

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: HSE 235 Professional & Ethical Issues in Human Services

Course Description: An in-depth study of current professional issues including ethical, legal, and moral standards. The student will apply decision-making skills and critical analysis to professional situations where standards conflict. Topics include: confidentiality, duty to warn, client rights, dual relationships, competence, multi-cultural issues, sanity, malpractice, and expert testimony. 3 semester hours.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: HSE 101

Course Goals:

- Develop a basic knowledge of Codes of Ethics of major helping professions (ACA, APA, NASW, NOHS)
- Application of ethical decision-making model to professional practice situations
- Develop critical thinking skills about the complexity of ethical dilemmas and the potential consequences of ethical decision making
- Develop awareness of one's personal value system and potential professional value conflicts

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the concepts of ethics, values, ideology, and law as it applies to human service practice.
2. Clarify the distinction between personal values and professional values.
3. Develop guidelines for ethical decision-making based on professional human service standards.
4. Apply ethical decision-making models in various practice settings such as: child welfare, managed care, domestic violence, and elder care.
5. Differentiate between client autonomy and paternalism in decision-making in practice areas such as refusal of services, assisted suicide, and long-term care.
6. Evaluate the legal rights and ethical standards of practice in the areas of client confidentiality and informed consent.

7. Identify the contemporary laws and court decisions that illuminate the legal responsibilities of human service workers' duty to warn (e. g. Tarasoff).
8. Clarify the professional ethical responsibilities of human service personnel towards colleagues and human service organizations.
9. Develop acceptable ethical and legal positions in resolving current controversies in human service practice.