

Information Booklet

for the
Examination of Clinical Counseling Practice
(ECCP)

Revised 7/04

Professional Counseling Through Certification



NATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFIED COUNSELORS™

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There are no barriers to certification on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

ABOUT THE ECCP

Satisfactory performance on the Examination of Clinical Counseling Practice (ECCP) is one of the criteria used by NBCC® to identify professionals who may be eligible to become a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC).

ECCP CONTENT

The content for the ECCP is based on the following significant sets of features: (a) diagnosis, (b) treatment, (c) evaluation, and (d) professional practice. Features of a case reflect the elements or dynamics important for case understanding and planning and for counseling effectiveness. Diagnosis features are significant for good case understanding and planning. Treatment features are central to the provision of counseling services. The third set of features, evaluation, is important for effective counseling process and/or outcome evaluations. Professional practice, the fourth set, includes features pertaining to ethical, legal, or other professional considerations.

The purpose of the ECCP is to assess a counselor's ability to apply diagnostic, treatment, evaluation, and professional practice knowledge and experience to cases typically encountered by mental health counselors. It is assumed that ECCP respondents will possess a core knowledge of counseling along with specialized training and experience in mental health counseling. In general, although ECCP respondents are not expected to possess expertise in all facets of mental health counseling, they are expected to have a broad base of experience and practice in clinical mental health counseling.

VERSION OF EXAM

Each form, or version, of the ECCP contains a set of counseling cases selected from a case pool and a unique set of items for each case selected from the respective case item pool. The format is the same across administrations of the ECCP, but each form contains a unique set of items.

SCORING PROCEDURES

Eighty of the 100 questions are scored for criterion purposes and 20 are being field-tested to determine appropriateness for future use. The examinee will not know which items are being field-tested and should respond with equal effort to all questions.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Examination results are mailed via first class mail eight weeks following the exam. Scores are not released via phone, fax, or e-mail. The ECCP score report includes:

- Your total number of correct responses
- The minimum criterion (passing) score for that form of the ECCP
- The total mean and standard deviation for the exam

If your total score meets or exceeds the minimum criterion score, you have passed the ECCP.

EXAM PREPARATION

STUDY GUIDES

NBCC publishes study materials for the ECCP. An order form for the ECCP Preparation Guide appears on the last page of this booklet.

STUDY ACTIVITIES

The following activities may be helpful in studying and preparing for the ECCP:

1. Perusal of current professional books, journals, newsletters, and other media. Books used should be comprehensive in nature and cover a number of perspectives. Professional journals and newsletters most appropriate for review are those published by professional organizations in the field of counseling. Media such as films or tapes might best be used to supplement other resources.
2. Review of course notes from previous academic training if they are within the last several years.
3. Review of Ethical Standards and other position statements from NBCC and other professional organizations in the field of counseling.
4. Review of the major names associated with major concepts within the counseling profession. Since various theories and/or concepts are often identified by the theorist's name, knowledge of such associations is helpful. For example, "Rogerian" counseling is often interpreted as synonymous with the term "client-centered counseling."
5. Review of how various topics are used within the counseling profession. For example, "statistics" are often taught outside counselor education departments but the concepts are obviously pertinent to the counseling profession.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

1. Get a good night's rest and eat breakfast before arriving at the testing center. Allow an extra 30 minutes for time to park and find the exam site.
2. Read each question carefully. Although your first response is often correct, be sure to consider each word and qualifying phrase carefully.
3. There is no penalty for guessing. For items you are unsure about, mark a tentative answer in your exam booklet and proceed. When you have responded to all items, return to the tentative ones and determine your answer. Make the best possible guess you can.
4. Avoid "dwelling" on any single item. This usually does not produce a better result and contributes to fatigue.
5. Mark only one response per question. Multiple responses are scored as incorrect. Completely erase changed answers.

SCORE REPORTS

Score reports are sent to the examinee **by postal mail only**. Scores are **never** released via telephone, e-mail, or fax.

Score reports are mailed only to the examinee at the address provided on the NCC application form. **It is the examinee's responsibility to notify NBCC in writing if there is a change of address.**

Your specific examination scores will not be released to a third party without your express written permission. Scores cannot be released to a third party until all requirements, including fees, are fulfilled. There is a \$15 fee to have your scores sent to a third party. Board Eligible NCCs who do not complete the experience and supervision requirements are subject to having their scores invalidated and must reapply and retest.

To have your scores reported to a third party, mail a letter of request with the \$15 fee to:

NBCC
Attn: Exams Department
P.O. Box 7407
Greensboro, North Carolina 27417-0407

RE-REGISTRATION

If you either do not sit for or do not pass the ECCP, you will receive a re-registration form within eight weeks after the exam date. If you do not receive a re-registration form, contact NBCC's certification department. You may re-register for the ECCP by paying the \$120 re-registration fee. You may take the ECCP a maximum of three times within a two-year period. If a passing score is not achieved on the third attempt or within two years of the exam cycle corresponding with the date you originally applied, you must reapply for certification and pay all required application fees if you wish to become a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC).

A POLICY STATEMENT

NBCC hopes that participation in the ECCP will be an informative and rewarding activity for all candidates. To ensure fairness and a sound test-taking environment, NBCC reserves the right to: 1) prohibit a person's participation in the examination, 2) remove a person from participation during the examination administration, or 3) invalidate a person's examination, either directly or through NBCC-designated representatives, for any action deemed inappropriate in regard to or during the examination. Inappropriate behaviors include misrepresentation of self, cheating, conveying copyrighted materials in any way, verbal and/or physical disturbance of the examination process, or any other behavior deemed by NBCC to be inappropriate and/or unprofessional.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Satisfactory performance on the Examination of Clinical Counseling Practice (ECCP) is one of the criteria used by NBCC to identify professionals who may be eligible to become Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselors (CCMHCs).

DATES, SITES, AND ADMISSION INFORMATION

The ECCP is administered twice each year: on a Saturday in April and on a Saturday in October. At least one site in each state is identified as a public testing center, provided there are eligible candidates in the area.

EXAM

Admission letters are mailed approximately 10 days prior to the examination date. The letter includes detailed directions to the testing facility. Eligible examination candidates must bring their NBCC exam admission letter and two forms of identification, one of which must include a picture (e.g.: driver's license) to the exam.

Exam Time:	9:00 a.m. local time
Length:	4 hours
Needed for admission:	2 forms of ID, one with a picture
Admission letters mailed:	Approximately 10 days prior to the exam

SPECIAL EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS

EXAMINEES WITH DISABILITIES

Examination administration locations are selected with effective access for candidates with physical disabilities. Candidates requiring special assistance, such as readers or recorders, should request permission from NBCC for the admittance of an assisting individual at the examination site.

ADDITIONAL TIME

Four hours are scheduled for the ECCP. If additional time is necessary because of special needs or because English is a candidate's second language, candidates may request a time extension.

RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS

Candidates who cannot participate in the examination on Saturday for religious reasons should send a written request with their application to arrange for a special administration of the NCE on the Friday immediately preceding or the Monday immediately following the scheduled examination date.

OVERSEAS TESTING

Arrangements to test in overseas locations should be made with the NBCC examination department by using the Special Accommodations Request form in either the combination NCC/CCMHC or the single CCMHC application packet.

All requests for special accommodations are reviewed individually and are subject to NBCC approval. Your request must be made in writing at the time of application. Please use the Special Accommodations Request form in either the combination NCC/CCMHC or the single CCMHC application packet.

ORDER FORM FOR THE ECCP PREPARATION GUIDE

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please send me _____ copy/copies of the Preparation Guide for the ECCP at \$15.95 each.

Please ship to:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

PAYMENT METHOD

Enclosed is a check or money order- payable to NBCC- in the amount of \$_____
If paying by check or money order, it is important that separate checks are written for the preparation guide and credentialing application fee. **Please DO NOT combine payments.**

Please charge the credit card listed below in the amount of: \$_____

Card Type: VISA: MasterCard American Express

Name on card: _____

Card Acct. #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Verification Code Numbers (from Back of Card): _____

Cardholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Send your completed preparation guide order form to:

NBCC
P.O. Box 7387
Greensboro, North carolina 27417-0387