

# NCE

## The National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification® (NCE)

### General Information, Format, and Study Guides

The NCE is used for two purposes: national counselor certification and state counselor licensure.

Satisfactory performance on the National Counselor Examination (NCE®) is one of the criteria used by NBCC to identify professionals who may be eligible to become a National Certified Counselor (NCC). Many states such as Montana also use the NCE for state credentialing (LPC, LAPC, LPGC, etc).

### The NCE: General Information

The purpose of the NCE is to assess knowledge, skills, and abilities viewed as important for providing effective counseling services. The NCE is designed to be general in nature. It is intended to assess cognitive knowledge which should be known by all counselors regardless of their individual professional specialties.

### Content Areas & Work Behaviors

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Helping Relationships
- Group Work
- Career and Lifestyle Development
- Appraisal
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Professional Orientation & Ethics

In addition, the NCE is based on the following five work behaviors:

- Fundamentals of Counseling
- Assessment and Career Counseling Group Counseling
- Programmatic and Clinical Intervention
- Professional Practice Issues

### Examination Format

- The NCE is comprised of 200 multiple choice questions and is scheduled for a four-hour period beginning at 9:00 a.m. Responses are recorded on a separate machine-scorable answer sheet.
- A different edition of the NCE is compiled for each administration of the exam. Each form's questions are drawn from the NCE item pool which has undergone extensive review and field testing. The entire item pool, each form of the NCE and the answer sheet are copyrighted. Consequently, any distribution of the examination content or materials through any form of reproduction or oral or written communication is strictly prohibited. Disclosure of examination content is a violation of the NBCC Code of Ethics.

[Click here](#) to email NBCC's Examinations Department concerning Special Accommodations. All requests for special accommodations are reviewed individually and are subject to NBCC approval.

## Scoring Procedures

- Of the 200 items on the examination, only 160 items are scored to determine whether you meet or surpass the minimum criterion (passing) score for that form of the NCE.
- The MAXIMUM possible score on the NCE is 160.
- The remaining 40 items on the exam are being field tested to determine their appropriateness for future use.
- Since the 160 items to be scored are not identified in the exam booklet, you should respond with equal effort to all items.
- The minimum criterion (passing) score is derived from a modified Angoff procedure.
- The NCE is not scored on a "curve," therefore the candidate pool does not determine the passing score.

## Examination Results

The students in the HHD counseling program will share the results of the examination with the instructor who supervises the internship (HDCO 576) during the spring semester of their second year. The instructor will monitor the pass rates of the NBCC each year.