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 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 noteworthy 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
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
This course is an introduction to 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 504 Rehabilitation of the Public Offender
The pre-adolescent, adolescent, young adult, and adult offender are studied from the point of client nature, rehabilitation potential, and programs and methodology that show promise in the rehabilitation of the public offender. Institute staff are assisted by guest specialists currently active in the area of the rehabilitation of the public offender.
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 Tests and Measurements, or its equivalent, and/or consent of instructor
3 credits

RCP 506 Rehabilitation of the Blind
This course focuses on such topics as dimensions of blindness: psychological reaction to loss; relationship of disabled persons to others e.g., family, and employers; multi-handicapped blind; education, training, and placement of sight-handicapped persons.
3 credits

RCP 507 Alcohol Education-A Community Approach
Alcohol education is studied in an integrated manner providing the student an opportunity to see the interrelationships and multiple perspectives of alcohol use, abuse, and rehabilitation programs. Health, social studies, driver education, biology, chemistry, general science, and guidance are examples of subject areas which constitute appropriate courses for the investigation of education about alcohol use and abuse.
3 credits

RCP 508 Family Systems and Rehabilitation
This course allows students to develop a body of specialized skills and knowledge needed to assist in working with family systems in rehabilitation settings. Included is an analysis of current issues relevant to the inclusion of families in the rehabilitation process. Students are introduced to a wide range of non-traditional family systems as well as the more traditional models. Also included is an introduction to community resources that provide services to family systems.
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.
Prerequisite: RCP 505
3 credits
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 515 Administration and Management
This course focuses on the administration of diverse social and rehabilitation agencies; the management of programs-especially with a multi-disciplinary staff; and the supervision of personnel including the paraprofessional and the newly employed professional.  
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 facilitator 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.  
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor  
3 credits

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 590 Advanced Seminar in Medical Rehabilitation
This course is a continuation of SRS510, Principles of Medical Rehabilitation. It focuses on case presentations with an emphasis on the rehabilitation potential of a wide range of physical disabilities commonly seen in rehabilitation agencies.  
Prerequisite: RCP 510  
3 credits

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.  
Prerequisite: Permission of clinical coordinator  
3 credits

RCP 605 Advanced Assessment and Appraisal of Individuals with Disabilities
This course enables students to sift through behavioral observations, developmental data, and test and interview (counseling) reports, to outline the most salient information, and to succinctly describe strengths and functional limitations. Based on analysis of the physical/medical, psychological (mental status as well as dynamics), and social data, a rehabilitation plan, with timetable, will be determined. It trains students to consider the person in all the aspects of living, and to develop goals which are realistic and address the most pressing personal, educational/vocational, and family needs. Typed and verbal reports represent one’s most disciplined, rigorous effort combining knowledge of development, personality theory, family “systems,” individual and group counseling, test data, use of consultation and community resources, and medical/educational/vocational implications of disability.  
Prerequisites: RCP 505; RCP 513  
3 credits

RCP 611 Manpower Resources and the Economic Environment
This course deals with the rapidly changing business and economic climate, which has a profound effect on the preparation of the individual, particularly those who are disabled. There is a review of the trends and strategies of three major components of these changes: the work, the worker, and the workplace.  
3 credits
RCP 612 Career Development
This course presents an analysis of the basic theories of career development and vocational choice. It helps students gain an understanding of career development within the framework of individual growth and development. Particular consideration will be given to the social and psychological forces that impede the process of normal career development.
3 credits

RCP 614 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 615 Advanced Seminar in Psychiatric Rehabilitation
The focus of this course is on the rehabilitation needs of adults with serious and persistent mental illness. A review of the community support systems to meet these needs includes examining case management, residential, emergency, family support, social club and vocational programs. Policy issues regarding such areas as managed health care, total quality management, health care financing, privatization, advocacy, and homelessness will be discussed. This course is highlighted by case presentations to demonstrate the practical concerns raised in the implementation of programs, treatment, and rehabilitation.
Prerequisite: RCP 520 and permission of instructor
3 credits

RCP 616 Supervisory Practices
Immediate supervision is a particularly important activity in the organization because it is enables the staff to deliver services. This management activity, the ability to get things done through others, is a skill that can be acquired. This course explores the elements of effective management and leadership of others.
3 credits

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 620 Advanced Seminar in Psychiatric Rehabilitation
The focus of this course is on the rehabilitation needs of adults with serious and persistent mental illness. A review of the community support systems to meet these needs includes examining case management, residential, emergency, family support, social club and vocational programs. Policy issues regarding such areas as managed health care, total quality management, health care financing, privatization, advocacy, and homelessness will be discussed. This course is highlighted by case presentations to demonstrate the practical concerns raised in the implementation of programs, treatment, and rehabilitation.
Prerequisite: RCP 520 and permission of instructor
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.
Prerequisites: RCP 530; RCP 550
3 credits

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.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
3 credits

RCP 650 Advanced Group Work in Rehabilitation
This course emphasizes the leadership of the Rehabilitation Counselor in working with diverse groups, i.e., disabled clients, subordinates (in supervision), and community groups important in the rehabilitation process. This emphasis acknowledges the multiple responsibilities of a professional rehabilitation counselor working directly with clients in counseling on an individual and/or group basis, a supervisor/administrator working with counselors and other agency personnel on an individual and/or group basis, and a community worker assigned to a leadership role in organizing and maintaining task-oriented community groups.
Prerequisite: RCP 550 or equivalent
3 credits

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.
Prerequisite: Permission of the clinical coordinator
8 credits total / 4 credits per course

RCP 703 Advanced Research Seminar in Rehabilitation
The supervision of research projects.
Prerequisite: Permission of Graduate Director
3 credits

RCP 704 Program Evaluation
Current evaluation literature from a variety of sources is utilized as a base for examining models and other approaches to program evaluation. The course presupposes a knowledge of elementary statistics which represents part of the basic methodology employed in evaluation. Students have an opportunity to participate in the development and critique of their own evaluation plans.
Prerequisite: RCP 502 or its equivalent
3 credits

RCP 705 Cognitive Development and Disturbance
The course focuses on the impact of disabling conditions on cognitive development. The study of the normal development of cognitive skills is through representative theories.
Prerequisite: Permission of Graduate Director
3 credits

RCP 730 Principles of Psychotherapy
This course has been designed for counselors and stresses introductory understanding of the elementary principles of psychotherapy. The course defines what is done in psychotherapy and for what purposes. Formal instructions are integrated with demonstrations.
Prerequisite: RCP 530 and RCP 600 or its equivalent and permission of Graduate Director
3 credits