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CO 751 Professional Counseling Seminar

Asbury Theological Seminary Staff

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CO751/ PC751
PARISH/COUNSELING SENIOR
REFLECTION SEMINAR
One Hour Credit

Purpose: This seminar is designed as a senior reflection experience with the objective of providing those who are ready to graduate an opportunity to articulate and consolidate their learning.

The experience has two components:

1. The completion of an objective exam covering the core courses of the respective degree program. To prepare for this, students should review the core courses in their respective program. The exam is structured along the same lines of a professional licensing exam in counseling. The date(s) for completing this exam will be provided early in the semester
2. Completion of an interview with Area faculty. Students should be prepared to interview for a position they would like to acquire. Questions in the interview can cover any area of the student's training deemed relevant. The review of the core courses, suggested above should be good preparation for the interviews.

Seminar Format: This seminar will be a series of 40-45 minute interviews. Interviews usually begin at 9:00 am.

Each student will be interviewed by two faculty or one faculty and one graduate from the program, other students in their group will be observers. Following the formal interview, those observing will be asked to provide feedback to the person who was interviewed. This feedback can be in the form of questions, suggestion, affirmations, etc.

Seminar Requirements:

The following specifics are required of each student:

1. Choose a job situation for which you would like to receive an interview. Describe this job opportunity in a short paragraph. This description will help those who will interview you to represent that type of job and the situation where it might be found. Here is your chance to "dream" about the job you would like.
2. Prepare a personal resume'. This is to be prepared in a professional manner.
3. Prepare a cover letter to go with your resume' that is written "To Whom It May Concern," to be sent to your fictitious job setting. This is to be prepared in a professional manner, with correct letter style, and briefly stating your interest in the job you described elsewhere.
4. Prepare for this interview by reviewing your training, your strengths, your "growing edge," and your developing understanding of your counseling model and how you integrate theories and techniques with your personal experiences and faith journey. You will be expected to know theories, counseling process,

and other areas from your training and how they might be used in the setting that you have picked for this interview.

5. Each student will be assigned to write a letter of reference for another student. Include in your reference letter the kind of information that is pertinent to the person's job interest. If you do not know the person you are to write a reference letter for, you may need to talk with the person to get better acquainted. **Each individual is responsible for obtaining his/her letter of reference from the assigned reference writer. This letter should be included with your complete packet of materials.**

Letter of Reference Assignments:

Each individual is responsible for obtaining a letter of reference from the assigned writer and presenting it as part of the completed package of materials.

Students are also expected to conduct an informational interview with someone working in a position similar to what the student is considering as a career. The information from the interview should be presented in written form conforming to the following outline:

Interviewer: _____
(your name)

Date: _____

Work Setting: _____
(Where the interviewee works. Give brief description)

Position: _____
(Interviewee's position title)

Interview Candidate: (Should provide, name & qualifications), and descriptions that provide sufficient details to understand who the interviewee is).

Average Work Day: (Describe average work day, including responsibilities, functions, etc.)

Selection & Position: (Discuss why you chose the particular site and position with some attention given to how it relates to your career goals.)

Position Benefits & Costs: (Discuss what you see as the pros & cons of this position. What do you find to be particularly appealing? What are some down sides? What are the continuing education requirements, if any?)

Salary & Benefits: (What is the typical starting salary? what are the benefits? How does one receive a raise in this setting? Are they periodic as a matter of course or tied to merit & achievement?)

Position Advancement: (How does one advance in this setting?)

Professional & Financial Goals: (As a result of the interview and other considerations, reflect on your professional & financial goals.)

The completed document should be 2-3 pages in length.

CLOSURE EXPERIENCE

The dates for the closure experience have been set for ____ . All required assignments should be turned in to Dr. Headley by ____ . This date is firm.

There will be a 15-30 minute wrap-up for each group. This will be conducted in each group following the end of the interviews.

Schedule Format

1. Each 45 minute interview period will include 5 minutes for reviewing the interviewee's materials before they come to the interview. Forty minutes will be given to the actual interview.
2. Ten minutes will follow each 40 minute interview for feedback and discussion.
3. Five minute breaks are scheduled after each feedback discussion.