



M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling / 2016-2017

In the Master of Arts programs, a strong academic component is combined with equally strong experiential components, offering students a unique real-world training experience. Students master a comprehensive set of skills, knowledge and competencies and then have the opportunity through their practicum and internship experience, to put those skills into practice in actual rehabilitation settings.

Program Options

On-Campus, Full-Time or Part-Time Course of Study (60 Credits)

The full-time program – accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) – is designed for students who wish to enroll in a traditional on-campus setting. Students attend small classes which meet on a weekly basis during the academic year. During two 6-week summer sessions, classes meet two times per week. Students enrolled in this program are eligible to apply for traineeships, graduate assistantships and scholarship funding, when available. Full-time students can complete the on-campus program in two years. Part-time on-campus students have up to seven years to complete the program. Upon successful completion of the academic and clinical requirements, students are eligible to sit for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) exam. They are encouraged to take the CRC exam during their final academic semester.

Online, Part-Time Course of Study (60 Credits)

The online program is a Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) accredited, 20-course, 60-credit program that can be completed over 8 semesters, in less than 3 years. Upon completion, students will be awarded a Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling, and will be eligible to sit for the CRC exam.

The Clinical Component

The clinical component of the program is comprised of a 100 hour Practicum experience over one semester, and a 600 hour Internship experience over two semesters. These experiences provide an opportunity for the student to integrate theory and practice in a “hands on” environment. Our graduates consistently rate their combined practicum and internship experience as one of the most rewarding and beneficial parts of the program, which often leads to jobs upon graduation.

Practicum – First Period of Supervised Clinical Practice

The 100 hour Practicum experience places emphasis on the counseling relationship and the development of fundamental counseling and interviewing skills. Students are required to complete audio or videotaped counseling sessions during their practicum experience. Students receive weekly individual and group supervision during the practicum session, and have opportunities to get feedback regarding the development of their counseling skills. There is also an emphasis on identifying and addressing ethical issues that may arise in the counseling relationship. Formal supervisor and student self-evaluations are required upon completing the practicum experience.

Internship I and II – Second Period of Supervised Clinical Practice

The second component of supervised practical experience is the 600 hour Internship. The internship in Rehabilitation Counseling usually requires 21 hours, or three full days per week over the final two semesters of the program. The internship provides students with the opportunity to experience the wide range of duties and responsibilities of a rehabilitation counselor, and to participate in all aspects of the delivery of rehabilitation counseling services. Students receive regular supervision from an on-site supervisor, and individual and group supervision by the faculty supervisor and seminar leader. The student’s professional development and growth are closely monitored and evaluated to ensure that the student is acquiring the skills required of an entry level professional rehabilitation counselor position.

Rehabilitation Program Portfolio Review and Evaluation

The Portfolio is a comprehensive written documentation of the student’s work over the course of the graduate program, including their reflections regarding their experiences in each course and the program as a whole. Students are responsible to collect all relevant materials related to each course, including the course syllabus, other handout materials, written assignments, projects and papers, etc. It should also include practicum and internship information and documentation including progress notes, and performance evaluations. Students will also complete a reflective journal regarding each course and other note-worthy experiences over the course of the program. Students will present their completed portfolio to faculty during their final semester in the program. The Portfolio is a requirement of the Rehabilitation Counseling graduate program.

Course of Study/Curriculum

The on-campus and part-time online programs offer **identical curriculum/courses** with different calendars of study.

- RCP 502 Rehabilitation Research and Program Evaluation
- RCP 503 Foundations of the Rehabilitation Counseling Profession
- RCP 505 Introduction to Assessment and Appraisal of Individuals with Disabilities
- RCP 530 Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice
- RCP 512 Occupational Analysis, Career Development and Job Placement
- RCP 520 Principles of Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- RCP 510 Introduction to Medical Rehabilitation
- RCP 599 Practicum & Seminar in Legal and Ethical Issues

RCP 525 The Psychology of Disability Across the Lifespan
RCP 631 Cultural Competencies in Rehabilitation Counseling
RCP 501 Substance Abuse and Addictive Disorders in Rehabilitation
RCP 631 Cultural Competencies in Rehabilitation Counseling (continued)
RCP 514 Private Sector and Forensic Rehabilitation
RCP 513 Vocational Evaluation and Career Planning
RCP 619 The Effective Use of Technology in Rehabilitation Counseling Practice RCP
698 Internship and Internship Seminar I
RCP 550 Principles of Family and Group Process
RCP 540 Case Management and Rehabilitation Plan Development
RCP 630 Advanced Counseling Practice
RCP 699 Internship and Internship Seminar II
RCP 555 Rehabilitation Program Portfolio Review and Evaluation

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS / 2016-2017

RCP 500 Introduction to Developmental Disabilities: Theory and Practice

This course is an introduction to psychological, physiological and social factors human service providers encounter during the rehabilitation process. Students are introduced to current theories that address etiology, relevant therapeutic concerns and prognosis of various developmental disabilities. Attention is also given to the practical concerns that the service provider will encounter. *3 credits*

RCP 501 Substance Abuse and Addictive Disorders in Rehabilitation

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the history, types, and problems associated with drug and alcohol abuse and various forms of addiction. Specific topics will include alcohol abuse and addiction, prescription and illegal drug use, and other forms of addictive behavior including compulsive gambling and eating disorders. Programs such as AA, NA, Al-Anon, Over Eaters Anonymous will be explored, along with other treatment and rehabilitation approaches. Special Emphasis will be on the impact of these disorders on the individual, family, community and society at large. Effective counseling strategies and evidence-based practices will also be covered in this course. *3 credits*

RCP 502 Rehabilitation Research and Program Evaluation

The course provides an introduction to the scientific method with an emphasis on understanding empirical research in Human Services, Rehabilitation and Disability Studies. Students will examine the importance of research activities on improvement of rehabilitation services, and learn how to develop and implement meaningful program evaluation. Students will become familiar with many peer-reviewed journals and literature search strategies and many of the most commonly used research test designs and statistical analyses. *3 credits*

RCP 503 Foundations of the Rehabilitation Counseling Profession

This course is an introduction to the field of rehabilitation, independent living and the role of the rehabilitation counselor. It provides an overview of the historical, legislative and philosophical forces that shaped the field of rehabilitation. Special emphasis will be on the civil rights movement for individuals with disabilities, the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and evolving disability policy in the U.S. Historical and present day societal attitudes and values toward individuals with disabilities will also be examined. *3 credits*

RCP 505 Introduction to Assessment and Appraisal of Individuals with Disabilities

This course provides an introduction to a wide range of assessment instruments and tools used by rehabilitation counselors, psychologists, vocational evaluators and others in the assessment and evaluation in individuals, including those with disabilities. Students will gain an understanding of the purpose and administration of various types of tests and other instruments and how results can be used to facilitate the rehabilitation process. Concerns about cultural bias and reasonable accommodation in testing will be addressed, along with strategies for interpreting and reviewing testing results with clients. Students will have an opportunity to experience several assessment instruments commonly used in rehabilitation counseling.

Prerequisite: a course in Test and Measurements, or its equivalent, and/or consent of instructor. 3 credits

RCP 510 Introduction to Medical Rehabilitation

This course includes a brief review of the human anatomy and physiology, and a review of the major medical/physical disabilities and chronic illnesses that result in significant disabling conditions and impairments. It provides students with an understanding of the various medical specialties, medical terminology and skills in effectively utilizing medical consultation in the rehabilitation workplace. Students will have an opportunity to learn about the social, educational and vocational implications of chronic illness and physical disability. The health care system, disability benefits and resources will also be addressed in this course.

Prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology is recommended but not required. 3 credits

RCP 512 Occupational Analysis, Career Development Theory and Job Placement Strategies

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the world of work for rehabilitation counselors. Students become familiar with various forms of occupational data, information, and resources and their utilization in rehabilitation. Topics covered will include job classification systems, such as O*NET and the DOT, job analysis, and labor market surveys. Students will also become familiar with the major career development theories and their relevance to the vocational rehabilitation process. A variety of job placement support services and strategies will also be addressed, along with major federal and state legislation related to the employment of individuals with disabilities. *3 credits*

RCP 513 Vocational Evaluation and Career Planning

This course focuses on the vocational evaluation of individuals with disabilities, and the development of counselor skills to assist clients to develop a realistic and attainable vocational goal. Students become knowledgeable about a variety of vocational evaluation and assessment tools, and the essential elements of a vocational evaluation report. Special topics include job analysis, transferrable skills analysis, reasonable accommodation and assistive technology. *3 credits*

Prerequisite: RCP 505.

RCP 514 Private Sector and Forensic Rehabilitation

This course provides students with a basic knowledge and understanding of rehabilitation, and the role of the rehabilitation specialist in the private-for-profit sector. The focus is on injured-worker rehabilitation, and the vocational rehabilitation and case management services provided under worker's compensation, and long-term disability insurance coverage. The course covers disability management systems, including risk management strategies, forensic rehabilitation, and the relevant federal and state laws. Additional topics will include issues related to Managed Care and Life Care Planning.

Prerequisite: RCP 512

3 credits

RCP 520 Principles of Psychiatric Rehabilitation

The course introduces students to the major categories of Psychiatric Disability, including their etiology, symptoms, prognosis, treatment and recovery. A major focus of the course is on the core principles and evidence-based practices of Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Content areas covered include implications of psychiatric disability throughout the life span, psychiatric disability within the family, and the rehabilitation counselor's role as facilitators in the recovery process. *3 credits*

RCP 525 The Psychology of Disability Across the Life Span

This course utilizes a life span framework to describe and explain the physical, social, emotional and cognitive changes that occur across the life span. The course focuses on the major determinants associated with adjustment to disability during different developmental stages. The impact of disability on personality development, sexual functioning, families, social functioning and active participation in the community will be explored. The course will also provide an historical and cultural perspective of how disability has been perceived through the ages, by the media and society, in general. Students will have an opportunity to examine their own experiences, attitudes, values, and beliefs toward disability as they relate to disability in their lives. *3 credits*

RCP 530 Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice

This course examines the fundamental principles and techniques of the major counseling theories, including Person-centered, Cognitive-Behavioral, Gestalt, Reality, Psychoanalytic, and Behavior and their applicability to the role of the rehabilitation counselor. Students will have an opportunity to develop and practice fundamental counseling skills. Students will also examine common ethical issues that arise in the counseling relationship and the nature and importance of supervision in counseling. *3 credits*

RCP 540 Case Management and Rehabilitation Plan Development

This course will examine the concept of case management as a critical component of the role of the rehabilitation counselor. There will also be an emphasis on the importance of community outreach and the rehabilitation counselor's role in developing and maintaining effective working relationships with community agencies. This course will review the major stages of the rehabilitation process, and examine the case and caseload management issues and challenges associated with each stage. Topic areas will include: Referral and Intake; Client Evaluation and Assessment; Rehabilitation Plan Development, Job Placement Planning; and Termination/Case Closure and Follow-up Issues. Other topics covered will include scheduling and time management, caseload analysis and goal setting, case recording and documentation, and ethical case management decision-making. *3 credits*

RCP 550 Principles of Family and Group Process

This course focuses on the nature of groups in human services and rehabilitation and provides students with an understanding of group process and group dynamics, and the fundamental skills in group facilitation and group leadership. Family systems and family processes will also be examined. The course includes an experiential component in which students experience what it is like to be a member of a group. *3 credits*

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

RCP 555 Rehabilitation Program Portfolio Review and Evaluation

The Rehabilitation Portfolio is a comprehensive written documentation of the student's work over the course of the graduate program. It will include all course syllabi, other course materials, written assignments, projects and papers. It will also include practicum and internship information and documentation including progress notes and performance evaluations. Student journals regarding each course and other noteworthy experiences will also be required. Students will present their completed portfolio to faculty during their final semester in the program. *1 credit*

RCP 599 Practicum Experience and Counseling/Ethics Seminar

The purpose of the clinical practicum is to provide a supervised practical experience in rehabilitation counseling in which students develop and practice counseling skills with actual consumers in an approved agency setting. The practicum requires a total of 100 hours over the course of one semester, 40 hours of which is in direct contact with individuals with disabilities. Students receive ongoing supervision by an approved on-site supervisor, and a faculty supervisor who conducts a weekly supervision seminar. Students will also examine common ethical and legal issues that present significant challenges in the field of rehabilitation counseling. *3 credits*

Prerequisite: Permission of Clinical Coordinator

RCP 619 The Effective Use of Technology in Rehabilitation Counseling Practice

This course promotes awareness and understanding of the numerous forms of technology that impact the provision of services to a range of individuals with disabilities. The course also addresses the efficient and effective incorporation of these technologies into the rehabilitation process. Special emphasis is placed on various forms of assistive technologies that enable individuals with disabilities to achieve independent living goals and successful employment outcomes. *3 credits*

RCP 630 Advanced Counseling Practice

This course provides a deeper understanding of the counseling theories and evidence-based practices that have particular relevance in rehabilitation counseling and serving individuals with disabilities. Special emphasis will be on developing knowledge and skills in the areas of positive psychology and motivational interviewing. *3 credits*

Prerequisites: RCP 530, RCP 550

RCP 631 Cultural Competencies in Rehabilitation Counseling

This course promotes knowledge and understanding of the role of culture in counseling. Cultural influences will be considered as representing a wide range of diversity issues including ethnicity, race, religion, age, gender, geography and sexuality. Students will examine their personal experiences, biases, attitudes, values and beliefs about groups representing diversity. Focus is placed on the development of cultural competencies to ensure effective counseling services to all clients with compassion and sensitivity while valuing cultural backgrounds. *3 credits*

RCP 640 Directed Study

Individually supervised study and projects with advisor when appropriate. *3 credits*

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

RCP 698/699 Internship and Internship Seminar I & II

The purpose of this course is to provide supervised practical experience in rehabilitation counseling and related rehabilitation services. The internship in Rehabilitation Counseling will require 600 clock hours over the course of two academic semesters. This course involves two types of clinical supervision: 1) supervised experience in an approved setting that provides services to individuals with disabilities; and 2) faculty supervision via individual and group consultation. The internship requires students to observe and participate in all aspects of the delivery of rehabilitation counseling services. The internship is an opportunity to further develop and refine skills required for effective practice in rehabilitation counseling. *8 credits total / 4 credits per course*

Prerequisite: Permission of the Clinical Coordinator



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