



### **Comprehensive Exam**

The Comprehensive Exam is one of three gatekeeping processes (along with Candidacy and Portfolio) by which the DOGC faculty assesses student readiness to graduate from the CMHC program. The Comprehensive Exam utilizes the standardized Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE), administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors. Students must make arrangements to take the CPCE through an approved testing site. Students should keep in mind the timing required for registration, completing the exam, and having scores sent to Grace College. CPCE scores must be received at least 30 days prior to the expected graduation date. Students will be required to pay for the test through the approved testing site. The Comprehensive Exam tests the student's proficiency in the following eight major areas: Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice, Social and Cultural Diversity, Human Growth and Development; Career Development, Counseling and Helping Relationships; Social and Cultural Foundations; Group Counseling and Group Work; Assessment and Testing, and Research and Program Evaluation. The CPCE is a "Pass/Fail" exam. The Department of Graduate Counseling, using the CPCE national norms, determines the minimum passing score. Students who earn the minimum passing score or higher are eligible to graduate from the CMHC program. Students who score below the minimum passing score must re-take the CPCE and receive a passing score in order to graduate. If a student has not achieved a passing score after taking the CPCE three times but has shown competency in all areas covered by the exam, the student should meet with their advisor and the Department Chair to assess alternative methods of meeting the comprehensive exam requirement.