

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

COUN 521 ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES IN COUNSELING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an understanding of individual and group approaches to assessment and evaluation in a multicultural society. Comprehension and application of basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques, including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, environmental assessment, performance assessment, inventory methods, psychological testing, and behavioral observations are examined. Social and cultural factors related to the assessment and evaluation of individuals, groups, and specific populations are discussed. Identifications of applicable ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments and techniques in counseling are evaluated.

RATIONALE

The ability to use assessments in clinical practice is an integral part of the counseling process. Counselors must be able to competently and ethically assess clients' presenting issues, conceptualize and define these issues, evaluate and select the appropriate intervention, and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions on alleviating the clients' distress. Thus, regardless of the setting, counselors will administer and interpret a variety of assessments throughout the process of counseling. Therefore, it is essential to acquire the basic assessment skills needed to help clients gain deeper insight into themselves and their issues.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Discuss historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment.
- B. Explain basic concepts of standardized and non-standardized testing and other assessment techniques including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, environmental assessment, performance assessment, individual and group test and inventory methods, and behavioral observations.
- C. Apply statistical concepts including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations.
- D. Explain and evaluate reliability in terms of theory of measurement error, models of reliability, and the use of reliability information.
- E. Explain and evaluate validity in terms of theory of measurement error, types of validity, and the relationship between reliability and validity.
- F. Identify how age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, disability, culture, spirituality, and other social and cultural factors relate to the assessment and evaluation of individuals, groups, and specific populations.
- G. Identify and utilize ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments.
- H. Understand general principles and methods of case conceptualization, assessment, and/or diagnoses of mental and emotional status.

Assessment Student Learning Outcomes (II.G.7a-g)	Measurement
Identify historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment (II.G.7.a)	VI B, C, E
Explain basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques, including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, environmental assessment, performance assessment, individual and group test and inventory methods, psychological testing, and behavioral observations (II.G.7.b)	VI.A, B, C, E, F, G
Apply statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations (II.G.7.c)	VI.E
Evaluate reliability (i.e., theory of measurement error, models of reliability, and the use of reliability information) (II.G.7.d)	VI.B, C, D, F, G
Evaluate validity (i.e., evidence of validity, types of validity, and the relationship between reliability and validity) (II.G.7.e)	VI.B, C, E, G
Identify social and cultural factors related to the assessment and evaluation of individuals, groups, and specific populations (II.G.7.f)	VI.A, F, G
Identify and utilize ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments and techniques in counseling (II.G.7.g)	VI.A, B, C, F, G

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
 After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)
 The student will participate in 4 Discussion Board Forums. Discussion Boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, unless otherwise noted, the student will respond to the instructor's prompt by posting a 200–250-word thread, and, then, in the same module/week, the student will post a 75–100-word reply to 1 classmate's thread. An open, curious, and honest attitude toward learning from others will facilitate development for all participants.
- D. Initial Interview
 The student will use himself/herself or a fictional character as the subject of an interview that seeks to answer one of three referral questions. The interview will seek to gather all of the information that relates to the initial intake provided in the text, including identifying information, reason for referral, current situation and functioning, relevant medical history, psychiatric treatment history, family history, social and developmental history, educational and occupational history, and cultural influences. The information will be reported in a 3–5-page Word document (double-spaced)
- E. Exploring Reliability and Validity
 The student will analyze the psychometric properties provided in a test manual and evaluate the usefulness the test for clinical practice based their review of the test. This includes describing the type and strength of reliability and validity measurements, the norm population, the quality of the information, and any discernible problems. The analysis must be 2–4 pages and double-spaced in a Word document.
- F. Mental Status Exam
 The student will build on the information gained from the initial interview. In this assignment, the student will gather all of the information that relates to the Mental Status Exam, which deals with the examinee's appearance, manner, approach, orientation, alertness, thought processes, mood, and affect. The information will be reported in a 2–4-page Word document (double-spaced).
- G. Psychological Report
 Using the referral question and self-designed character from Project 1, the student will self-administer the IPIP-NEO and the Jung Personality Test. They will then select, self-administer, and interpret 2 additional assessments. Then, using the results from the assessments, the student will prepare and submit one 4-7 page Psychological Report.
- H. Test Critique

The student will write a 7–10-page critique for 1 standardized test of his/her choice. The student must cite at least 3 professional journal articles and format the paper according to current APA format. The paper will be composed of 6 sections: general test information, test description, technical evaluation, practical evaluation, summary evaluation and critique, and references.

I. Quizzes (8)

After completing the assigned reading in the Drummond et.al text, students take the chapter quizzes, consisting of 10 questions per chapter. These questions are multiple-choice, open-book, and similar to the content found on state licensure examinations covering the core competency of assessment and evaluation. The student will have 1-hour to complete each quiz.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 40 ea.)	160
Initial Interview	100
Exploring Reliability and Validity	40
Mental Status Exam	100
Psychological Report	180
Test Critique	180
Quizzes (8 at 30 ea.)	240
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.

4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Tests/Exams

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit a penalty of 5 points will be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module/week. A 5 % deduction from the tests final grade will be assigned for each day the test is late.
3. No test will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to tests due date.

E. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

F. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

G. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

COUN 521

Textbooks: Corcoran & Fischer, *Measures for Clinical Practice and Research* (2013).
Whiston, *Principles and Applications of Assessment in Counseling* (2013).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Whiston: chs. 1–2 1 presentation 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		Licensure Requirements Research	30
2	Whiston: chs. 3–4 1 presentation 1 article	DB Forum 1	30
		Exploring Reliability and Validity	30
		Exam 1	40
3	Whiston: ch. 6 2 presentations	DB Forum 2	30
		Project 1 – Initial Interview (Mental Status Exam)	180
4	Whiston: chs. 5, 7–8 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 3	30
		Achievement Results	40
		Exam 2	40
5	Whiston: ch.10 1 website	DB Forum 4	40
		Project 2 – Psychological Report	180
6	Whiston: chs. 11–12 5 websites	Exam 3	40
7	Whiston: chs. 13–14	DB Forum 5	40
		Project 3 – Test Critique	180
8	Whiston: chs. 15–16 1 presentation	DB Forum 6	30
		Exam 4	40
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.