**Dispositions**

Dispositions have been defined by Spurgeon, et al. (2012) as the core values, attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs needed to become a competent counselor. Essentially, these authors are positing that it takes more than knowledge and skills to become an effective counselor. The Counselor Education faculty agree with the importance of dispositions. Accordingly, the faculty endorse and promote the dispositions listed below. Please note the list is exemplary not comprehensive. Further, in instances where students do not practice and subscribe to the dispositions, the faculty may recommend to the Texas Tech University Graduate School that the student be dismissed from the Counselor Education program.

Examples of Dispositions include:

* Respect for human dignity, human rights, and social justice;
* Adherence to Multicultural Acceptance and Advocacy practice;
* Display of emotional stability inside/outside of Texas Tech University;
* Display of good professional behaviors inside/outside of Texas Tech University (e.g., in the classroom, at conferences);
* Display of strong personal characteristics including but not limited to commitment, dependability, flexibility, honesty, integrity, openness to self and others, respect, tolerance for ambiguity, trustworthiness, and the ability to shift from sympathy to empathy;
* Practices good boundaries with others (e.g., at TTU, at meetings, at professional conferences);
* Exhibits a strong understanding about and implementation of ethical codes, ethical practices, and ethical decision-making;
* Understands legal issues and laws;
* Exhibits self-awareness;
* Exhibits critical thinking skills;
* Exhibits academic honesty.

**NOTE:** Any documented use of illegal drugs, excessive drinking to the point of danger to self and others, or any violation of the Texas Tech Student Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action which may include recommendation to the Texas Tech Graduate School for dismissal from the program.

Students must understand that dispositions are an integral part of the student’s training in both the MED and PhD programs. The Counselor Education faculty will endorse, enforce, and sanction the dispositions.

Source: Spurgeon, S. L., Gibbons, M. M., & Cochran, J. (2012). Creating personal dispositions for the counseling program. *Counseling and Values, 57*, 96-107.