (SL&L assignment)
Thu	11/19		Guidance Lesson Presentations	DUE: GUIDANCE LESSON UNIT PORTFOLIO – SL&L assignment
Thu	11/26	No Class		
Thu	12/3		Guidance Lesson Presentations	DUE: SHADOWING REFLECTION & DOCUMENTATION FORM
Thu	12/10		Final Exam	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.