Comprehensive Exam | National Counselor Examination (NCE)

Counseling Department | Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

12/10/2025

University of Nebraska Omaha

What Are the COMPS?

- Required exit exam
- CMHC: 80-item multiple-choice
- Taken during graduation semester
- Offered once per semester (Spring & Fall Only)
- Spring (March First Friday) | Fall (October First Friday)
  12:00 – 3:30 PM
- No Comps During Summer Semester

What Are the COMPS?

- Register via listserv announcement (Registration Link)
- Accommodations require approval
- Testing Center is located on the Fifth Floor Kayser Hall
- The cost is $40 and it must be paid in order for you to graduate. You can bring your payment to the counseling office.
- Bring photo ID

COMPS Structure (CMHC)

80 multiple-choice questions covering:

1. Human Growth & Development – COUN 8110
2. Social & Cultural Foundations – COUN 8520
3. Helping Relationships – COUN 8030
4. Group Counseling – COUN 8360
5. Career Development – COUN 8020
6. Assessment – COUN 8230
7. Research & Program Evaluation – COUN 8100 (TED 8010 – EDL 8010)
8. Professional Orientation & Ethics – COUN 8010 & COUN 8040

COMPS Passing Requirements

- Passing score: 80%
- Up to 3 attempts
- 1st fail: Feedback from coordinator

(Makeup exam the following Friday 12:00 – 3:30 PM)

- 2nd fail: Referred to GRC
- 3rd fail: Remediation plan

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National Counselor Examination (NCE)

- COMPS prepare you for the NCE content and test style.
- Required licensure exam in many states including Nebraska
- 200 questions (160 scored, 40 unscored)
- Measures entry-level counseling competence

NCE Registration

- Register during COUN 8260
- Optional during program—required for licensure
- Can take after graduation

NCE Format

- 200 total questions (160 Question Scored)

3 hours 45 minutes:

- Time to complete the Test Administration and Confidentiality Agreement: 5 minutes
- Time to complete the testing tutorial (including sample case study): 10 minutes
- Time to complete the examination: 225 minutes
- One scheduled break (after question #100): 15 minutes

Total Test Session Time: 255 minutes

- One scheduled break at Q100
- No penalty for guessing

NCE Content Domains | CACREP Alignment

1. Professional Practice & Ethics
2. Intake, Assessment, & Diagnosis
3. Areas of Clinical Focus
4. Treatment Planning
5. Counseling Skills & Interventions
6. Core Counseling Attributes

1. Ethics
2. Diversity
3. Human Development
4. Career
5. Helping relationships
6. Group work
7. Assessment
8. Research

NCE Content Domains | CACREP Alignment

Table 1. *The weight for each domain*

	Domain	Percent of items	Number of scored items
1	Professional Practice and Ethics	12	19
2	Intake, Assessment, and Diagnosis	12	19
3	Areas of Clinical Focus	29	47
4	Treatment Planning	9	14
5	Counseling Skills and Interventions	30	48
6	Core Counseling Attributes	8	13
	Total	*100*	*160*

NCE Scoring

- Passing score varies per test form
- Based only on your performance

NCE Preparation Tips

- Study from NBCC content outline
- Use reputable practice tests
- Strengthen DSM diagnostic skills
- Build test-taking endurance

Resources

- UNO: CMHC Student Handbook
- NCE Handbook
- NCE Content Outline



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