

**George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Counseling and Development**

EDCD 608.002 – Group Processes and Analyses  
4 Credits, Fall 2019

Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:10 PM Innovation Hall Room 206 – Fairfax

Section 202 Lab for Lecture:

Wednesdays 7:20 PM – 10:00 PM Innovation Hall Room 333 – Fairfax

**Faculty**

Name: Sam Steen, PhD.  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: Krug Hall 201E Fairfax  
Office Phone: 703-993-2087 (C&D Office)  
Email address:

**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Admission to the CNDV program; B or better EDCE 606 or B or better in EDCE 609.

**University Catalog Course Description**

Presents theories appropriate to various types of groups and descriptions of group practices, methods, dynamics, and facilitative skills. Focuses on applying theory to practice. Includes lab.

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to familiarize students with fundamental concepts and theories of group counseling. A mastery of basic interpersonal and facilitation skills will be emphasized inclusive of issues related to racial and ethnic diversity, gender, and social justice. The course includes an intensive laboratory group experience to facilitate interpersonal awareness, sensitivity, and skills that are critical to be an effective group counselor/group therapist.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using a lecture and lab format.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Gain personal awareness of one's own interpersonal style, characteristics and functions of effective group leaders
2. Understand theoretical foundations of group counseling and group work
3. Explore therapeutic factors and how they contribute to group effectiveness
4. Learn approaches to group formation, including recruiting, screening, and selecting members
5. Discuss types of groups and other considerations that affect conducting groups in varied settings
6. Infuse ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing and facilitating groups
7. Participate in direct experiences in which students participate as group members in a small group activity, approved by the program, for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the course of one academic term
8. Understand dynamics associated with group process and development
9. Learn various process and outcome issues that structure group experience.
10. Acquire and demonstrate group counseling skills in class demonstrations and experiences.

11. Learn about culturally diverse populations and effective group interventions with those specific populations.
12. Gain an understanding of different K-12 students and clients that may participate in groups and learn about how to effectively intervene with those groups.
13. Study ways to evaluate the group experience.
14. Experience group process personally and gain insight, awareness and enhanced interpersonal skills.

### Professional Standards

#### *Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP)*

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

<i>CACREP Standard</i>	<i>Course Content (Reading, Assignment, and/or Lecture/Discussion); KPI measured (if applicable)</i>
2.F.6.a. theoretical foundations of group counseling and group work	Reading(s): Corey Ch.1 & 4
2.F.6.b. dynamics associated with group process and development	Assignment: Group Facilitation; KPI Measured: A.6.a
2.F.6.c. therapeutic factors and how they contribute to group effectiveness	Reading(s): Yalom Ch. 1-4
2.F.6.d. characteristics and functions of effective group leaders	Assignment: Group Facilitation; KPI Measured: A.6.a
2.F.6.e. approaches to group formation, including recruiting, screening, and selecting members	Reading(s): Corey Ch. 5
2.F.6.f. types of groups and other considerations that affect conducting groups in varied settings	Reading(s): Ch. 1 & 2 Assignment: Literature Reviews
2.F.6.g. ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing and facilitating groups	Assignment: Group Facilitation; KPI Measured: A.6.a
2.F.6.h. direct experiences in which students participate as group members in a small group activity, approved by the program, for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the course of one academic term	Weekly Lab Break out sessions

### Required Texts

Corey, M. S., Corey, G., & Corey, C. (2018). *Groups: Process and practice*. (10<sup>th</sup> ed.) Belmont, Calif: Cengage Learning.

### Recommended

Yalom, I., & Leszcz, M. (2005). *The theory and practice of group psychotherapy* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). NY: Basic Books

### Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

See course schedule

- **Other Requirements**

#### Course Expectations

APA Format: Students in Counseling courses are expected to use APA style (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) for

written papers.

### Electronic Devices

**Turn off and put away all electronic communication devices during class.** Cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices are not allowed in this class. Please keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets (e.g. iPads) may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only, but you must submit a request in writing to do so. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g. gaming, email, chat, text, etc.) will result in a significant deduction in your participation grade. **Notify the instructor prior to class if you have an emergency situation that requires accommodation.**

### Attendance

In accordance with the policies of the Counseling Program, on-time attendance at every class meeting is expected. Late arrival to class will be considered an absence. **Two or more unexcused absences will result in loss of course credit.** Attendance on the first day of class is required. Excused absences are permitted for illness, religious holidays, or emergency situations only; documentation is required for the absence to be considered excused. Work-related absences are not considered excused.

### Course Requirements

Each student is expected to do the following: (1) attend each class, (2) complete all reading assignments before class, (3) arrive on time and stay for the entire class period, (4) participate in discussions and in-class work groups, (5) regularly check GMU email, and (6) submit or access documents via Blackboard as assigned.

### Assignments

The main assignments for the course (Literature Reviews and Structured Activities and Group Leadership Proposal and Implementation) are to be **submitted in two ways**: (1) Submit an electronic copy prior to the beginning of class on the date due via SafeAssign on the course Blackboard site, and (2) Bring a paper copy to class on the date due. Late homework assignments will be subject to a penalty of 20% for each day late. Additional assignments and/or assessments may be added at the instructor's discretion.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a violation of both the George Mason University code of honor and the expected professional dispositions of the Counseling Program. The GMU English Department has developed the following statement regarding plagiarism: "Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinion, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. Writers give credit through the use of accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or end notes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions to this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writer's own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be precarious, and what is common knowledge for one audience may be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being reader friendly. In other words, writers

provide a citation for any piece of information that they think their readers might want to investigate further. Not only is this attitude considerate of readers and establishes credibility, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism.”

- **Grading**

Your final grade will be calculated based on the following course requirements:

**1) Class attendance and participation in personal growth group (30 points):** Since many of the class goals involve practice and structured observation, attendance and active participation in discussion and exercises is essential. You are expected to participate in the experiential components of the course which includes a personal growth group. The participation is intended to serve as an active educational experience, not therapy.

**2. Structured Activity and Group Leadership (50 points)**

You will design a group exercise/activity that will be conducted in class. This group exercise must be original, but can be adapted from one that already exists. Select a setting (school or community) in which the group exercise may be used. The exercise should be 1-2 pages in length, and should include the following: (a) Goal(s) of the exercise (b) The group for whom it is intended (c) The time required for the total exercise (d) Materials needed (e) The process questions incorporated by the group leader (f) Variations on the exercise, as appropriate. *Please see a detailed description/example below in Appendix B.*

**3. Reflection Blogs (2 points each X 5) (10 points)**

a. **Please make a note to submit an electronic journal reflection of materials read, class discussions, lab experiences etc. prior to the next class session following the due date.**

**4. Literature Reviews (10 points)**

Find five group counseling related articles that focuses on skills, techniques, or strategies for working with the population you intend on working with upon graduation (e.g., children and/or adolescents, elderly, recovering members, racial and ethnic minorities, etc.). The specific topic addressed is open, as long as group counseling is used as the primary method of counseling. Next, write a one page summary for each of the articles selected. *Please see a detailed description/example below in Appendix A.*

**Total: 100 Points**

**In accordance with the George Mason University Grading Policy, the following grades may be achieved:**

**A [100-97]; A- [96-94]; B+ [93-91]; B [90-87]; B- [86-84]; C [83-80]; F [79 and below]**

**Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

Students must adhere to program professional dispositions:

<https://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/forms/Professional%20Dispositions.pdf>

## **Professional Dispositions Assessment**

This is a course in which Professional Dispositions will be assessed for all students. The course instructor will inform you as to when this assessment will be completed. The minimum score (benchmark) for all items is 3 for this course. If you fall below benchmark for any item, you must contact your advisor and set up a meeting within two weeks of receiving the score. See the Student Handbook for details.

Professional Dispositions assessments are scored as follows:

- **4: Consistently Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition all or almost all of the time. This rank is considered exceptional, particularly for students who are at the beginning of their program. Students who are advanced in the program (i.e., in their last year of the program and enrolled in Internship I or II) should expect to achieve this rank.
- **3: Frequently Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition often or most of the time. It is expected that students in the middle of the program (i.e., usually the second year for full time or third year for part time students) will achieve this rank. This reflects that they have moved beyond the initial phase of counselor training and are developing well towards being a professional counselor.
- **2: Sometimes Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition sometimes or inconsistently. It is expected that students at the beginning of the program (i.e., first year for most students) will achieve this rank. Students at the beginning of the program are expected to be developing towards these professional dispositions as a part of their counselor training and preparation for their future as a professional counselor.
- **1: Seldom Evident** – The student demonstrates the disposition rarely or not at all. In some instances this may also indicate a harmful demonstration of professional disposition(s). Students at the beginning of their program may achieve this rank, which can be developmentally appropriate as they learn the expectations for students and future professional counselors. Should this occur, students should expect to meet with their advisor, who will assist them in addressing the area of concern.

**N/A: Not Applicable** – An instructor or supervisor may use this to note that they did not have the opportunity to observe the disposition or that it was not relevant in the given context. This is most likely to occur at the beginning of the program when some dispositions may not be germane to the particular class.

**Class Schedule****Date****Topics, Assignments and [CACREP Standards]\*** **Reading Assignments**

\*Group Leadership experiences  
in lab will occur throughout  
the semester. [2.F.6.h]

Class 1	<b>Introductions</b> Overview of Group Work Various Types of Groups <i>Task Groups Established</i> <b><u>Assignment: Reflection 1 due before next class session</u></b>	
Class 2	Multicultural Perspective on Group Work Counselor's Qualities and Skills [2.F.6.g.]	Corey, Corey and Corey 1, 2
Class 3	Ethical, Legal Issues and Therapeutic Factors [2.F.6.c] [2.F.6.g]	Corey, Corey and Corey 3
Class 4	Theories and Techniques [2.F.6.a.] <i>Lab I</i> <b><u>Assignment: Reflection 2 due before next class session</u></b>	Corey, Corey and Corey 4
Class 5	Forming a Group, Preparation [2.F.6.e.] of Participants <i>Lab II</i>	Corey, Corey and Corey 5
Class 6	Initial Stage [2.F.6.a.] <i>Lab III</i> <b><u>Assignment: Reflection 3 due before next class session</u></b>	Corey, Corey and Corey 6
Class 7	Transition Stage [2.F.6.b.] <i>Lab IV</i>	Corey, Corey and Corey 7
Class 8	Fall Break	
Class 9	Working Stage [2.F.6.d.] <i>Lab V</i> <b><u>Assignment: Structured Activity and Group leadership begins</u></b>	Corey, Corey and Corey 8
Class 10	Ending Stage [2.F.6.a.] <i>Lab VI</i> <b><u>Assignment: Reflection 4 due before next class session</u></b>	Corey, Corey and Corey 9
Class 11	Application to Different Types of Groups, <i>Lab VIII</i>	Corey, Corey and Corey 11
Class 12	Special Issues <i>Final Lab</i> <b><u>Assignment: Reflection 5 due before next class session</u></b>	
Class 13	Crisis Work, Specialized Groups <b><u>Assignment: Literature Reviews</u></b> [2.F.6.g.] [2.F.6.f.]	
Class 14	Thanksgiving Break	
<b>Class 15</b>	<b>Closing</b> <b><u>Assignment: Literature Reviews</u></b> [2.F.6.g.] [2.F.6.f.]	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## **Counseling and Development Mission Statement**

The Counseling Program is committed to preparing counselors who promote the social, psychological, physical, and spiritual health of individuals, families, communities, and organizations in order to contribute to the advancement of global well-being. The program strives for national and international excellence in implementing a counseling perspective which provides a foundation in basic counseling skills and focuses on social justice, multiculturalism, international, advocacy and leadership. It is our belief that a global perspective on development across the life span, and an understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism, diversity, and social justice are integral to the preparation of professional counselors, requiring that professional counselors are prepared to assume leadership roles, be proactive change agents and become advocates for social, economic and political justice. The program is committed to accomplish this mission by working through interdisciplinary teams as well as promote the interconnectedness of teaching, research, service and professional practice. Through this mission faculty will facilitate a continued tradition of international, national and regional leadership through the development of collaborative partnerships and projects, research, publications, presentations, consultation, and training.

## **Core Values Commitment**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## **GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://catalog.gmu.edu/polices/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**

## Assessment Rubric(s)

### A.6.a.1 – CMHC & SC: Group Facilitation in 608

Area Assessed	%	Exceeds Standards 4 A [100-97]; A- [96-94]	Meets Standards 3 B+ [93-91]; B [90-87]	Approaching Standards 2 B- [86-84]; C [83-80]	Below Standards 1 F [79 and below]
1. Group Dynamics [KPI A.6.a.1; CACREP 2.F.6.b]	25	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the dynamics associated with group process and development	Demonstrates a some understanding of the dynamics associated with group process and development	Demonstrates little understanding of the dynamics associated with group process and development	Demonstrates no understanding of the dynamics associated with group process and development
2. Group Leadership [KPI A.6.a.1; CACREP 2.F.6.d]	25	Demonstrates the characteristics and functions of effective group leaders throughout most of the session (e.g., effective communication, self-awareness, empathy, reflective listening, positive regard, appropriate questioning/challenging, etc.)	Demonstrates the characteristics and functions of effective group leaders throughout some of the session (e.g., effective communication, self-awareness, empathy, reflective listening, positive regard, appropriate questioning/challenging, etc.)	Little demonstration of the characteristics and functions of effective group leaders throughout most of the session (e.g., effective communication, self-awareness, empathy, reflective listening, positive regard, appropriate questioning/challenging, etc.)	No demonstration of the characteristics and functions of effective group leaders throughout most of the session (e.g., effective communication, self-awareness, empathy, reflective listening, positive regard, appropriate questioning/challenging, etc.)
3. Diversity KPI A.6.a.1; CACREP 2.F.6.g	25	Demonstrates ability to lead diverse groups with appropriate attention to multiple facets of identity (e.g., culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc.) most of the time	Demonstrates ability to lead diverse groups with appropriate attention to multiple facets of identity (e.g., culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc.) some of the time	Demonstrates little ability to lead diverse groups with appropriate attention to multiple facets of identity (e.g., culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc.) most of the time	Demonstrates no ability to lead diverse groups with appropriate attention to multiple facets of identity (e.g., culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc.) most of the time
4. Group Approaches [KPI A.6.a.1; CACREP 2.F.6.d]	25	Demonstrates the ability to plan and facilitate group that is appropriate for the setting, needs, and participants most of the time	Demonstrates the ability to plan and facilitate group that is appropriate for the setting, needs, and participants some of the time	Demonstrates little ability to plan and facilitate group that is appropriate for the setting, needs, and participants most of the time	Demonstrates no ability to plan and facilitate group that is appropriate for the setting, needs, and participants most of the time



## Appendix A: Article Review Example

**Title – The Achieving Success Everyday Group Counseling Model: Fostering Resiliency in Middle School Students Journal and Author(s) – Professional School Counseling, Rose and Steen (2014).**

**Purpose (1pt)** -- The authors of this article aimed to discover what effect the group counseling intervention, which focused on resiliency characteristics, had on students' academic and personal-social success.

**Setting** – The study was conducted in a public middle school in the District of Columbia. The school counselor who implemented the intervention worked solely with the eighth grade.

**Sample (1pt)** -- Group Leaders – The school counselor assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade facilitated the intervention.

Students – A total of 12 students were invited to participate in the group. Seven students from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade ended up being a part of the group counseling experience.

Demographics – Of the final seven participants there were two African Americans (1 male and 1 female) and five Latinos (2 male and 3 female). All of the participants receive free/reduced lunch.

**Intervention (1pt)** -- The Achieving Success Everyday (ASE) group intervention integrates personal-social development and academic development. The group model has six phases (e.g., assessment, review, acquaintance, challenge, empowerment, and support). This particular intervention includes an introduction, an academic component, a personal-social component and a closing. Additionally, the intervention discussed in this article had a focus on resiliency and its' characteristics as they relate to students.

**Research Design and Methods** -- The research presented here used quantitative and qualitative data to determine the effectiveness of the group intervention at improving the students' academic achievement and personal-social functioning. Students completed surveys before the intervention, participated in the intervention, and completed surveys after the intervention.

**Key Outcomes** -- The researchers discovered that 5 of the 7 students who participated in the ASE group intervention with a resiliency focus had slight improvements in their overall GPA. It was also noted that at least 1 student reported an improvement in her own perception of her positive learning behaviors.

**Implications (2pts)** – The implication for practicing school counselors is that group work with a specific identified focus can be beneficial for students. Also, the importance of collecting school-related data and targeting academic achievement while integrating discussions on topics that align with school success more broadly was emphasized in the article. One specific implication was the importance of adapting interventions to best serve the population you are working with; students, teachers, and families.

**Personal Reflection (1pt)** – I believe this group intervention could be useful for middle school students and potentially for students of all ages if adapted appropriately. I also learned that it is critical to have a framework to follow when leading groups, but it is important to make amendments and additions that will better serve the specific population.

## **APPENDIX B: Group Exercise/Process**

**Activity Title:** Cultural Empathy

**Goals/Objectives:** 1.) To think about how one would feel in certain situations. 2.) To think about what one would do in certain situations.

Appropriate for the Following **Type(s) of Diversity-Related Group** (check all that apply):

- a) Culture-Specific Group
- b) Intercultural Learning Group**
- c) Other-Content Focused Group

**Participant Characteristics:**

- a) Age range – age 10 to young adults (scenarios can be modified for adults)
- b) Other group member characteristics – adequate ego strength needed

**Potential Stage/Session(s)** – working stage

**Estimated Duration** – at least 45 minutes (depending on group size)

**Materials:**

None

**Directions:**

**Introduction to Activity:** Tell them that this exercise is designed to help us understand how individuals may feel in certain situations as well as understand some potential reactions to these situations. Consider using the example, have you ever heard the expression “Don’t judge someone until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes?” Well, we are going to ask you to walk – not a whole mile, but a ways – in someone else’s shoes in your imagination, and to think about how you would feel and what you would do in certain situations.

**Specific Directions for Activity:** Group leader will read the scenarios below. Following a pause between each scenario, the group leader will ask a group member to share how they would feel and what they would do. Occasionally, the group leader can ask a group member if they are curious as to how someone else in the group would respond to this scenario. If so, have the group member call on another individual to share their thoughts and feelings. Repeat. Below are examples of scenarios:

1. You are hanging out with a bunch of kids at your school after lunch, and you hear some kids in another group tell a racist joke about your group. How do you feel? What would you do?
2. You need to get your hair done, and can’t find a place that knows how to do your hair. How do you feel? What would you do?
3. You are invited to a birthday party for a classmate, and when you arrive you are the only person of your race/ethnicity. How do you feel? What would you do?
4. The first day of class the teacher mispronounces your name and everyone laughs. How do you feel? What would you do?
5. You invite a friend over to your house, and their parents won’t let them come because of where you live. How do you feel? What would you do?

6. Your friends are mostly of your ethnicity. You make friends with someone of another group, and your group of friends (or your family) is mad about it. How do you feel? What would you do?
7. Your friend invites you over for dinner. The food is served and it is weird-looking. Everyone else starts eating. How do you feel? What would you do?
8. You go to your friend's house after school to play. All of his family is talking in a language you don't understand. How do you feel? What would you do?

**Processing Questions:** What was it like to imagine these situations? Have you ever encountered any of these situations or similar ones in the past? What did you learn from this activity about yourself? What did you learn about others? Does this change the way you might feel or think in some situations in the future, and if so how?

**Alternatives:** Allow group members to generate scenarios, place them in a box, and take turns picking one and sharing them.

**References:** N/A