COURSE TITLE: Counseling Children and Adolescents

COURSE NUMBER: MCC 8010

I. RATIONALE:

Working with children and adolescents requires a specific skill-set and knowledge base that differs from working with adults.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

As part of the learning entailed in this course, students will be expected to:

GOAL A: Understand the progressive developmental stages and tasks of childhood and adolescence.

Learning Outcomes:

A-1 Students will demonstrate knowledge of the general theories of childhood development
A-2 Students will demonstrate competency in identifying “normal” developmental problems throughout childhood and adolescence

GOAL B: Understand the contextual and systemic dynamics related to child and adolescent functioning and the impact on intervention.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1. Demonstrate the ability to identify contextual dynamics in assessing and intervening with children and adolescents
B-2. Demonstrate competency in assessing the interaction of various contextual and systemic dynamics when developing interventions with children and adolescents
B-3. Demonstrate competency in integrating contextual information with theoretical models in developing intervention plans.
B-4. Develop hypotheses regarding contextual issues, their bearing on the presenting problem, and the influence of contextual factors on client systems.
B-5. Develop the skills necessary to conduct effective consultation with parents, teachers and other pertinent extension of the child’s environment.

GOAL C: Develop knowledge and skills related to effective counseling intervention with children and adolescents.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1. Demonstrate knowledge of the counseling theory as it relates to child and adolescent issues including individual counseling, play therapy, and family counseling.

C-2. Demonstrate an understanding of the use of metaphor as an effective intervention with children and adolescents.

C-3. Demonstrate knowledge of clinical diagnoses that are specific to children and adolescents and appropriate assessment and intervention for those diagnoses.

C-4. Evaluate case for appropriateness for treatment within the professional scope of practice and competence, and recognize issues that might suggest referral for specialized evaluation, assessment or care.

C-5. Demonstrate a familiarity with the use and effect of psychotropic medications related to younger persons.

C-6. Understand the risks and benefits of individual, family and group therapy.

GOAL D: Become familiar with ethical and legal issues that relate specifically to the practice of counseling children and adolescents.

D-1: Demonstrate an understanding of the legal and ethical issues specific to this population and their impact on the counseling process with children and adolescents, specifically reporting issues and procedures.