

**University of North Florida Counseling Center policy
on former clients as trainees and trainees as clients**

Currently enrolled graduate student in the Mental Health Counseling (MHC) Program are eligible for counseling services at the UNF counseling center. The counseling center offers brief counseling in addition to group therapy, medication services, and nutrition services. However, if a graduate student in the MHC program wishes to be seen for counseling at the UNF Counseling Center, they will not be eligible for subsequent training (i.e., practicum/internship) at the Center. There are several reasons for this:

- All staff are considered a part of the training program and participate in various aspects of a trainee's experience. Therefore, dual role conflicts become more prevalent.
- The trainee would have limited choices for supervisors due to dual role conflicts.
- Balancing the role of being a client and a counselor within the same treatment setting may create undue distress for the trainee.
- In the role of being both a trainee and a client, an increased sense of being evaluated may be perceived.

If you think you might at some time apply for a training placement at the Counseling Center, alternative counseling services are available.

- You are invited to contact Dr. Deborah Baker, Clinical Director, at 904-620-2602 to schedule a consultation to discuss your counseling and training options.

If you do not anticipate seeking a training placement at the Counseling Center and wish to receive services at the Center, please be informed that:

- MHC graduate students may currently be trainees at the center but they do not have access to your counseling records
- You will not be assigned to a clinician who is also a MHC graduate student
- Your treatment records will be handled according to the Center's procedures for sensitive files (e.g., locked in a separate cabinet and restricted electronic access).

For the reasons listed above, current and past trainees are not eligible to receive counseling services while they are trainees at the center or afterwards.