

Carson-Newman University
Graduate Studies in Counseling
Comprehensive Examination
Assessment System Data Point 4.1
2021-2022 Results

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Science in Counseling degree, students in each area of specialty are required to earn a passing score on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). The Comprehensive Exam is administered during the final semester of the student's training.

The Comprehensive Exam challenges students to apply the scope and breath of their training to a standardized test covering each of the core areas of the curriculum. In order to pass the exam, students must attain a minimum score of one standard deviation below the mean, based on normative data from a nationwide sample.

Each year GSC faculty analyze student performance on Comp Exams to identify program strengths and areas for improvement. During the 2021-2022 academic year, 23 students took the comprehensive examination. A summary of results follows:

- Fall 2021:
 - C-N students' total scores for the exam were .5 standard deviations above the mean.
 - As a group, C-N students scored above the mean in 7 of 8 subject areas. For the one exception (Career Development), students were a fraction of a standard deviation (.04) below the mean.
 - All students passed the exam.

- Spring 2022
 - C-N students' total scores for the exam were .16 standard deviations below the mean.
 - As a group, C-N students scored above the mean in 2 of the 8 subject areas (Professional Orientation & Ethics; Group Counseling). C-N students scored higher than .25 standard deviation below the mean in 6 of the 8 areas, and higher than 1 standard deviation below the mean in all 8 areas.
 - All students passed the exam.

The Carson-Newman GSC program adopted the CPCE as its comprehensive exam beginning in the Fall 2020 semester. Following the 2020-2021 academic year, the GSC faculty recognized that students consistently struggled to adapt to and prepare for the CPCE testing format. Beginning in Fall 2021, the GSC faculty prepared and provided students with an orientation to the CPCE, introducing the format, discussing effective preparation strategies, and recommending study resources. Students' scores improved significantly from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022. Students also reported feeling less anxious and more prepared through the exam experience.