

**LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY**  
**PROFESSIONAL & SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM**  
**Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)**

The Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) is a nationally administered multiple choice exam designed to evaluate professional knowledge students have obtained during the counselor preparation program at Lindenwood University. The CPCE covers eight core curriculum areas:

- Human Growth & Development (IPC 521, IPC 522+, IPC 523\*)
- Social & Cultural Foundations (IPC 562)
- Group Dynamics (IPC 561)
- Lifestyle & Career Development (IPC 582)
- Appraisal of the Individual (IPC 581, IPC 583\*)
- Research Methods & Program Evaluation (IPC 541)
- Professional Orientation & Ethics (IPC 511+, IPC 512+, IPC 513)
- Helping Relationships (IPC 551+, IPC 523\*, IPC 552+, IPC 531, IPC 532, IPC 575\*, IPC 590+, IPC 591\*, IPC 598)

\* School counseling classes

+ Professional counseling classes

The CPCE is offered each fall, spring, and summer term. The Exam is administered on a Saturday at the St. Charles campus. The dates for the CPCE and application deadlines can be found online, [www.lindenwood.edu/academics/counseling](http://www.lindenwood.edu/academics/counseling). In compliance with the national CPCE regulations and security, accommodation for another date cannot be made.

Students applying to take the CPCE should do so during his or her last trimester of coursework. Students must have completed coursework covering the eight core areas listed above and one trimester of internship prior to sitting for the Exam.

### **Application Procedures**

Students must apply to take the CPCE. The CPCE application form is available online and in the Professional and School Counseling offices. The student should complete the CPCE application form and obtain his or her advisor's signature. Then, the student should proceed to the Business Office to pay the \$40.00 fee for the Exam. The student should submit the completed CPCE application and payment receipt to the Professional and School Counseling Offices. *Payment to the Business Office does not guarantee your reservation for the test. The Professional and School Counseling Offices must receive the application and receipt before the student is added to the Exam list. Test booklets are ordered only for those on the Exam list.* The student will receive a confirmation letter to inform him or her of the location and time of the Exam.

### **Results**

Completed Exams are mailed to and scored by the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE). Once scores have been calculated, they are returned to the Professional and School Counseling Offices within three to four weeks. Examinees receive a letter from the Assistant Dean informing them of their score on the Exam.

### **Passing the CPCE**

The CPCE national norms are used to determine the minimum passing score on the Exam. The minimum passing score varies each year. It is based on a z score of -1.25, or 1.25 standard deviations below the mean.

**Failing the CPCE**

Students who fail the CPCE the first time

- If a student fails one or two core area(s), he or she will be re-tested over the failed core area(s). The student will be administered a subtest or subtests developed by the Professional and School Counseling Faculty. The subtest(s) will be administered on a date scheduled by the Faculty. If a student fails a subtest (scoring less than 70%), he or she will be required to retake the entire CPCE.
- If a student fails three or more core areas, he or she will be required to retake the entire CPCE.

Students who fail the CPCE the second time

- Student will be required to complete an exit interview, Mapping Your Future Interview, with at least two Faculty Members of the Professional and School Counseling Program. The student will be required to prepare evidence and discuss items relative to his or her plans to pass the NCE.