REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM
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REHABILITATION COUNSELING MISSION
The Rehabilitation Counseling Program prepares students for careers in a variety of counseling settings with the primary goal of acquiring and applying the specialized knowledge, skills, and values that will enable them to effectively assist and support individuals with disabilities throughout the rehabilitation process. The Rehabilitation Program works towards this goal by creating an environment which encourages a commitment to lifelong learning, critical thinking, resource development, creative problem solving, the development of a professional network, and appreciation of the skills and abilities of persons with disabilities.

THE REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROFESSION
According to the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, a Rehabilitation Counselor is a counselor who possesses the specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to collaborate in a professional relationship with people who have disabilities to achieve their personal, social, psychological and vocational goals. The rehabilitation counselor determines and coordinates services for people with disabilities during the entire rehabilitation process, and is the primary professional to manage components of the rehabilitation process. Rehabilitation counselors assist persons with physical, mental, emotional, or social impairments which may result from birth, illness and disease, work-related injuries, automobile accidents, and the stresses of war, work, and daily life. Roles and responsibilities of the rehabilitation counselor include: counseling to assist the individual with a disability to deal with social and personal problems, plan careers, and find and keep satisfying jobs; advocacy to assist individuals as both professional organizations and advocacy groups address environmental, social attitudinal barriers which create obstacles for people with disabilities; evaluation of an individual's capacity for independent living and employment through use of assessment procedures and through arranging for medical, psychological, and vocational evaluations and through consultation with physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, vocational evaluators, rehabilitation engineers, rehabilitation technologists, and other allied health professionals; recommending and arranging appropriate rehabilitation services such as medical care, psychological services, educational services, return to work, vocational training, and job placement; working with employers and other rehabilitation professionals to identify and/or modify jobs and work tasks; and engaging in job development and placement efforts with individuals with disabilities.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The U.S. Department of Labor forecasts that Rehabilitation Counseling will be one of the five fastest growing professions in the U.S. for the first decade of the 21st century. Career opportunities in rehabilitation counseling are excellent. Rehabilitation counselor education programs are not graduating sufficient numbers of qualified students to fill current and anticipated rehabilitation counseling vacancies. In addition, in many settings rehabilitation counselors work in positions with other job titles such as counselor, job placement specialist, alcohol and drug abuse counselor, probation and parole officer, mental health counselor, marriage and family counselor, independent living specialist, case manager, vocational evaluator, trainer, educator, disabled student services coordinator, and administrator. Employment settings for rehabilitation counselors include: state rehabilitation agencies, comprehensive rehabilitation centers, universities and other school settings, insurance companies, private-for-profit rehabilitation companies, substance abuse rehabilitation programs, correctional centers, mental retardation facilities, developmental disability agencies, mental health clinics, rehabilitation units in hospitals, veterans administration centers, special education/transitional programs, vocational schools, programs for the elderly, independent living centers, employee assistance programs, residential programs, counseling centers, head injury rehabilitation centers, and other human service programs serving people with developmental and/or acquired disabilities.

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 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. Specifically, students 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 process, psychometric concepts, relevant ethical and legal concerns, and integrating results of medical, psychological and vocational evaluations with the rehabilitation process.

10. knowledge and skill 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 life long learning, critical thinking, resource development, creative problem solving, and the development of a professional network.

THE PROGRAM

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program is a 48 credit curriculum leading to the Master of Science degree. Thirty-nine required credits include 33 credits of coursework in principles and practices of rehabilitation counseling, three credits of practicum [100 hours of supervised counseling experience] and three credits of internship [600 hours of supervised field experience]. Nine credits of electives are offered to provide students with opportunities for additional study in individual areas of interest and for development of knowledge and skill in working with specific populations and in specific settings. Professional experience in a counseling-related field is helpful but not required for entry into the Program.

PRACTICUM

The Practicum in Rehabilitation Counseling [COUN 591] is attempted in the semester immediately prior to enrollment in the internship. A full-time student is expected to complete 24 credits of coursework prior to the practicum. A part-time student may complete as many as 39 credits prior to the practicum. The practicum provides for the development of individual and group counseling skills under supervision. It consists of 100 clock hours and must [1] include a minimum of 40 hours of direct service work with clientele appropriate to the student's program; [2] include a minimum of one hour per week of individual supervision by a program faculty member; [3] include an minimum of one and one-half hours per week of group supervision by program faculty with other students in similar practicum; [4] include a variety of professional activities other than direct service work; [5] allow the student to obtain audio- and/or videotapes of interactions with clientele for use in individual and group supervision; [6] allow the student to gain supervised experience in the use of a variety of professional resources such as appraisal instruments, computers, print and non-print media, professional literature, and research; and [7] include formal evaluation of the student's performance by a program faculty member. Please note: Practicum is a pre-requisite to internship.
REHABILITATION COUNSELING CURRICULUM

PROFESSIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF REHABILITATION COUNSELING  [39 credits required]

COUN 501 Counseling and Interviewing Skills
COUN 502 Counseling Theories
COUN 503 Group Process and Practice
COUN 504 Appraisal Techniques
COUN 505 Research Methods
COUN 506 Social and Cultural Issues
COUN 507 Career and Lifestyle Development
COUN 508 Developmental Psychology
COUN 520 Professional Issues: Rehabilitation Counseling
COUN 521 Physical Disabilities
COUN 522 Vocational Aspects of Disability
COUN 591 Practicum: Rehabilitation Counseling
COUN 596 Internship: Rehabilitation Counseling

GENERAL ELECTIVES  [9 credits required]

Disability and Specialty Populations
COUN 531 Psychology of Adjustment
COUN 560 Addictive Behaviors
COUN 561 Substance Abuse Prevention and Education
COUN 562 Issues in Substance Abuse
COUN 563 Crisis Intervention
COUN 564 Children’s Mental Health
COUN 565 Psychiatric Disorders
COUN 570 Counseling Adolescents
COUN 571 Counseling Issues for Women

Counseling Systems
COUN 540 Family Counseling and Therapy
COUN 541 Home Based Family Intervention
COUN 566 Behavioral Counseling
COUN 567 Health and Behavior

Clinical Experience
COUN 594 Practicum in Group Counseling

DIRECTED STUDY
COUN 582 Directed Study
COUN 584 Special Topics

TOTAL CREDITS FOR DEGREE:  48
Total Required Credits:  39
Total Elective Credits:  9
THE INTERNSHIP

The Internship in Rehabilitation Counseling [COUN 596] is attempted after at least 36 credits of full-time coursework has been completed. Part-time students should have completed all coursework by the completion of the internship. A prerequisite for attempting the internship is successful completion of COUN 591--Practicum in Rehabilitation Counseling. The internship requires the student to complete 600 clock hours of supervised field experience in a rehabilitation setting which must include the following: [1] orientation to program components including policies and procedures; introduction to staff and their role and function; and identification of the expectations for the intern; [2] observation for all aspects of the delivery of rehabilitation counseling services; [3] performance of work assignments required of an employed rehabilitation counselor in a rehabilitation setting from client intake to discharge; [4] reporting, including all required academic reports as well as logs, weekly progress reviews, and summaries of activities; [5] evaluation of student performance, including evaluation by the field supervisor, the faculty supervisor, and self-evaluation by the intern; [6] supervision, including a minimum of one hour per week of individual supervision provided by the agency supervisor and a minimum of one and one-half hours per week of group supervision normally provided by the faculty supervisor. The agency supervisors must have an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling and maintain Certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor. In most cases, the 600 clock hours will be completed over the course of one semester or term. In selected cases a student may elect to complete the 600 hour requirement over two semesters/terms. Students who elect this option will be required to register for three credits of internship per semester.

MODIFIED INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENT

In selected cases a student may have the opportunity to complete an internship experience at a site located so distant from the University of Scranton as to make attendance at weekly on-campus group supervision sessions impractical. In such a case the student may request permission from the program director to complete a Rehabilitation Counseling modified internship. Such a request will be granted only if the following criteria are met:

1. The site supervisor is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor [CRC].
2. There is opportunity on the site for the intern to participate in a weekly group supervision session [or equivalent group staffing] with other rehabilitation professionals for a minimum of one and one-half hours per week. This supervision must be under the direction of a CRC or another qualified member of the rehabilitation team.
3. In addition to the documentation of internship experiences which is required of all interns, the student must complete a weekly reaction paper.
4. The student must submit to the faculty supervisor four [4] individual rehabilitation plans prepared for persons with whom they work in the internship experience.
5. During the course of the internship experience, the intern must complete a term project which benefits the internship site. The student, the agency, and the faculty supervisor must agree to the nature and scope of the project at the start of the internship experience.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education [CORE], a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation [CHEA]. Hence, graduates are eligible to sit for the national qualifying examination to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)
DISABILITY RELATED WEB SITES

PA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
www.dli.state.pa.us
Click on Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Check out Civil Service Requirements for RC Internships
Check out OveRVIEW - On line newsletter
Check out Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
www.dol.gov/odep/welcome.html

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY
www.nod.org

NATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
www.nationalrehab.org

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
www.nationalrehab.org/pennsylvania/

REHABILITATION COUNSELING RECRUITMENT CENTER
www.nchrtm.okstate.edu/rrc
Excellent resource for national jobs in Rehabilitation Profession

COMMISSION ON REHABILITATION COUNSELING CERTIFICATION (CRCC)
WWW.CRCCERTIFICATION.COM
Download 2002 RC Code of Ethics

REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (RSA)
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/index.html

COUNCIL ON REHABILITATION EDUCATION (CORE)
www.core-rehab.org

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON REHABILITATION EDUCATION (NCRE)
www.rehabeducators.org

AMERICAN REHABILITATION COUNSELING ASSOCIATION (ARCA)
http://www.arcaweb.org/