Oral Examination Case Study Guidelines

The Oral Examination is designed to be a final assessment of student knowledge of fundamental elements of clinical mental health practice that have been the core of the clinical training received in the Counseling Program. The format for the exam will be a thorough case study and digital/video presentation as follows:

**Case Study**
Present a written case study of a client you have worked with during your training in the counseling program that offers a strong illustration of your learning and practice. The case study should include all of the components outlined below:

**Counselor’s Name and Date**

**Client’s Name/Age**
- Use client’s first name or initials

**Presenting Concern**

**Summary of Client History**
- Summary of the family, developmental, social, multicultural, and social location issues relevant to this client and to your work.
- Brief summary of your work together to date.

**Theoretical Conceptualization**
In this section, first describe your client from a developmental or related theoretical conceptualization and then identify, describe, and apply a counseling theory that is appropriate to your work with this client. More specifically include the following in this section:

1. **Theoretical Conceptualization:**
   - Briefly explain a contemporary human development or related theory that helps us to understand your client and his/her difficulties (using citations, as appropriate).
   - Briefly explain a social justice theory that helps explain your client and his/her difficulties (using citations, as appropriate). Discuss here how dominant discourses that inform social privilege and social marginalization position the client and/or create/add to the client’s presenting concerns.
   This section should offer a good discussion of how these ideas and theories (the two bullets above) help explain the client’s development and the difficulties that he/she is facing.

2. **Counseling Framework:** Briefly describe the counseling theory that you are using in your counseling work with this client (using citations, as appropriate). This theory should explain the work that you are doing in the video portion of the presentation through the lens of theory (and it should address the client’s current concerns).
Counseling Goals
• Identify specific long term and, if appropriate, short term goals for this client that are consistent with the counseling framework articulated above.

Intervention Strategies
• Include at least 3 strategies per goal that are consistent with counseling framework articulated above.

DSM Diagnosis
• Provide a complete diagnosis, using the most current edition of the DSM.
• Briefly explain how you came to this diagnosis. Be prepared to justify you diagnosis using CHIF criteria. That is, be able to describe the context in which symptoms occur, the historical pattern of the manifestation of the symptoms, the intensity of the symptoms (using scaling questions) and the frequency (i.e., how often) with which symptoms occur,

Assessment of Harm
• Provide a clear articulation of your assessment of this client’s risk of harm to self or others, including specific indicators of harm. Include the key components of the harm assessment process.

Ethical Issues Summary
• Offer a brief narrative regarding ethical dilemmas that were or might have been relevant to your work with this client, given the context of your work together.
• Discuss how you did or would have handled these dilemmas.

Personalization Issues
• Offer a brief narrative identifying what issues or challenges came up for you that had the potential to complicate your work with this client. How did these issues or challenges affect your work?
• Briefly discuss how are you are or will you manage these personalization issues.

Digital/Video Presentation
Offer a 20 minute video presentation of counseling work with the client described in the Case Study. The video presentation will demonstrate work that is consistent with the needs and diagnosis of the client and that is consistent with the specific counseling theory, goals, and strategies articulated in the case study. Please be sure that you have secured a release of information from your client prior to using the digital/video-recording for Orals.
Orals Committee Assessment Report

Student:__________________________ Date:______________

Committee Members Present:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score (1-5)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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Scoring: 1 = unsatisfactory, 2 = below average, 3 = average/expected, 4 = very good, 5 = exceptional

Case Study Evaluation Criteria: clear articulate writing, accurate/relevant conceptualizations, all information requested is included in the conceptualization, accurate/relevant counseling framework, consistency between conceptualization/framework, accurate/appropriate diagnosis, accurate/appropriate harm assessment, appropriate discussion re: ethical concerns, personalization.

Presentation evaluation criteria: appropriate demonstration of basic skills, appropriate demonstration of advanced skills, counseling work consistent with counseling framework (implementation of theory into practice).