

**Course Title : Ethics in Practice**

**Course Code : PSY- 827**

**Credit Hours : 2**

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**Course Description:**

1. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of ethical issues in counseling and psychotherapy. Grounded in both philosophical inquiry and professional codes of conduct, it prepares students to navigate complex dilemmas encountered in clinical, academic, supervisory, group, and community contexts. Students will develop ethical decision-making frameworks, increase awareness of personal values and cultural biases, and enhance their capacity for reflective and responsible practice. The course promotes a commitment to social justice, professional competence, and culturally attuned care, while integrating legal considerations and best-practice guidelines across a range of therapeutic roles and settings.

**Course Objectives:**

2. This course is designed to:

- Introduce core ethical principles, legal considerations, and professional standards in psychological practice.
- Develop students' capacity to recognize, analyze, and respond to ethical dilemmas using structured decision-making models.
- Promote self-awareness of personal values, biases, and emotional responses that influence ethical behavior.
- Prepare students for ethical challenges in diverse areas including supervision, group work, multicultural counseling, and community-based practice.
- Build competence in navigating confidentiality, boundaries, informed consent, and professional responsibilities.
- Foster an ethical mindset that integrates cultural sensitivity, social justice, and professional accountability.

**Learning Outcomes:**

3. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of ethical codes relevant to psychology and counseling professions.
- Apply systematic decision-making models to resolve ethical dilemmas in practice.
- Reflect critically on how therapist personality, values, and emotional needs impact ethical conduct.
- Identify and manage boundary issues, multiple relationships, and client dependence.
- Understand ethical issues in working with diverse populations, including culturally sensitive adaptations of practice.
- Evaluate ethical considerations in supervision, consultation, and training.
- Address confidentiality, record-keeping, and legal mandates (e.g., duty to warn, informed consent).
- Navigate ethical issues specific to couples, families, groups, and community settings.
- Demonstrate an ethical stance toward advocacy, social justice, and systemic change in community mental health.
- Uphold personal and professional wellbeing through reflective self-care and competence maintenance.

### **Course Content:**

1. Following contents will be delivered:
  - a) Foundations of Ethical Decision-Making in Counseling and Psychotherapy
  - b) The Therapist as a Person: Values, Power, and Professional Identity
  - c) Boundary Issues and Dual Relationships in Practice
  - d) Confidentiality: Ethical and Legal Issues
  - e) Managing Boundaries and Multiple Relationships
  - f) Ethical Practice in Supervision, Consultation, and Training
  - g) Practice-Specific Ethical Challenges: Schools, Communities, and Special Settings
  - h) Emerging Issues in Ethics: Technology, Teletherapy, and Specialized Fields

### **Suggested Readings:**

- a) Corey, G., Corey, M. S., & Callanan, P. (2014). *Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.
- b) American Psychological Association (2017). *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.
- c) Cornish, J. A. E., Schreier, B. A., Nadkarni, L. I., Metzger, L. H., & Rodolfa, E. R. (Eds.). (2010). *Handbook of Multicultural Counseling Competencies*. John Wiley & Sons.
- d) Herlihy, B., & Corey, G. (2014). *ACA Ethical Standards Casebook* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). American Counseling Association.
- e) Zur, O. (2007). *Boundaries in Psychotherapy: Ethical and Clinical Explorations*. American Psychological Association.