

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM POLICIES

The comprehensive examination (i.e., comps) is an exit examination required of all Master's degree counseling students. It is taken while students are enrolled in their final semester. In order to be eligible for the comprehensive examination, students must have completed all the core courses, have an overall average of 'B' or better, and be a student in good standing (i.e., not on probation or in remediation). Core courses include the following:

Content Area	WIU CORE Course Equivalent
Human growth and development	CN 554 Counseling Across the Lifespan
Social and cultural diversity	CN 552 Counseling/Helping in Multicultural Society
Helping relationships	CN 545 Counseling Theories and Applications <u>and</u> CN 500 Pre-Practicum
Group work	CN 581 Group Counseling: Theories and Procedures
Career development	CN 541 Lifestyles and Career Development
Assessment	CN 542 Assessment Techniques in Counseling
Research and program evaluation	EIS 500 Methods of Research
Professional orientation and ethical practice	CN 549 Professional, Legal, and Ethical Issues

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)

Administration and Evaluation

The purpose of the examination is to determine whether students have attained the level of knowledge in the field of counseling that can ensure minimal competence in the field. The CPCE is typically scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday

Preparing for the CPCE

The CPCE will cover the eight Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) common-core areas as defined by their *Standards for Preparation*:

1. **PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION AND ETHICAL PRACTICE** - studies that provide an understanding of all aspects of professional functioning.
2. **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY** - studies that provide an understanding of the cultural context of relationships, issues, and trends in a multicultural society.
3. **HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT** - studies that provide an understanding of the nature and needs of persons at all developmental levels and in multicultural contexts.
4. **CAREER DEVELOPMENT** - studies that provide an understanding of career development and related life factors.
5. **HELPING RELATIONSHIPS** - studies that provide an understanding of the counseling process in a multicultural society.
6. **GROUP WORK** - studies that provide both theoretical and experiential understandings of group purpose, development, dynamics, theories, methods, skills, and other group approaches in a multicultural society.

