

# Oral Defense Announcement

## University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree  
Doctor of Philosophy in Education with an emphasis in Counseling

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M.A. in Counseling, May 2012, Covenant Theological Seminary  
B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies, May 2007, Auburn University

### Developing Expertise and Multiculturally Informed Supervision Practices

Date: July 9, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Place: Remote

#### **Abstract**

The following research studies explore the lived experience of master's level supervisors practicing in the field. According to the American Counseling Association (Media Kit, 2023), 62% of their membership is made up of master's level clinicians, with 18.92% holding a doctorate and another 5.07% enrolled in a doctoral program. The membership is largely skewed toward master's level professionals. Only 7.44% of ACA members report working in a counselor education setting (Media Kit, 2023). However, most research regarding supervision is based on supervisors practicing in an academic setting (Cook et al., 2018; Jones et al., 2019; Kemer et al., 2014; Kemer et al., 2017; Kemer, 2020). Supervision is a relationship which is evaluative and hierarchical, but also one in which the supervisor is a consultant and model (Bernard and Goodyear, 2019). Supervision is required for students who are learning to be counselors, but also counselors who are post-master's and working toward licensure. The goal of these studies is to understand how master's level supervisors develop their expertise as supervisors and how they broach and address multicultural issues and intersectionality in the supervision relationship. These studies are important because they highlight how supervision skills are developed throughout counselors' careers when finding quality training in supervision is often more challenging. These studies can lead to a better understanding of supervision skill development so that changes can be made to teaching and training expectations for supervisors to be better equipped to support new counselors. This research may also support new counselors in understanding what skills to look for when seeking a licensure supervisor. Master's students and new counselors may not know what questions to ask or what skills supervisors should have before entering into a supervision relationship.

#### **Defense of Dissertation Committee**

Phil Waalkes, Ph.D., Committee Chair  
Mary Edwin, Ph.D.  
Emily Oliveira, Ph.D.  
Bradley McKibben, Ph.D., External Committee Member