

UVM Helping Conversations

Release of Confidential information and Permission to Record

As part of the UVM course (or program) in which you are enrolled, you have the opportunity to participate in helping conversations with a graduate level counseling program student who is enrolled in a Practicum course. The helping conversations will consist of 50- minute meetings during the semester (the specific number of sessions will depend on the requirements for your course). The purpose of the helping conversations is to guide you in exploring personal connections to the material within the course or generally be of support to you in discussing issues related to personal growth. In addition to the helping conversations, participating students may receive a summary letter from their Practicum student during the semester. The intent of these letters is to summarize themes of the work together.

The helping conversations will be held remotely over the Microsoft Teams platform at times that will be arranged between you and your assigned Practicum graduate student.

The helping conversations are confidential –with these exceptions:

1. The content of helping conversation will not be shared with the instructor of the UVM participating course or program that you are enrolled in. Instructors of the courses will be informed of attendance and communication dates only.
2. The helping conversations will be closely supervised by a Graduate Counseling Program faculty member assigned to the practicum student. This means that all conversations will be video recorded by the practicum student over the Microsoft Teams platform. The video recording is made solely for purposes of evaluating the practicum student's skills and the only ones who can have access to the video are the supervisor/instructor and the graduate students in the small practicum seminar (no more than 6 students). The supervisor and the practicum graduate students are ethically obligated to maintain confidentiality. Sharing of the video is for the purpose of providing the UVM graduate counseling program student with feedback on the development of their counseling skills. . (The helpee may ask the practicum student for the name of this faculty member and/or the students in the seminar.)
3. At the end of the semester, the video recordings of the helping conversations will be deleted by the practicum student.
4. Any additional exceptions to confidentiality would pertain to the safety of the UVM helpee, others, and property –this harm exception will be discussed with the helpee during the first meeting with the practicum student. The other exception is in the event of a court ordered subpoena.
5. In the event that the helpee chooses to discuss issues that are associated with significant distress, or if the practicum student believes that the helpee is in need of or would likely benefit from additional counseling services, the practicum student will offer the helpee a referral to CAPS or other counseling services.

Consent for Participation in Helping Conversations & Release of Information

Initial: _____ I understand the nature of the helping conversations and consent to participation.

Initial: _____ I authorize the release of confidential video recordings of helping conversations between my UVM graduate counseling student counselor-in-training (practicum student) and myself to the supervising faculty in the Graduate Counseling Program at the University of Vermont. I understand that this release is made solely for the evaluation of the practicum student's skills, and the video material is to be viewed for that purpose by the Practicum student, their supervisor, and graduate counseling students attending class with my Practicum student. I understand that video recordings of the helping conversations that I have will be destroyed at the end of the semester.

- Initial: _____ I understand that I may revoke this consent at any time without consequence by submitting a written request to my Practicum student.

UVM Participating Student (Helpee) Name

UVM Participating (Helpee) Signature and Date

Practicum Student Name and Date