COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

All students are required to pass a national comprehensive exam for the completion of their program. Comprehensive examinations are taken after 30 credit hours and completion of CACREP core courses (CPCE 5010, CPCE 5100, CPCE 5110, CPCE 5150, CPCE 5330, CPCE 5400, CPCE 5810, EPSY 6200, RSEM 5200 and RSEM 5300).

Registration for Exam

The application to take the Comprehensive Exam is available at the link below and is due the first week of classes for the semester that the student wants to take the exam.
http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/CurrentStudents/Pages/COMPSandGraduation.aspx
If you need accommodations you can request them at the time of registration.

Offerings

The exam is given each Spring (April), Summer (July) and Fall (November) semesters.

Cost and Location of Exam

The cost of the national comprehensive exam is $50.00 per student. Each student should report to the exam site with a money order made out to CCE. The proctor will not accept cash, credit cards or personal checks. Money orders are the only methods accepted for payment.

Exam Content

The CPCE (Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam) is a national exam written and graded by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The exam covers the eight Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) common-core areas, as defined by their Standards for Preparation:

1. Human Growth and Development
2. Social and Cultural Foundations
3. Helping Relationships
4. Group Work
5. Career and Lifestyle Development
6. Appraisal
7. Research and Program Evaluation
8. Professional Orientation and Ethics

These eight core areas, which constitute the Comprehensive Exam, serve as the primary theoretical basis for the exam. It is through these areas that the exam is associated with accepted professional standards. The exam is multiple choice, no essay questions are included.

Important Update

Questions related to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) will reflect the DSM-5.

Exam Preparation Materials

In preparing for national exams such as the CPCE (Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam) and/or the National Counselor Exam (NCE), graduate students may be interested in identifying and studying published exam preparation materials in addition to their texts, class notes and materials, as well as previous exams taken in their graduate classes.
As NBCC indicates on its website, study materials developed for preparation for the National Counselor Exam will also be useful in helping prepare for the CPCE.

Following is a list of the three most popular national exam preparation resources:

1. Study Guide for the National Counselor Examination and CPCE by Dr. Andrew Helwig (www.counselor-exam-prep.com or www.amazon.com)

2. Encyclopedia of Counseling by Dr. Howard Rosenthal (www.amazon.com)

3. Association for Advanced Training in the Behavioral Sciences (www.aatbs.com)

An additional study option is Erford, Hays, Crockett, & Miller's /Mastering the National Counselor Examination and the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination.