Essay questions:

1. The American Counseling Association defines the profession of counseling as: *a professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families, and groups to accomplish mental health, wellness, education, and career goals.* In an effort to train effective professionals capable of effective engagement in such a wide range of tasks, the Department of Education and Counseling at Villanova University is committed to facilitating both the professional development and personal growth of our students.

To that end, we have developed a professional performance review process for students in the program, whereby students are assessed according to specific attributes, characteristics, and behaviors that researchers and scholars have identified as necessary for effective counseling.

Please review these characteristics found on the Effective Counselor Qualities page. Then, in 300 words or less, identify and discuss the following: (a) one attribute listed in the document that you believe is a strength for you, and (b) one attribute that you believe is an area of growth for you.

2. Counseling professionals must regularly make decisions regarding complex ethical dilemmas involving multiple perspectives and no one clear ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ solution. In 400 words or less:

(a) describe an ethical dilemma you have encountered in your personal or professional life;
(b) state how it was resolved, and why you chose to resolve it in that manner;
(c) indicate what the most challenging part was, regarding this dilemma.