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***A Policy Statement from the Faculty and Staff of the Department of Counseling and Human Services, Panuska College of Professional Studies, University of Scranton.***

Entry into the profession of counseling is more than initiating a new career path or beginning a new job. It is similar to starting a lifelong journey. As in many other fields of endeavor, there is an intensive and rigorous training program to complete, which has academic and clinical requirements attached. However, because counseling is both a profession that deals with human living and a way of living in its own right, there are professional and personal challenges that students will encounter.

Meeting these challenges and learning to grow from them is an integral part of succeeding in the counseling profession. As counselor educators, the faculty and staff of the Department of Counseling and Human Services are committed to facilitating the professional development and personal growth of students, and to the education, supervision and mentoring of students in all aspects of their professional counseling journey.

The education of professional counselors demands evaluation of one's values, beliefs, attitudes and behavior patterns. In many ways the deepest challenge students will encounter is the combined task of self-assessment, self-correction and self-direction in collaboration with others and across many areas of life: academic, clinical,

	<p>Wellness is a way of life oriented toward optimal health and well-being in which body, mind and spirit are integrated by the individual to live life more fully. It is particularly important as it impacts professional and clinical practice. "Commitment" includes:</p> <p>An understanding of, and decision to pursue, wellness as a lifestyle over the life span. Willingness to assess issues of wellness in one's lifestyle and life-environments; an ongoing choice to become the best one can be spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, socially, and vocationally.</p>

Demonstrated ability to self-assess, self-correct, and self-direct; to identify needs and sources of learning; to continually seek new knowledge and understanding.

Demonstrated academic- and life-management skills: For example, ability to prioritize and manage a variety of

An understanding of one's motivation for choosing the counseling profession. The ability to critically assess one's own values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors as they

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In both professional performance and personal development, the ability to recognize and define problems, analyze data from varied sources, develop and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes. The ability to seek out resources for help, support, and insight.

The following procedures are in place for students needing further progress:

Students receive feedback in an advising meeting with their mentor. In consultation with the mentor, the student will write a plan that addresses “growing edges” in that student’s development. Assuming that this plan is adhered to, the student’s performance improves to a satisfactory level.

Students may be

