

NWACC's Counseling & Wellness Center for Early College Enrollment Students (ECE) Intake Process

Referral Process for ECE Students:

1. Students can email counseling@nwacc.edu or call 479-619-4128 to request intake paperwork to be sent to them via email. A licensed counselor from the student's high school may also refer the student by emailing or calling on the student's behalf.
2. Once NWACC Counseling & Wellness receives the student's intake paperwork with preferred days and times for counseling, the Counseling & Wellness Administrative Assistant will schedule their first session with a therapist. The intake paperwork must have a parent or legal guardian's signature and a copy of a parent or legal guardian's driver's license to consent to treatment prior to their first session. This consent is in accordance with Arkansas Code § 20-9-602.

Confidentiality with ECE Students:

Counselors who work with adolescents often have the difficult task of protecting their client's right to privacy while also respecting the parent's or guardian's right to information. Therapy is most effective when a trusting relationship exists between the counselor and their client. Privacy is particularly important in establishing that trust, especially with older adolescents who are beginning to develop their independence. To ensure our client's privacy, we ask that parents refrain from requesting detailed information regarding what was shared in session unless the adolescent client provides written consent. Instead, general themes, ideas, and recommendations may be provided.

As outlined in the Informed Consent portion of the intake document, there are some exceptions to the confidentiality we try to assure our clients. These include:

- (1) if a licensed mental health professional from NWACC Counseling & Wellness believes the adolescent is likely to seriously harm themselves or act on suicidal ideation
- (2) if a licensed mental health professional from NWACC Counseling & Wellness believes the adolescent is likely to harm another person
- (3) if a licensed mental health professional from NWACC Counseling & Wellness has cause to believe that the adolescent, another minor, an elderly person, or a person with a disability may be abused, neglected, or subjected to financial exploitation
- (4) if records are requested by a valid subpoena or court order