

REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Rehabilitation Counseling program prepares rehabilitation counselors and related Rehabilitation Professionals for entry into and/or advancement in counseling-related positions in public and private rehabilitation agencies, organizations, and systems.

More specifically, the program is designed to: 1. Enhance knowledge of rehabilitation concepts and practices; 2. Provide individuals with the counseling skills necessary for functioning in rehabilitation settings; 3. Increase awareness and sensitivity to disability issues; 4. Prepare individuals for certification as rehabilitation counselors; and 5. Enhance individuals' employability in entry-level or advanced clinical positions in community rehabilitation settings. The program offers a learning environment in which the student can acquire the academic competencies of the profession and refine them through supervised practical experience. The program also provides a facilitative process through which the student can increase self-understanding, self-confidence, and personal effectiveness. Students are expected to develop:

1. A consideration of the developmental needs of individuals with disabilities in community settings and recognition of their needs at all developmental levels.
2. A commitment to treat each person with respect as a unique individual.
3. An awareness of societal trends, cultural diversity, and changing roles and lifestyle patterns of individuals and a comprehension of the impact of disability on physical, psychological, social, family, economic, and vocational functioning.
4. An understanding that the primary vehicle for assisting individuals with disabilities is a sound counseling relationship which empowers the person through all phases of the rehabilitation process, as well as skill in establishing and maintaining meaningful goals and objectives.
5. Knowledge and skill in applying helping processes, theoretical frameworks, and facilitative skills to enhance the rehabilitation counseling relationship and the rehabilitation process.
6. Knowledge of group dynamic processes and group counseling methods and skills as applied in rehabilitation counseling settings.
7. Knowledge and skills in applying career development theory, decision-making approaches, and occupational/educational information sources to the rehabilitation process.
8. Knowledge and skills in utilization of job development, job placement, job modification, and occupational and educational information sources to facilitate client decision-making, return to work, job development, job modification, and job placement efforts.

9. Knowledge and skills associated with appraisal of the individual including applying assessment and data-gathering processes, psychometric concepts, relevant ethical and legal concerns, and integrating results of medical, psychological and vocational evaluations with the rehabilitation counseling practices.
10. Knowledge and skills in utilization of research design and implementation techniques in conducting relevant research studies and applying research findings to current rehabilitation counseling practices.
11. An accurate realization and perception of the multiple roles of the rehabilitation counselor and current trends of professional organizations in rehabilitation counseling.
12. An awareness of contemporary legal and ethical issues impacting the work of the rehabilitation counselor.
13. An awareness of the environmental, social, and attitudinal barriers which create obstacles for people with disabilities and knowledge and skills in assisting in the removal of these barriers.
14. A commitment to lifelong learning, critical thinking, resource development, creative problem solving, and the development of a professional network.