

# Counselor Educators' Teaching Mentorship Styles: A Q Methodology Study



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Mentoring is an important practice to prepare doctoral students for future graduate teaching, yet little is known about the teaching mentorship styles used by counselor educators. This study identifies the teaching mentorship styles of counselor educators with at least one year of experience as teaching mentors (N = 25). Q methodology was used to obtain subjective understandings of how counselor educators mentor. Our results suggest three styles labeled as Supervisor, Facilitator, and Evaluator. Specifically, these styles reflect counselor educators' distinct viewpoints on how to mentor doctoral students in teaching within counselor education doctoral programs. Implications and limitations for counselor educators seeking to transfer aspects of the identified mentorship styles to their own practice are presented, and suggestions for future research are discussed.

**Keywords:** teaching mentorship, counselor education, Q methodology, doctoral students, graduate teaching

Counselor educators mentor doctoral students in many aspects of the counseling profession, including preparation for future faculty roles (Borders et al., 2011; Briggs & Pehrsson, 2008; S.F. Hall & Hulse, 2010; Lazovsky & Shimoni, 2007; Protivnak & Foss, 2009). Counselor education doctoral students (CEDS) credit faculty mentor relationships in general, and teaching mentorships in particular, as strengthening their professional identities (Limberg et al., 2013). For example, co-teaching, a common form of teaching mentorship, includes relationships that allow CEDS to have instructive pedagogical conversations (Casto, Caldwell, & Salazar, 2005) and learn teaching skills (Baltrinic, Jencius, & McGlothlin, 2016).

Support for teaching mentorships is present in the higher education literature. Doctoral students across disciplines reported the helpfulness of regular mentoring (Austin, 2002) and careful guidance in teaching from faculty members (Jepsen, Varhegyi, & Edwards, 2012). Doctoral students attributed mentoring in teaching as important for increasing self-confidence and comfort with teaching as future faculty members (Utecht & Tullous, 2009). In counselor education, the specific benefits attributed to teaching mentorships included greater confidence in CEDS' ability to find employment as faculty members (Warnke, Bethany, & Hedstrom, 1999) and greater confidence in CEDS' teaching ability (S. F. Hall & Hulse, 2010). Doctoral students given teaching opportunities without mentoring risk developing poor attitudes and skill sets, instead of having critical experiences to help them become successful university teachers (Silverman, 2003). Overall, the benefits of teaching mentorships are important given that (a) teaching is a primary component of the faculty job (Davis, Levitt, McGlothlin, & Hill, 2006) and (b) new counselor educators need to sufficiently plan and implement quality teaching (Magnuson, Norem, & Lonneman-Doroff, 2009). Counselor education scholars agree on the importance of mentorship for socializing doctoral students for teaching roles (Baltrinic et al., 2016; Orr, Hall, & Hulse-Killacky, 2008), yet little research is available describing specific styles and approaches to teaching mentorship (S. F. Hall &

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Hulse, 2010). This gap in the literature is concerning given that new counselor educators reported mentoring and feedback on their teaching by senior faculty members was helpful in enhancing their pedagogical skills (Magnuson, Shaw, Tubin, & Norem, 2004).

### **Type and Style of Teaching Mentorship**

In contrast to discrete faculty–student interactions or training episodes (Black, Suarez, & Medina, 2004), mentor relationships may occur over months and years. Kram (1985) has characterized these relationships as career (teaching skills) and psychosocial (mentor–mentee relationship) types. Career mentoring refers to the act of fostering skills development and sharing field-related content to mentees, and psychosocial mentoring pertains more to the interpersonal and relational aspects of entering a field (e.g., emotional support and working through self-doubt; Curtin, Malley, & Stewart, 2016). Both career and psychosocial mentoring types, or some combination, are used by academic faculty mentors (Curtin et al., 2016). But it is uncertain if these, or any other specific mentoring types, are used for teaching mentorships in counselor education. Teaching mentorships of all types allow faculty members to be flexible, emphasize multiple aspects of being a teacher, and allow for the inclusion of multiple mentors (Borders et al., 2011).

Teaching mentorships transpire through a variety of formal (more structured and planned) and informal (less structured and spontaneous) mentorship styles (Borders et al., 2012). For example, a CEDS may experience teaching mentorship as part of a structured pedagogy course (formal), or have an informal conversation with their faculty advisor about teaching experiences spontaneously during an advising session. Given the complexities and importance of mentor relationships in counselor training, little is known about either formal or informal styles. Thus, it is hardly surprising uncertainty exists regarding counselor educators' preferred ways of mentoring in general (Borders et al., 2012) and mentoring in teaching in particular (S. F. Hall & Hulse, 2010).

We found no evidence in the counselor education literature describing common styles of teaching mentorship used by counselor educators. This is concerning given that faculty members tend to mentor in the manner that they were mentored (L. A. Hall & Burns, 2009), and that CEDS' mentorship experiences are influential in shaping their careers as future counselor educators (Borders et al., 2011). Our purpose was to learn more about how counselor educators understand and use their own teaching mentorship styles, thus requiring that we measure aspects of sample members' subjective understanding of this phenomenon. Therefore, we set out to answer the following research question: What are counselor educators' preferred styles of engaging in teaching mentorships with CEDS?

## **Method**

Because Q methodology objectively analyzes subjective phenomena, such as people's preferences and opinions on a topic (Stephenson, 1935), it was selected for this study to reveal the structure of counselor educators' perspectives (i.e., factors) on the teaching mentorship styles used for preparing CEDS to teach. Q methodology embodies the relative strengths of quantitative and qualitative methodologies by drawing on the depth and richness of qualitative data and the objective rigor of factor analysis to analyze data (Shemmings, 2006).

### **Participants**

The participants (N = 25) eligible for this study: (a) were currently employed as a full-time faculty member in a counselor education doctoral program and (b) had accrued at least one year of experience mentoring CEDS in graduate teaching as a counselor educator. Twenty-five is a sufficient

number given that Q methodology simply seeks to establish, understand, and compare individuals' self-referent views expressed through the Q sort process (Brown, 1980). Participants were both conveniently sampled ( $n = 10$ ) from counselor educators attending a workshop on Q methodology and purposefully sampled ( $n = 15$ ) through recruitment emails sent to faculty members at several prominent counselor education doctoral programs in the Eastern ( $n = 7$ ), Midwestern ( $n = 10$ ), and Southern ( $n = 8$ ) regions of the United States. Data were collected from participants by mailing packets that contained an informed consent, basic demographic questionnaire, Q sort, post-Q sort questionnaire, and a postage-prepaid return envelope. (Additional participant demographics are shown in Table 1). Note, we abstained from collecting certain demographic data (e.g., race, ethnicity, university type) from participants in response to their stated concerns about anonymity during data collection. Also, participants in this study were those that completed Q sorts ( $N = 25$ ) versus those ( $N = 54$ ) counselor educators used to generate the concourse described below.

**Table 1**

*Demographics of Participants (N = 25)*

Age	n (%)	Rank	n (%)
25–30	1 (4%)	Full Professor	5 (20%)
31–40	7 (28%)	Associate Professor	8 (32%)
41–50	5 (20%)	Assistant Professor	12 (48%)
51–60	9 (36%)		
61–65+	3 (12%)		

  

Gender	n (%)	Tenure Status	n (%)
Female	13 (52%)	Tenured	13 (52%)
Male	12 (48%)	Untenured	12 (48%)

  

Years of Teaching Mentorship Experience	n (%)
1–5	9 (36%)
6–10	3 (12%)
11–15	6 (24%)
16–20	4 (16%)

**Concourse Generation and Selecting Items for the Q Sample**

Q methodology studies begin with creating a concourse, or a collection of thoughts or sentiments about a topic (Stephenson, 1978), which serves as the source material for selecting items for the Q sample. To generate the concourse for this study, 54 counselor educators, each with a minimum of one year of experience mentoring doctoral students in graduate teaching, were solicited on a counseling listserv (see Table 2). Counselor educators each provided 5–10 opinion statements on teacher mentorship approaches for working with CEDS in response to one open-ended question: What are your preferred approaches to mentoring CEDS in teaching? This process resulted in 432 opinion statements. However, this was too many statements for participants to rank order during the Q sort process. Accordingly, a 2 x 2 factorial design based on Kram's (1985) career and psychosocial mentorship types and Borders et al.'s (2012) formal and informal mentoring styles

was used as a theoretical guide to obtain a reduced yet representative subset (sample) of statements from the concourse (for additional information on Q sample construction, see Paige & Morin, 2016).

**Table 2**

*Demographics of Counselor Educators Providing Opinion Statements for Concourse (N = 54)*

Age	n (%)	Racial Identity	n (%)
25–30	0 (0%)	African American	4 (7%)
31–35	8 (15%)	Native American/Indigenous	1 (2%)
36–40	13 (24%)	Caucasian	38 (70%)
41–45	7 (13%)	Hispanic/Latino(a)/Chicano(a)	5 (9%)
46–50	4 (7%)	Multiracial	3 (6%)
51–55	7 (13%)	Biracial	3 (6%)
56–60	7 (13%)		
61–65	4 (7%)		
66–70	3 (6%)		
71–75+	1 (2%)		

  

Gender	n (%)	Primary Professional Identity	n (%)
Female	33 (61%)	Counselor Educator	51 (94%)
Male	19 (35%)	School Counselor Educator	3 (6%)
Transgender	1 (2%)		
Gender Fluid	1 (2%)		

  

Sexual Identity	n (%)	Academic Rank	n (%)
Lesbian	3 (6%)	Professor	9 (17%)
Gay	4 (7%)	Associate Professor	18 (33%)
Bisexual	4 (7%)	Assistant Professor	27 (50%)
Heterosexual	43 (80%)		

First, the lead author organized the 432 statements into two broad categories: informal and formal mentoring styles (Borders et al., 2012). Duplicate, fragmented, and unclear statements were identified and eliminated in this step. Then, the remaining 96 statements (i.e., 48 statements in the informal and formal categories, respectively) were each cross-referenced with two mentoring types (i.e., psychosocial and career; Kram, 1985). Similar to the first step, the lead author reviewed the content of each statement and eliminated any statements containing duplicate, fragmented, or unclear language, resulting in 52 statements across four domains: 13 statements representing informal and career, 13 statements representing informal and psychosocial, 13 statements representing formal and career, and 13 statements representing formal and psychosocial. Finally, the first author eliminated four and reworded two of the 52 statements after they were reviewed by the second, third, and fourth authors, resulting in a final sample of 48 statements (12 statements per domain). This final group of statements is called the Q sample, which in this case is a collection of statements that represent counselor educators' perspectives on how to mentor CEDS in teaching. The 48-item Q sample constructed by the first author was reviewed by the second, third, and fourth authors to ensure that each item was unique and did not overlap with other statements, and was

applicable to the study. The final Q sample was given to participants for rank ordering during the Q sort process.

### Q Sort Process

After Institutional Review Board approval was obtained, 25 participants completed the Q sort process. During the Q sort process, participants were prompted to reflect on their personal experiences of mentoring teaching to CEDS and then asked to rank order the 48 items in the Q sample on a forced-choice frequency distribution, shown in Table 3. Participants indicated a conscribed number of items with which they most agreed (+4) to items with which they least agreed (-4) along the distribution. Items placed in the middle of the rank order indicated statements about which participants were neutral or ambivalent. After finishing the rank ordering of items, participants were asked to provide brief post-Q sort written responses for the top two or three statements with which they most and least agreed, which were incorporated into the factor interpretations found in the results section below.

**Table 3**

#### *Q Sort Forced-Choice Frequency Distribution*

Ranking Value	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Number of Items	3	4	6	7	8	7	6	4	3

### Data Analysis

Twenty-five completed Q sorts were entered into the PQMethod software program V. 2.35 (Schmolck & Atkinson, 2012). The PQMethod software creates a by-person correlation matrix (i.e., the “intercorrelation of each Q sort with every other Q sort”) used to facilitate factor analysis and subsequent factor rotation (Watts & Stenner, 2012, p. 97). The purpose of factor analysis in Q methodology is to group small numbers of participants with similar views into factors in the form of Q sorts (Brown, 1980). Factor analysis helps researchers rigorously reveal subjective patterns that could be overlooked via qualitative analysis. A 3-factor solution was selected to provide the highest number of significant factor loadings associated with each factor (Watts & Stenner, 2012). Factors were then rotated using varimax criteria with hand rotation adjustments in order to best reveal groupings of individuals with similar Q sorts. The factor rotations increased the total number of significant factor loadings from 17 to 20 of 25 participants, shown in Table 4.

We approached analyzing and interpreting each factor in the context of all other factors to provide a holistic factor interpretation, versus favoring specific items (i.e., factor scores, +4 or -4) over others within a particular factor (Watts & Stenner, 2012). To do so, a worksheet was created from the factor array (see Table 5) for each individual factor containing the highest and lowest ranked items within the factor and those items ranked lower within the factor compared to other factors. Second, items in the worksheets were compared to participants’ demographic and qualitative responses associated with that factor in order to add depth and detail before the final step. Finally, the finished worksheets were used for constructing the factor interpretation narratives, which are written as a story containing the viewpoint of the factor as a whole.

Table 4

*Rotated Factor Loadings for Supervisor (1), Facilitator (2), and Evaluator (3)*

Q Sort	Factor 1 <i>Supervisor</i>	Factor 2 <i>Facilitator</i>	Factor 3 <i>Evaluator</i>
1	.05	<b>.74</b>	.07
2	.47	.46	.30
3	.13	<b>.60</b>	.24
4	.02	-.13	<b>.76</b>
5	<b>.51</b>	.26	-.23
6	<b>.60</b>	.25	-.16
7	.18	<b>.48</b>	.03
8	<b>.55</b>	.37	.24
9	<b>.54</b>	.17	.13
10	<b>.70</b>	.16	.14
11	<b>.53</b>	.17	.34
12	<b>.54</b>	-.11	.25
13	.22	<b>.48</b>	.16
14	<b>.52</b>	.40	-.04
15	.34	.15	<b>.53</b>
16	.41	.13	.19
17	.10	.39	.33
18	.19	.32	<b>.47</b>
19	.26	<b>.73</b>	.05
20	.27	.04	.12
21	.36	.26	.11
22	.13	.40	<b>.54</b>
23	.10	<b>.55</b>	.03
24	.20	.39	<b>.50</b>
25	.32	<b>.46</b>	.08

Note. Significant loading > .43 are in boldface

## Results

The data analysis revealed the existence of three different viewpoints (i.e., factors 1, 2, 3) on mentoring CEDS in graduate teaching. We named the factors Supervisor (F1), Facilitator (F2), and Evaluator (F3), respectively, and included those names in the factor interpretations below to best represent the distinguishing teaching mentorship characteristics of the groups of individuals associated with each factor. The resulting three factors accounted for 37% of the total variance in the correlation matrix. Note that sole reliance on statistical criteria, such as the proportion of variance, is discouraged in Q methodology. This is because a factor may hold theoretical interest and have contextual relevance that may be overlooked if only a statistical basis for interpreting subjective factors is used (Brown, 1980). Twenty of the 25 participants loaded significantly on one of the three factors. Factor loadings of > .43 were significant at the  $p < 0.01$  level. Factor 1 had eight participants with significant loadings, accounting for 14% of the variance. Factor 2 had seven participants with significant loadings, accounting for 15% of the variance, whereas Factor 3 had five participants with significant loadings, accounting for 9% of the variance. Five of the 25 Q sorts were non-significant; four participants' Q sorts were non-significant ( $X < .43$ ) and one was confounded, meaning the factor scores for that participant were associated with more than one factor.

Table 5

## 48-Item Q Sample Factor Array With Factor Scores

Item	STATEMENT	FACTOR SCORES		
		1	2	3
1	Viewing doctoral students' life experiences as complementary to those of the faculty teaching mentor.	-3	0	-1
2	Exposing doctoral students to progressively more challenging teaching roles with faculty supervision.	0	0	3
3	Guiding doctoral students to complete a teaching practicum and/or internship as part of their doctoral training.	2	1	1
4	Sharing teaching resources with doctoral students (e.g., group activities, discussion prompts, assignments, etc.).	-1	1	0
5	Maintaining a reputation among doctoral students as a quality teacher by modeling and demonstrating quality teaching.	0	2	-1
6	Giving doctoral students examples from your own teaching on how to overcome teaching challenges.	4	-3	-2
7	Having doctoral students rehearse teaching strategies (e.g., lectures, activities) prior to implementing them in the classroom.	-2	-3	-3
8	Defining for doctoral students their teaching roles in and out of the classroom.	-1	-2	0
9	Modeling best practices in teaching to facilitate the development of doctoral students' teaching styles.	-1	1	-2
10	Having doctoral students facilitate portions of a course under supervision as part of co-teaching, a course assignment, and so forth.	3	3	1
11	Having doctoral students develop and discuss a teaching philosophy.	0	-2	2
12	Teaching doctoral students to develop rubrics and grade student assignments.	-2	-1	0
13	Providing doctoral students with a safe space to acknowledge their teaching mistakes.	4	4	1
14	Assisting doctoral students with incorporating technology and course management systems (e.g., Blackboard) into the teaching process.	-2	-2	-4
15	Holding doctoral students to high level of accountability regarding their teaching and learning practices.	0	0	4
16	Having doctoral students teach a portion of a class under faculty supervision.	2	3	1
17	Immersing doctoral students in teaching environments in a sink-or-swim manner with no advice, preparation, or supervision.	-4	-4	-1
18	Having doctoral students co-teach an entire course with faculty members and/or experienced peers.	4	0	2
19	Providing strengths-based feedback and support regarding teaching.	0	4	0
20	Interacting with doctoral students as colleagues or equals.	-3	3	-4
21	Teaching doctoral students to evaluate their teaching effectiveness and student learning.	1	1	4
22	Providing doctoral students with specific examples of how to address student issues.	3	-1	0
23	Acting as a "sounding board" when doctoral students need to discuss their feelings about teaching.	0	3	-3
24	Promoting the creation of critical learning environments where doctoral students are asked to apply higher order cognitive skills (e.g., Bloom's Taxonomy).	-3	-2	4
25	Assisting doctoral students with identifying challenging student behaviors.	1	1	2

26	<i>Encouraging doctoral students with teaching experience to engage in mentoring of their peers' teaching.</i>	-4	-1	-3
27	<i>Assisting doctoral students with preparing lectures, activities, and discussion topics.</i>	-2	-1	-2
28	<i>Focusing on a broad range of learning and instructional theories when grounding one's teaching approach.</i>	-2	-3	2
29	<i>Having doctoral students participate in a formal course on pedagogy.</i>	-1	-4	2
30	<i>Encouraging doctoral students to implement refined teaching approaches after receiving feedback from teaching mentors.</i>	3	-1	1
31	<i>Disclosing to doctoral students the ways that faculty members developed their teaching practice, including successes and mistakes.</i>	2	1	-2
32	<i>Supporting doctoral students' solo teaching opportunities (e.g., to lead a class).</i>	1	2	0
33	<i>Providing both candid and immediate feedback to doctoral students about their teaching performance.</i>	2	0	0
34	<i>Having doctoral students identify the verbal and nonverbal behaviors that contribute to building teacher–student rapport.</i>	-1	-1	-1
35	<i>Nurturing professionalism in teaching during faculty–doctoral student interactions.</i>	-3	4	3
36	<i>Talking to doctoral students about how their life experiences influence their approach to teaching.</i>	-4	0	-1
37	<i>Providing doctoral students with readings on pedagogy.</i>	1	-4	2
38	<i>Having doctoral students participate in designing a course.</i>	2	0	-2
39	<i>Having doctoral students observe faculty and experienced peers' teaching.</i>	-1	-2	-1
40	<i>Inviting doctoral students to discuss their clinical/school counseling experiences while in a teaching role in the classroom.</i>	1	2	-3
41	<i>Assisting doctoral students with developing a syllabus.</i>	2	-1	-4
42	<i>Planning before class with doctoral students before they engage in teaching activities.</i>	1	-3	-2
43	<i>Discussing boundaries and other ethical concerns regarding teaching.</i>	0	0	3
44	<i>Facilitating opportunities to improve doctoral students' confidence and comfort about teaching.</i>	-1	2	-1
45	<i>Helping doctoral students with understanding the variables and actions linked to an improved learning environment.</i>	-2	0	1
46	<i>Assisting doctoral students with linking specific learning theories to course content/topic areas.</i>	0	-3	1
47	<i>Teaching doctoral students to remain empathic to students' worldviews by using worldview-affirming language.</i>	3	2	3
48	<i>Discussing with doctoral students why instructional decisions were made in the classroom.</i>	1	2	0

The three factors contain factor exemplars merged to form a single ideal Q sort for each factor, called a factor array (Watts & Stenner, 2012). The factor array, which contains the 48 Q sample items and the associated factor scores for Factors 1 through 3, is found in Table 5. The factor array contains factor scores calculated by weighted averages in which higher-loading Q sorts are given more weight in the averaging process because they better exemplify the factor. It is the factor scores contained in the factor array versus participants' factor loadings that are used for factor interpretation. Note that parenthetical references to Q sample items and commensurate factor scores (e.g., item 24, +4) provide contextual reference for each of the factor interpretations below.

### Factor 1: Supervisor

Eight (32%) of the 25 participants were associated with factor 1. Factor 1 mentors (i.e., Supervisors) view mentoring in teaching as a process that begins with CEDS co-teaching an entire course under the supervision of a faculty member or experienced peer (item 18, +4). Providing CEDS with real-world teaching examples from faculty members' teaching experiences (item 6, +4) and a safe space to acknowledge teaching mistakes (item 13, +4) are defined as key mentoring processes for Factor 1. In so doing, Supervisors provide candid and immediate feedback about CEDS' teaching performance (item 33, +2) and incorporate examples from their mentors' own teaching successes and mistakes as part of the feedback (item 31, +2). These points are illustrated by one participant in her post-Q sort responses: "As a doctoral student, I appreciated receiving honest real-talk feedback (about teaching), which rarely happened. Now, when I mentor students, I tell folks what I really think in a kind but frank manner." Supervisors encourage CEDS to implement refined teaching approaches after receiving candid feedback about their teaching. Additionally, Supervisors regularly plan before class with CEDS before they engage in teaching activities (item 42, +1). CEDS engage in syllabus development (item 41, +2) and course design (item 38, +2), versus sharing teaching resources (item 4, -1) and linking teaching variables to improved learning environments (item 45, -2), both of which are, as one participant remarked, "assumed to be part of the mentoring process." Supervisors prefer that CEDS complete formal practica or internships as part of their doctoral training (item 3, +2).

Supervisors employ both formal (e.g., co-teaching, practica and internships, and regular pre-class planning) and informal (e.g., real-world examples, candid feedback, and appropriate professional disclosure about teaching) mentoring practices intended for students' incremental professional development as teachers (Baltrinic et al., 2016). Supervisors' teaching mentorship style is guided by the belief that experienced faculty members versus less-experienced peers are critical for influencing the development of doctoral students' teaching skills (item 26, -4), more so than Factors 2 and 3. And, although Supervisors agree that no doctoral student should learn to teach in a sink-or-swim manner (item 17, -4), the Supervisor takes a less nurturing, or life experience-based approach to mentoring (items 1, -3; 35, -3; and 36, -4 respectively) than Factors 2 and 3. A less nurturing approach may be difficult to understand given the nature of mentoring itself. Keep in mind that what is central to Supervisors' views on mentoring is the instructive and real-world supervision of students' structured teaching activities over time, which does not preclude faculty members valuing students' life experience or nurturing their development; rather, these are not central drivers for preferred mentoring interactions between faculty members and students.

### Factor 2: Facilitator

Seven (28%) of the 25 participants agreed with Factor 2, which we have titled Facilitator. Facilitators are distinguished as mentors who nurture professionalism during faculty-student interactions (item 35, +4) and provide feedback and support using a strengths-based approach regarding CEDS' teaching (item 19, +4). Similar to Supervisors (Factor 1), Facilitators provide CEDS with a safe space in the mentoring relationship to acknowledge teaching mistakes (item 13, +4). However, Facilitators favor providing supportive versus corrective or formal feedback (item 30, -1) as central to the mentoring relationship—described aptly by one participant as "I am not big on structured pedagogical teaching. In other words, modeling and supportive discussion can serve the mentor well." It stands to reason that Facilitators prefer to maintain a reputation as a quality teacher by modeling and demonstrating best practices in teaching (item 5, +2), and thereby extend this practice to facilitate the development of CEDS' teaching styles (item 9, +1). Accordingly, Facilitators do not approach mentoring in teaching by providing CEDS with formal readings on pedagogy, or have them participate in a formal course on pedagogy (items 29, -4 and 37, -4 respectively). Instead, Facilitators prefer to discuss with CEDS why they made teaching decisions in the classroom without being prescriptive (item 48, +2).

Facilitators approach mentoring by treating CEDS as colleagues or equals during the teaching experience (item 20, +3) and by creating opportunities for them to improve their comfort and confidence when teaching (item 44, +2). When providing feedback, Facilitators act as sounding boards for CEDS to express their feelings about teaching (item 23, +3). For example, noted in one participant's post-Q sort response, "We learn the most through our own discomfort, so a mentor serving as a sounding board is very important." Facilitators are more interested than Supervisors or Evaluators (Factor 3) in how CEDS' life experiences influence their approach to teaching (item 36, 0). In the classroom, Facilitators invite CEDS to discuss their clinical or school counseling experiences when teaching (item 40, +2). In contrast with the Supervisor and the Evaluator, the Facilitator will share examples of their own teaching resources with CEDS (item 4, +1). In general, Facilitators prefer to have CEDS formally teach a portion of a class under their supervision (item 16, +3), versus having them co-teach an entire class or be thrown into teaching in a sink-or-swim manner (item 17, -4).

Facilitators avoid helping CEDS overcome teaching challenges through examples from their own teaching (item 6, -3) or by providing specific examples to address issues. Overall, Facilitators prefer not to define teaching roles for CEDS (item 8, -2), pre-plan specific activities before class (item 42, -3), provide particular learning theories to address specific course content (item 46, -3), or impose on the learning environment (item 28, -3). Finally, Facilitators do not prefer to provide CEDS with feedback that they should use to refine and subsequently implement during future teaching endeavors (item 30, -1), which is not surprising given the relational and discovery-oriented focus of this factor's approach to mentoring in teaching.

### **Factor 3: The Evaluator**

Factor 3, the Evaluator, included five (20%) of the 25 participants. Evaluators create a critical learning environment for CEDS to use higher order cognitive skills (item 24, +4) while helping them to evaluate their teaching effectiveness and student learning (item 21, +4). Additionally, Evaluators create a safe space for CEDS to acknowledge their mistakes (item 13, +1) and offer corrective feedback as a way for them to refine their teaching (item 30, +1). Unlike Facilitators in Factor 2, Evaluators do not interact with CEDS as colleagues or equals (item 20, -4), initiate conversations about students' feelings (item 23, -3), or promote students' confidence and comfort (item 44, -1) about teaching as a central part of mentorship. Instead, Evaluators come from a directive teaching perspective and place an emphasis on content-driven mentorship. Fittingly, Evaluators have high expectations of CEDS to learn and study critical components of teaching and guide students accordingly. Evaluators provide CEDS with readings on pedagogy (item 37, +2) and expose students to a range of learning and instructional theories (item 28, +2). Evaluators also place high value on CEDS taking a formal class on pedagogy (item 29, +2), distinguishing themselves from Supervisors and Facilitators, who rated teaching-related course work as less important.

Although Evaluators make students aware of ethical concerns while teaching (item 42, -2) and identify specific techniques linked to improved learning (item 45, +1), other pragmatic aspects of teaching are given less attention. For example, Evaluators place minimal importance on rubric development and grading practices (item 12, 0) and course design (item 38, -2), and even less importance on developing a syllabus (item 41, -4) and incorporating technology or course management systems into the teaching process (item 14, -4). This is a stark difference from Supervisors in Factor 1, who placed higher value on some of these responsibilities. And Supervisors emphasize skill development, whereas Evaluators stress creating a strong theoretical foundation to guide CEDS' teaching tasks.

Classroom experiences, though secondary to learning theory and techniques, also are important aspects to mentorship for participants grouped in Factor 3. Evaluators supervise CEDS as they

teach portions of courses (item 10, +1) or take on solo teaching opportunities (item 32, 0). In these circumstances, Evaluators hold CEDS to high levels of accountability in terms of their teaching and learning practices (item 15, +4), as opposed to their counterparts in Factors 1 and 2, who rate the importance of accountability more neutrally. One participant illustrates the importance of accountability: "I want doctoral students to know the how, what, and why of where they are going in the classroom, otherwise their students may end up somewhere else. Educators need to be responsible for accounting for students' outcomes." Offering feedback to improve teaching is a key aspect of the mentoring process for Evaluators as mentors and students evaluate these hands-on teaching experiences (item 30, +1). These experiences may be critical for Evaluators to assess CEDS' learning and abilities, gradually exposing them to more challenging teaching roles (item 2, +3).

Throughout the mentorship process, Evaluators place CEDS' learning and teaching practice at the center of interactions. Whereas Supervisors and Facilitators share their teaching experiences with CEDS, Evaluators avoid conversation about successes or mistakes in their teacher development (item 21, +4). Furthermore, Evaluators do not believe their reputations as quality teachers (item 5, -1) nor their modeling of best practices in teaching is relevant to CEDS' development of teaching styles (item 9, -2). Instead, Evaluators keep themselves in a distant position during the course of mentorship. Key teaching mentorship interactions are characterized as student-centered and include discussion of their unique teaching philosophies (item 11, +2), exploration of the intentionality behind the instructional decisions they make in classrooms (item 48, 0), and evaluation of their teaching effectiveness (item 21, +4). Consequently, the mentorship style of Evaluators is directive but student-focused, with emphasis on mentees learning and reflecting upon various pedagogical theories and practices as they develop into teachers.

## Discussion

Three different perspectives (i.e., Supervisor, Facilitator, and Evaluator) exist among counselor educators of preferred ways to mentor CEDS in teaching. The three perspectives could be conceptualized as different styles of mentorship that are used by counselor educators. Although each perspective is unique, we noticed areas of agreement among counselor educators on using certain formal (e.g., co-teaching), informal (e.g. affirming worldviews), and combinations of mentoring approaches (Borders et al., 2011). These areas of agreement are similar to mentorship experiences in research with CEDS (Borders et al., 2012). The findings of this study also reinforce that mentoring is a complex process in which mentors fill a variety of roles and initiate multiple activities (Casto et al., 2005). Overall, results lend support for teaching mentorship also supported by the literature. For example, Silverman's (2003) suggestions that learning about pedagogy, having teaching experiences, and working closely with an experienced mentor who facilitates pedagogical conversations are helpful for preparing future faculty members. Though the pairing procedures between participants and students were unknown (e.g., intentionally paired, general guidance; Borders et al., 2011), each factor in this study contained some combination of formal (e.g., planned readings or activities) and informal (e.g., in-the-moment conversations, minimal planning) approaches to mentoring, which is consistent with other findings on preparing CEDS to teach (Baltrinic et al., 2016).

Both career and psychosocial mentoring types are embodied within the three factors reported in the current study, the findings of which support and extend the work of Kram (1985) by providing examples specific to teaching mentorship styles. The Evaluator and the Supervisor perspectives contain career components, as they are knowledge and skill driven, respectively. The Facilitator perspective is reflective of Kram's psychosocial type, as it is the most relational, exploratory, and insight-oriented

perspective of the three. Though career and psychosocial properties overlap between factors (e.g., skill building, feedback, support), each mentoring perspective has one that is a central characteristic.

The combination of career and psychosocial (Kram, 1985) mentoring types evident in the results also are highlighted in other counselor education mentorship guidelines. Similar to the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision research mentorship model (Borders et al., 2012), participants noted the importance of mentors demonstrating and transferring teaching-oriented knowledge and skills to mentees, as well as providing constructive feedback. Other mentor characteristics and tactics, such as facilitating student self-assessment and accountability, modeling, and creating a supportive and open relationship (Black et al., 2004; Briggs & Pehrsson, 2008), are reflected in the current findings on teacher mentoring approaches. For some participants, maintaining a nurturing and supportive environment was of utmost importance, which also has been noted as essential for mentoring CEDS (Casto et al., 2005).

Borders et al. (2011) specifically noted the importance of mentoring graduate students who aspire to be faculty and, though minimally, addressed pedagogy support by offering teaching opportunities to students and engaging them in conversation about their experiences. The current research findings expand on Borders and colleagues' position by providing ideas on what these conversations might entail. All three factors identified teacher-related topics of conversation and relevant activities, including teaching philosophies, skills, and tasks; pedagogical and learning theories; monitoring student interactions; classroom ethics and boundaries; and self-efficacy associated with teacher development. This offers some unique ideas on topics of interest that may be incorporated into conversations when mentoring students in teaching.

A practical component to teaching mentorships is represented within the factors. Rather than culminating in a product, such as co-written publications developed in research mentoring (Briggs & Pehrsson, 2008), each of the three teaching mentorship factors guide CEDS through applied teaching experiences. These hands-on teaching opportunities provided experiences for CEDS to work through and reflect upon, and offered material for mentors to provide feedback. The extent of student involvement in teaching varied, as did the direction of conversations (e.g., corrective, exploratory); nevertheless, some mentoring tasks were built from observable and enacted teaching moments.

### **Implications for Counselor Education Programs and Counselor Educators**

We believe that it may be helpful for faculty members in positions of leadership (i.e., department chairs, doctoral program coordinators) in counselor education doctoral programs to infuse awareness of teaching mentorship practices among other faculty members. Senior counselor education faculty members responsible for coordinating doctoral programs may be able to create more impactful mentorship experiences for CEDS by encouraging other faculty members to become more aware of their mentorship practices. Several researchers have suggested that quality mentorship is associated with counselor education faculty members who demonstrate intentionality in their mentorship practices (Black et al., 2004; Casto et al., 2005). Findings from this study can generate discussion and self-assessment among faculty members, leading to a clearer understanding of different mentoring styles that exist within a department or program. As different mentoring styles are identified among faculty members, it may help to consider ways to match CEDS with faculty members who will be a good fit for their preferred learning style.

Similarly, we also believe that counselor educators mentoring CEDS in teaching can benefit from being reflective about their own style of mentorship. It may be helpful to consider one's personal style of mentorship in relation to the styles of teaching mentorship (i.e., Supervisor, Facilitator, and Evaluator) highlighted in this study. Counselor educators who identify with a particular teaching

mentorship style may discuss this with CEDS early in the mentorship process to facilitate a goodness of fit. In situations in which CEDS do not have the opportunity to select a mentor of their choosing, it may be particularly important for counselor educators to consider how their style of mentorship will fit with their mentee. It may help counselor educators identifying with a singular style of mentorship to integrate strengths from other styles of mentorship into their practice. For example, a counselor educator who closely identifies with the Supervisor style may benefit from increasing the amount of strength-based feedback they provide mentees (i.e., associated with the Facilitator), or by being more methodical about gradually increasing their mentees exposure to challenging teaching experiences (i.e., associated with the Evaluator).

### Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research

Q studies are not generalizable in the same way as other quantitative studies. The data in this study represent subjective perspectives; thus, results are viewed similar to qualitative studies (Watts & Stenner, 2012). However, Q results offer an additional rigor derived from the factor analysis of the participants' respective Q sorts. Results from this study pertain to mentoring CEDS in aspects of pedagogy and not clinical teaching or clinical experiences. Future Q methodology studies can use purposeful samples of diverse participants with a range of pedagogy and clinical teaching experiences, and use participants from a wider range of regions within the United States. Examining students' and faculty members' critical incidents during teaching mentorships may increase understanding of respective mentor and mentee perspectives. Future studies distinguishing teacher mentorship from research mentorship would be useful. Finally, investigating the specific practices of the three factor types through single-case studies could provide in-depth perspectives on faculty members' teaching mentorship styles.

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