

ADS-100: LAW AND ETHICS

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

12/05/2025

AS Approval

12/11/2025

BOT Approval

12/18/2025

COCI Approval

02/19/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Counseling (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

ADS - Addiction Studies

Course Number

100

Department

Counseling

Division

Counseling (COUN)

Full Course Title

Law and Ethics

Short Title

Law and Ethics

CB03 TOP Code

2104.40 - *Alcohol and Controlled Substances

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

D - Possibly Occupational

Rationale

Added hyphen to link course.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

Introduces ethical and legal issues in counseling people struggling with addiction. Explores frameworks for addressing legal and ethical issues arising from engagement, assessment, and treatment of individuals, families, groups, and at-risk populations. Develops understanding of laws, code of ethics, and client rights. Examines the relationship between personal values and professional behavior.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Advisory Prerequisite(s)

Completion of HSRV-120 and HSRV-124 with a minimum grade of C.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Students will develop professional values informed by legal and ethical issues, reporting obligations and clients rights that are based on an understanding of work with individuals, groups, and families from diverse backgrounds that struggle with addiction.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Adhere to Federal, State, agency, and professional codes of ethics and laws.
2.	Describe issues of transference, countertransference and create a self-care to enhance self-awareness and performance.
3.	Explain the difference between the role of the professional counselor and that of a peer counselor or sponsor in addiction studies.
4.	Examine the impact of the client's culture as it pertains to legal and ethical issues.
5.	Explain mandatory reporting requirements including child abuse, elder abuse, danger to self, danger to others, and grave disabilities.
6.	Interpret and apply information from current counseling to the human services profession and addiction studies.
7.	Analyze ethical dilemmas that arise from work with clients.

Course Content

1. Ethics - Core to Professional Helping
 - a. The helping process – meeting the client
 - b. The role of the client in the process of change
 - c. The role of the helper in the process of change
 - d. Counselor Variables
2. Values
 - a. Competence – Beyond Knowledge and Skill
 - b. The Ethics of Therapeutic Choice
 - c. Professionalization, Professional Ethics, and Personal Responses
3. Ethical Standards: Guidelines for Helping Others
 - a. Formal Ethical Standards: The Evolution of a Profession
 - b. Across the Professions: A Review of Ethical Standards of Practice
 - c. Common Concerns and Shared Values Across the Professions
 - d. Beyond Knowing - A Call to BEING Ethical
4. Ethical Practice in an Increasingly Diverse World
 - a. Prejudice – Pervasive in and Throughout the Helping Profession
5. Ethical Decision Making
 - a. Codes of Ethics – Guides not Prescriptions
 - b. Ethical Decision Making: A Range of Models
 - c. Common Elements: An Integrated Approach to Ethical Decision Making
6. Applying Ethical Standards
 - a. Legal standards pertaining to alcohol and drugs.
 - i. Current legal sanctions; liabilities, auto accidents, bars, restaurants, liquor stores, traffic laws
 - ii. Laws governing employment and addiction
 - b. Legal and Regulatory Restrictions: federal confidentiality regulations; state regulations; potential hazards resulting from noncompliance with regulations: state and federal agencies.
 - c. Informed Consent
 - i. The Rationale for Informed Consent
 - ii. Informed Consent across the Profession
 - iii. Special Challenges to Informing for Consent
 - d. Confidentiality
 - i. Confidentiality: What and When Warranted
 - ii. Legal Decisions: Confidentiality and Privileged Communication
 - e. Boundaries and the Use of Power
 - i. Setting and Maintaining Professional Boundaries
 - ii. Professional Objectivity: Essential to Professional Boundaries
 - iii. Legal Decisions
 - f. Efficacy of Treatment
 - g. Practicing Within the Realm of Competence
 - h. Professional Development: Knowing the State of the Profession
 - i. The Standard of Care: Appropriate Treatment
 - j. Screening techniques
 - i. Communication theories and techniques
 - ii. Interviewing techniques

- iii. Considerations in assessing client needs, resources, strengths and limitations
- iv. Identification of appropriateness and eligibility
- k. Intervention and Referral
 - i. Information and referrals
 - 1. Detoxification
 - 2. Employee assistance programs
 - 3. Alternative treatment modalities
 - ii. Emphasis on the chronic disease model and recovery process
 - iii. Continuum of care issues
- l. Crisis Counseling Techniques and Theories
 - i. Suicide assessment
 - ii. Self-injuries assessment
 - iii. Homicide assessment
 - iv. 5150 process
- m. Recent Legal Decisions
- n. Community prevention and education
 - i. The concepts of prevention, community education and outreach
 - ii. Education and prevention models
 - iii. Effectiveness of prevention strategies and training methods; adult education techniques.
- o. Outreach
 - i. Assessing needs for training and technical assistance for outreach
 - ii. Businesses and clubs that can be used as identification and referral sources
- 7. Evaluation and Accountability
 - a. Monitoring and Evaluating Intervention Effects
 - b. Recent Legal Decisions
- 8. Ethical Challenges Working with Groups, Couples, and Families
 - a. Competency to Practice
 - b. Identifying the “Client”
 - c. Informed Consent
 - d. Confidentiality
 - e. Boundaries
 - f. Responsibility: Patient Rights
- 9. Competence and the Ethics of Self-Care
 - a. Competency: More than Knowledge and Skill
 - b. Burnout
 - c. Compassion Fatigue
 - d. The Ethical Challenge
 - e. Ethical Response

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Through case scenarios and role plays, practice essential helping skills.
Lecture	Lecture on law and ethics.
Discussion	Through group work and discussion, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the legal and ethical issues pertinent to addiction studies in California.
Critique	Through group work and discussion, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the legal and ethical issues pertinent to addiction studies in California.
Other	Distance Education (hybrid) option will allow for instructor and student flexibility in scheduling. Hybrid option will allow for both personal contact and incorporation of more online resources.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Through case scenarios and role plays, practice essential helping skills.
Directed Study	Chapter review questions

Discussion	Discussion on topics about law and ethics with issues related to addiction and professional development.
Group Work	Group work in class and group projects
Journal	Complete journals on personal values, countertransference, and reflection.
Lecture	Synchronous Lecture on a weekly basis

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Announcements/Bulletin Boards
- Discussion Boards
- E-mail Communication
- Telephone Conversations
- Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Chat Rooms
- Discussions
- Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Example 1- Midterm Exam Example 2 - Final Exam
Quizzes	Example 1: A chapter quiz will be given on the reading.
Simulation	Example 1 - Completion of role plays for informed consent. Example 2 - Ethical Dilemma
Essays/Papers	Example 1: A paper will be written on a local agency.
Class Participation	Participation in role plays, reviews,
Homework	Reading assignments, writing assignments including a paper, midterm &/or a final exam Example 1: A chapter quiz will be given on the reading.
Other	Journal - values, countertransference

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Students will be assigned reading from the textbook and from articles on the topics discussed.

Example 1: Students will review law and ethics content.

Example 2: Students will review ethical/legal codes of ethics.

Writing Assignments

Written assignments related to readings, research and in-class exercises.

Example 1: Students will complete a list of vignettes to critically discern different between legal and ethical issues.

Example 2: Students will review a current issue in addictions and explore the legal and ethical dilemmas, topics could include the legalization of marijuana, opioid crisis, etc. and complete a 5-7-page paper.

Example 3 - Student will write a step-by-step ethical dilemma.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

Individual presentations on current topics. Group presentation on a specific legal issue.

Example 1: Individual presentations on current topics.

Example 2: Group presentation on a specific legal issue related to addiction studies.

Example 3: Journals (300-word minimum) student will discuss effect of material they are reading.

Example 4: Discussion Board (300-word minimum)? students will receive a question that they will need to answer and respond to the posting of other students.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Jr. Remley, Theodore P., Barbara P. Herlihy

Title

Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Counseling

Publisher

Pearson Education, Inc.

Year

2019

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Parsons, R.D. & Dickinson, K.L.

Title

Ethical Practices in the Human Services

Publisher

Sage Publishing

Year

2017

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Jacob, Charles, Thomas, Ariane & Wildermuth, Diana

Title

A Practical Ethics Worktext for Professional Counselors: Applying Decision-Making Models to Case Examples 1st Edition

Edition/Version

1st Edition

Publisher

Springer Publishing Company

Year

2020

ISBN #

978-0826165336

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

Needs DEI Statement.

Course Codes (Admin Only)**CB00 State ID**

CCC000284289

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No