

Student FAQs on CPCE

Commonly used abbreviations in this document

- CCE – Center for Credentialing and Education
- CPCE – Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (commonly referred to as comps)
- NCE – National Counselor Exam

When do I take Comps (aka CPCE): You should take the CPCE the semester before your anticipated graduation (i.e., during the semester you are taking practicum). For example, if you are graduating in spring/summer, it is **highly, highly encouraged** that you take the CPCE in the fall. Should you fail it in the spring it will delay your graduation. Taking comps the semester before your anticipated graduation date will allow you an opportunity to take it again should you need to. Most often NCCU students take the CPCE the semester they are taking Practicum. If you are taking Practicum in the summer you will want to test during your pre-practicum semester.

Students *typically* take this exam either:

- ☐ The semester they are enrolled in Practicum (if they are to complete Internship in one semester), the semester they are in pre-practicum if practicum will be taken in the summer or
- ☐ The first semester of their internship (if completing Internship in two semesters). Same is true if you are a dual degree student - you should take the CPCE before entering your second degree internship to minimize loss of knowledge.

Where do I take comps?

The Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE) is offering 3 locations to take the CPCE.

1. [At NCCU](#) (\$75 fee)
2. At your home (\$150 fee); you must have a STRONG wifi connection
3. At Pearson Vue Site closer to your home (\$150 fee)

What dates are comps given?

At NCCU (\$75 fee):

- The CPCE will be given during a 2-week window in September and March of each academic year. We do not offer a summer testing window.
- **At home or Pearson Vue Site closer OR at home (\$150 fee):**

- For students **that are not local to Durham/NCCU** you may elect to take the CPCE closer to home for **an additional fee**. We ask that you still take the exam during the month of our testing window, but you may take it anytime during the month of September or March. Delaying the exam may delay your graduation, especially if you have waited to test during your 2nd 300-hour internship, and testing at the end of the month will delay results. Please make every effort to test by the 20th of the month if you are testing off campus.

How will I get my results?

NCCU's Counseling Testing Director receives your scores from CCE in the middle to end of the month after you test. If you test in September, the testing director receives your score some time mid-to-late October. If you test in March, the testing director receives your score some time mid-to-late April. It is essential that you test during the testing month we assign. If you don't and your results come after graduation forms are submitted you will not graduate as expected.

Exam completed and raw scores delivered to Pearson Portal for students within 24 hours and your score results arrive at NCCU 30 days later.

Once results have arrived the Counseling Testing Director will email your results and your pass/fail status. In general a passing score falls near 77. We norm reference for each administration and using the national mean distributed by the Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE) we go out 1 SD (standard deviation) from the national mean to determine our cut score.

Why can't I test outside of the 2-week testing window? The CCE asks for each universities' testing window. We are limited to a 2-week window for testing. CCE will score and share scores using a password protected application with each testing coordinator for distribution to students.

I can see I am authorized to test for 6-months. Why can't I test when I feel ready?

This is a common question with no easy answer. CCE authorizes students for as much as 6 months and this may be a result of their partnership with Pearson who coordinates and distributes the exam. Six months would be nice to use if we did not have university deadlines for candidacy and graduation to meet. The NCCU counseling faculty expect you to test within our testing window to receive your scores in a timely manner. If you don't test within our testing window the following may occur:

- Delay graduation
- Delay receipt of scores
- Make the mistake of signing up, creating another Candidate ID (by mistake) which will complicate any future testing plans you have for the CPCE
- The testing coordinator does not look for scores outside of the anticipated window of receipt. For example, if you test in the March testing window the testing coordinator knows to look for scores in the middle of the following month (i.e., April). If you test

outside of the testing window your scores will not be reviewed in a timely manner or communicated to you.

- Meeting deadlines, being equitable in the application of deadlines, and following directions demonstrates counselor dispositions of justice and fidelity. We ask you to join us in meeting deadlines and allowing this process to proceed with these dispositions in mind.

I need a little more time to study?

Having read the Student Handbook (see

<http://www.nccucounseling.com/student2/index.php/advising/student-handbooks>) you have known about this since the beginning of your program. If you need more time to study, please delay your test attempt by one semester. Keep in mind, however, that this may delay your graduation.

Does NCCU provide test prep resources?

Yes. [Follow this link](#) for items you may download, check out of the NCCU library, or purchase..

Can students have testing accommodations for the CPCE?

Yes, there is a separate registration process available to you to request testing accommodations. To learn more about NBCC and their accommodations policy [visit this link](#).

How do you decide on the testing window?

NCCU has historically used September and February/March as our testing windows. This is because our candidacy and graduation forms are due in November and April. Using these months allows us to meet and beat university deadlines. It is also a timeframe that allows for faculty to communicate with advisees in a timely manner regarding their graduation progression and to develop a plan for passing the CPCE.

What is the rationale for taking it during practicum?

A student who fails to pass the CPCE may, after a period of one semester, may apply for and secure reexamination. Should a second failure occur, a third examination is possible upon recommendation of the program coordinator and a favorable vote from the Graduate Council.

We offer three opportunities to take and pass the CPCE and as needed an alternate comprehensive exam produced by NCCU counselor education faculty. Using the practicum semester allows us the time needed to remediate and retest.

Can I wait and take it during internship?

Yes, you can. We do not recommend this because a failing grade may delay graduation, especially if you are in your final semester of internship leading to graduation at the end of that term.

PLEASE NOTE: If you register during your practicum semester and don't test please DO NOT re-register for the CPCE during your internship semester. The system will create a second ID for you and this makes it very hard to figure out how to register you for the CPCE because your identities have to be merged and this process takes time.

What happens if I fail?

A student who fails to pass the CPCE may, after a period of one semester, apply for and secure reexamination. Should a second failure occur, a third examination is possible upon recommendation of the program coordinator and a favorable vote from the Graduate Council. If the student's request to take the comprehensive examination is denied, or in the event of a third failure, the student will be dismissed from the program. We offer three opportunities to take and pass the CPCE and as needed an alternate comps produced by NCCU counselor education faculty. Using the practicum semester allows us the time needed to remediate and retest.

How did you select the CPCE?

Because CPCE partners with NBCC and Pearson to produce the CCE we have elected to use the CPCE because its pool of questions come from the NCE pool of questions for the NCE.

CPCE hierarchy (top to bottom)

Pearson and its partnering testing sites
NBCC
CCE
CCE CPCE contact director

The NCCU Counseling Testing Director works hard to make this process as easy as possible, but it is a multi-layered process that requires respect for the process. We have developed and provided a number of places to find information on the CPCE in order to allow the process to run smoothly for you.