Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination
As a counselor educator, how do you evaluate your counseling program? How do you assess your students’ readiness to enter the counseling profession?

The Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) is an evaluation tool that assesses students’ competence of foundational, counseling-related knowledge. The CPCE is designed to assess students who have completed graduate-level courses; courses that are grounded primarily in a counseling curriculum.

Because of the depth and breadth of the tool to evaluate an individual’s academic training, the CPCE parallels the nationally recognized standards published by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
The CPCE is widely used to assess counseling curriculum strengths and opportunities for improvement. CPCE scores are reported based on the core areas of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) to help students study and prepare for the National Counselor Examination (NCE).

"It is a standardized exam that has recognition and merit in the [profession] of counseling.

Norma Day Vines, Ph.D., DCC
Professor of Counseling and Human Services at Johns Hopkins University
The Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE), an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, is a pioneer in the field of assessments and examinations and developed the CPCE in 1997 to fill a void. Today more than 400 counseling programs use the CPCE annually.

**The Exam**

The CPCE covers the eight Council for the Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) common-core areas as defined by their Standards for Preparation:

- Assessment and Testing
- Career Development
- Counseling and Helping Relationships
- Group Counseling and Group Work
- Human Growth and Development
- Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Social and Cultural Diversity

The eight core areas serve as the primary theoretical basis for the examination and are linked to industry professional standards.
CPCE Schools *

72% have used it for five years or more

71% agree that the CPCE has made their counseling programs stronger

59% use the examination to evaluate their counseling program

58% use it to assess student’s mastery of counseling skills

* Gathered from 2015 marketing research survey of CPCE schools.
Examination Options

University and college counseling programs have the option to offer the CPCE as:

- Internet-based testing (IBT) on campus
- Computer-based testing (CBT) off campus

Cost

The examination cost per student is $75 for IBT testing and $150 for CBT testing. Schools are responsible for the costs of all examination administration.

How to Order

To learn more about the CPCE or for information about ordering the exam, visit www.cce-global.org, email us at cpce@cce-global.org or call +1 336.217.4111.
The exam gives us quality feedback about our program. If we have one category where students aren’t doing well, we can revisit the course material to explore why we may be weak in that category consistently across groups.

Stephen Sharp, Ph.D., NCC, ACS, HS-BCP and former associate dean for the College of Social Sciences at the University of Phoenix
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