Informed Consent
to Participate in Educational Research and Evaluation

Many College of Education (COE) faculty members are engaged in on-going efforts to monitor and improve the Master of Arts (MA) in Counseling curriculum. The major goal of these efforts is to assure that:

- Specific curricular objectives are met;
- Educational resources are available as appropriate;
- Students receive preparation adequate for licensure;
- Outcomes related to the mission of the College are achieved.

The COE has a national reputation for educational innovation. Much of this reputation has been built on our evaluation efforts; through the public dissemination of what we have learned from our evaluations, COE’s reputation for innovative education is enhanced. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the organization that accredits counseling programs, expects that a counseling program will assess itself, reflect on what was found, and participate in the community of scholars sharing what has been learned. The public dissemination of knowledge is one of the responsibilities of our profession.

Another professional responsibility is protecting the rights of those involved in educational evaluation when the evaluation is disseminated publicly as scholarship. In this case, you as a counseling student might be a participant. The consent represented by this form is related to on-going evaluation of curricular outcomes based on information that is routinely collected as part of your professional education. Examples include course test scores, faculty and supervisor ratings, clinical skills and other performance-based assessments, and GRE scores. The purpose is three-fold: to increase students’ self-awareness about personal variables that influence counselor competence; identify trends in students’ performance; and, to increase our profession’s understanding of the process of development toward counseling competence. The information used to address these evaluation questions is aggregated across students to maintain confidentiality; individual students will not be identified.

Your contribution to the process of program evaluation will certainly benefit you as a novice counselor, the program, and the Counseling profession. Little is currently known about the variables that influence the development of counseling competence, and this is one of the first efforts to systematically examine the phenomenon. Nevertheless, in spite of these major benefits, you may experience some initial hesitancy about completing measures and sharing personal information for the purpose of research and scholarship. We assure you that every precaution has been taken to protect you in the role of graduate student. All information is kept confidential and the privacy of students is protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. To avoid any perception of faculty bias, actual measures of an attitudinal/psychological nature will not be reviewed until the end of the semester during course enrollment. Students’ information will be included in the research data set only after consent has been given and only after the application for graduation, which will allow you the opportunity to change your mind about participating at any point during enrollment up until the time of graduation application. The protection of your rights is critical to this faculty.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. We hope you will participate because information about the progress of the whole class is the most meaningful when presenting our studies of educational outcomes. Should you decide not to participate, you will still be obligated to complete all of the assessments and course products required by the counselor education curriculum. There is NO penalty if you decide not to participate. Your decision not to participate means only that your information cannot be used for public dissemination of evaluation information, such as conference papers and journal articles. You can decide to participate now, and at a later time withdraw your permission by contacting Dr. Robbie Steward, the MA Counseling Program Director, at telephone 517-355-8502.

If you have any further questions regarding educational evaluation in the MA Counseling Program or the information explained above, please contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Assefa Mehretu (517-355-6673). If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a study participant, or are dissatisfied at any time with any aspect of this study, you may contact – anonymously, if you wish, Peter Vasilenko, Ph.D., Director of the Human Research Protection Programs (HRPP) at Michigan State University: (517) 355-2180, fax: (517) 432-4503, email: irb@msu.edu, or regular mail: 202 Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824.

© I agree to release information about my academic progress for research studies of educational outcomes related to the COE curriculum.

© I decline to release information about my academic progress for research studies of educational outcomes related to the COE curriculum.

Printed Name: ____________________________
Student Number: _________________________
Signature: ______________________________
Date: ________________________________
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