

Editors' Preface

Counseling Assessment and Evaluation: Fundamentals of Applied Practice, by Joshua C. Watson and Brandé Flamez, is a text that will demonstrate that the processes of assessment and evaluation are more than simply a good idea—they are truly a response to our professional codes and ethics and an essential tool guiding effective practice.

Throughout the pages to follow, you will come to understand that *Counseling Assessment and Evaluation* addresses more than the testing or gathering of information that occurs at the time of client intake. Assessment and evaluation when employed by the ethical counselor engages processes by which a counselor gains not only a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the client and his or her reasons for seeking counseling services, but also clarity about the strategies that provide the best opportunity for success and the data essential to the monitoring progress and goal achievement. When used as directed by its authors, *Counseling Assessment and Evaluation* is fundamental to applied practice.

Counseling Assessment and Evaluation: Fundamentals of Applied Practice is a text that is clear, cogent, and comprehensive. However, beyond the explication of the core concepts of counseling assessment and evaluation, the text, with its rich use of case illustrations and guided practice exercises, helps each reader personalize the material presented and begin to incorporate that information into the development of his or her own professional identity and skill set.

As is obvious, any one text, or any one learning experience, will not be sufficient for the successful formation of your professional identity and practice. Becoming and being a counselor will be a lifelong process—a process that we hope to facilitate through the presentation of this text along with the creation of our series: Counseling and Professional Identity.

Counseling and Professional Identity is a new, fresh, pedagogically sound series of texts targeting counselors in training. This series is not simply a compilation of isolated books matching that which is already in the market. Rather, each book, with its targeted knowledge and skills, will be presented as but a part of a larger whole. The focus and content of each text serves as a single lens through which a counselor can view his or her clients, engage in his or her practice, and articulate his or her own professional identity.

Counseling and Professional Identity is distinctive not just in that it is a “packaged” series of traditional text, but also in that it provides an integrated curriculum targeting the formation of the readers’ professional identity and efficient, ethical practice. Each book in the series is structured to facilitate the ongoing professional formation of the reader. The materials found in each text are organized to move the reader to higher levels of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor functioning, resulting in his or her assimilation of the materials

presented into both his or her professional identity and approach to professional practice. While each text targets a specific set of core competencies (cognates and skills), competencies which have aligned with those identified by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs as essential to the practice of counseling, each book in the series will emphasize each of the following:

- assimilation of concepts and constructs provided across the texts in the series, thus fostering the reader's ongoing development as a competent professional
- blending of contemporary theory with current research and empirical support
- focus on the development of procedural knowledge, with each text employing case illustrations and guided practice exercises to facilitate the reader's ability to translate the theory and research discussed into professional decision making and application
- emphasis on the need for and means of demonstrating accountability
- fostering of the reader's professional identity and with it the assimilation of the ethics and standards of practice guiding the counseling profession

We are proud to have served as co-editors of this series, feeling sure that each book in it will serve as a significant resource to you and your development as a professional counselor. Let your journey begin!

—Richard D. Parsons, PhD

—Naijian Zhang, PhD