

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

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As a counselor educator I believe the goals of counselor educators should be threefold: 1) impart knowledge; 2) serve as gatekeepers to the profession; and 3) produce leaders in the professional, academic, and broader world. In order to fulfill these goals, I utilize carefully selected reading assignments which are tested over using quizzes and exams. I primarily utilize class time to assist students with more critically examining the material they have studied. This leads students to think critically, be willing to question assumptions and beliefs, and propels them towards developing leadership skills. I also utilize as many opportunities as possible to apply learning to real life situations to determine if students will be able to apply the information they have learned to the counseling profession. These opportunities include vignettes to which students respond, role-playing, assessment of videoed examples, and actual supervised experienced, depending upon what is applicable within the specific course. In order to develop leadership skills, I assist students with developing critical thinking skills, presentation skills (requiring presentations within courses to encourage future presentations at seminars, conventions, and other professional events), and consideration of future academic, career, and professional goals. These skills are evaluated by in class presentation, and the incorporation of questions on exams which require a demonstration of critical thinking. For example, students in ethics courses are often asked to write a brief essay responding to a vignette of an ethical dilemma presenting rationale leading to different solutions which both could be considered ethical depending upon details not currently in knowledge. I am thrilled to participate in counselor education as I believe the end product, professional and competent counselors are one of the most valuable resources in our communities today. The world is crying out for competent assistance in dealing with the problems of life, and I believe training skilled counselors helps to meet this need.