Rehabilitation Counseling

College of Education

The Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling offers both a Master's and doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. For application procedures, please go to the Graduate School web site (http://gradschool.uky.edu) and follow the directions for the Apply Yourself application. This electronic application incorporates the program and Graduate School application process.

Master of Science

The master's curriculum, in accordance with the guidelines of accreditation and certification organizations in Rehabilitation Counseling, provides for flexible programming in response to individual student needs and interests. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and fulfills national certification requirements in Rehabilitation Counseling. Program graduates are eligible to sit for the Rehabilitation Counseling Certification (CRCC) Examination, state licensure as a Professional Counselor (LPC), and other national and state certifications.

The program trains students to understand the physical, psychological, social, cultural, global, and economic factors affecting persons with disabilities, and to provide counseling for people with disabilities in a wide variety of professional settings. Rehabilitation Counseling is among the fastest growing professions. Rehabilitation Counselors are professional counselors who provide and coordinate services to persons with emotional, physical, neurological, learning, and developmental disabilities that may interfere with productive functioning, quality of life, and independent living. The counselor must demonstrate competencies in ethics, in establishing and conducting counseling relationships, assessment procedures, vocational placement, program planning and coordination; have an awareness of professional and community resources that can be utilized in the rehabilitation process; have knowledge of persons from culturally diverse backgrounds, and understand how rehabilitation engineering and technology can be utilized to help clients achieve their goals.

The Master's program is offered on campus and via on line web based instruction for employed rehabilitation professionals. These two programs are equivalent with regard to content and student learning outcomes and can be completed in the same timeframe. Please contact the Program Coordinator regarding eligibility requirements for the on line program.

Emphasis is placed on social justice, severe disability and its consequences, independent living, job development and placement, human growth and development, the provision of services in rural communities, technology, business and industry, and consumer issues and rights. Graduates of the program are employed in a wide range of public and private Rehabilitation Counseling, health, educational, mental health, and human service settings. Students interested in obtaining a terminal degree in Rehabilitation Counseling following the completion of their master's degree are encouraged to apply to the doctoral program, described below.

Students who express an interest in employment in public rehabilitation are eligible for a federal personnel preparation scholarship, when available. This scholarship pays tuition and provides a monthly stipend. Scholarship recipients are required to become employed in a public rehabilitation agency or a program, which procures services from a public rehabilitation agency. The program also has a scholarship program to train students for practice in rural rehabilitation environments.

In addition, an Endorsement Curriculum and University Scholars Program in conjunction with Kentucky
State University facilitate the enrollment of persons from culturally diverse backgrounds. An 18-hour certificate program for employed rehabilitation professionals desiring the Certified Rehabilitation Counseling designation has recently been approved. Please contact the Program Coordinator for more information about this new certificate and eligibility requirement.

Admission Requirements
The Rehabilitation Counseling master's program has the following admission requirements. Students are required to have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75, submit three letters of reference, complete a statement of professional goals and objectives, complete a program application, and participate in an interview with faculty. Under certain circumstances, the program may petition the Graduate School to request a waiver of the undergraduate grade point average.

The program faculty considers all of this information in making admissions decisions. Students are admitted from a wide range of backgrounds and academic disciplines. Students are admitted for the fall, spring, or summer semesters. Admission requirements are the same for the campus and online programs except that we do not admit online distance learning students in the summer semester but do admit campus students in the summer.

Program Requirements
Course and fieldwork total a minimum of 48 credit hours if the student has a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling or related course work. The typical program for other students is 57 hours, up to a maximum of 60 hours. At least 75% of the credit hours must be taken at the University of Kentucky. Campus courses are offered in the late afternoon and early evening to accommodate full- and part-time students. Students who attend the program on a full-time basis can complete the program in 16 months. The program is also offered for practicing rehabilitation counselors on a web-based distance education basis.

Admission to Field Work
Admission to field work will be considered after the student has completed two semesters (full-time) of graduate study or when the student has completed 20 hours of graduate study. The decision to advance to fieldwork includes successful completion of the admission to fieldwork examination, demonstrated skills in academic areas, and a judgment by the faculty that the student possesses the professional, ethical, personal, and social characteristics necessary for providing professional Rehabilitation Counseling services. In addition, the student must have no "I" (incomplete) or S grades. Any E grades must also be cleared with a regular letter grade prior to beginning fieldwork. Students must also be in good academic standing in order to begin fieldwork.

Field Work
The first fieldwork component is a three-credit practicum, which consists of 200 clock hours of supervised experience in Rehabilitation Counseling or rehabilitation-related setting, a weekly seminar, and individual supervision. The practicum is generally taken during the eight-week summer session. However, this course is offered every semester to accommodate part-time students. A student must successfully pass the fieldwork examination prior to enrolling in the practicum.

In accordance with national accreditation and certification requirements, students then complete 600 clock hours of supervised internship in a rehabilitation or rehabilitation-related setting. Every intern student also participates in a weekly seminar and individual supervision. Internship is three credits per 200 clock hours, and may be taken in the summer, fall, or spring semesters following practicum. The internship is taken in one semester; or, due to extenuating circumstances, it may be divided into two semesters. It is recommended, however, that the internship be completed in one semester.

Other Rehabilitation Counseling Courses
RC 517: Assistive Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 588: Mental Health Diagnosis (3)
RC 782: Directed Independent Study (1-3)
RC 711: Doctoral Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 740: Doctoral Seminar: Administration, Supervision & Program Evaluation in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 760: Contemporary Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 735: Methods for Teaching and Conducting Research in Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
**Doctoral Rehabilitation Counseling Education, Research, and Policy Program**

The Rehabilitation Counseling Doctoral Program offers a Departmental Ph.D. degree with a formal option in Rehabilitation Counseling Education, Research, and Policy. The doctoral program is campus-based (not offered on-line). We have carefully designed our doctoral curriculum to meet the needs of students who are preparing for careers in rehabilitation counselor education, research, and administration. Our students complete advanced doctoral seminars in rehabilitation counseling research, psychosocial aspects of chronic illnesses and disability; rehabilitation counseling theory; professional rehabilitation counseling issues, and rehabilitation administration and policy. In these courses, students explore a wide range of psychosocial, societal, and international perspectives on disability and rehabilitation counseling. In addition to the rehabilitation counseling professional seminars, doctoral students complete coursework in the following areas:

1. A Graduate Core (23 hours), including coursework in college and university teaching, grant writing, clinical practicum experiences and practicum experiences in university teaching, and dissertation residency;
2. A Rehabilitation Counseling area of emphasis core (15 hours) (rehabilitation counseling professional seminars, described above);
3. A thematic support area from outside the area of emphasis (15 hours), including interdisciplinary coursework consisting of courses from outside the Department, such as: Psychology, Rehabilitation Sciences, Educational and Counseling Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Communication Disorders, or other areas, designed to develop the student's expertise in a focused area of rehabilitation counseling research, and typically this core directly relates to the student's dissertation topic;
4. A research block (21 hours), including course work in statistical methods, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods, and mixed method approaches, and research internships.

Each student's program of studies is planned and supervised by an Advisory Committee consisting of 4 individuals, including the student's major professor and two other members from the Department. The remaining member represents the student's outside support area. Upon completion of the prescribed coursework, students are examined to evaluate their preparedness to be advanced to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The basis of this evaluation is completion of a qualifying examination administered by the student's Advisory Committee.

**Admissions Requirements**

a) Applicants are required to have an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75; (b) a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling or a closely-related field with a GPA of at least 3.5. (Note: Students who are entering with a non-Rehabilitation Counseling Master's degree program may be required to take leveling, or foundational courses as described below); (c) submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (mandatory for all doctoral applicants); (d) minimum of one year (at least two preferred) of post-Master's experience in rehabilitation counseling or a related field (program will alternatively consider extensive prior related experience and exceptional academic performance on an individual basis); (e) at least three (3) positive recommendations testifying to the candidate's professional disposition and fitness for the profession, self-awareness and emotional stability, oral and written communication skills, cultural sensitivity and awareness, and potential for scholarship, professional leadership, and advocacy; (f) written statement of the applicant's objectives for completing a doctoral program; and (g) a sample of the applicant's academic and/or professional writing. Final admissions decisions are the purview of the Department's faculty.

Note: For students applying to the Ph.D. Formal Option with a Master's or graduate degree that is not from a CORE- or CACREP-accredited rehabilitation counseling program, foundational rehabilitation counseling content and core counseling content courses may be required prior to, or concurrent with enrollment. Decisions about the need for foundational coursework are the purview of the Program faculty and will be made on an individual basis, based on review of the applicant's previous graduate coursework, review of applicant's transcripts and course descriptions; previous graduate coursework may in some cases be substituted.

**Foundational Coursework** includes the following: (a) Foundations or Principles of Rehabilitation Counseling or Counseling, (b) Social and Cultural Diversity, (c) Human Growth and Development, (d) Career Theory and Development, (e) Individual and Group Counseling Theories and Models, (f) Assessment and Testing, (g) Research and Program Evaluation, (h) Psychosocial and Medical Aspects of Disability.

A typical course sequence is as follows:

**Graduate Core (minimum 23 credits)**

1. Coursework from Professional Seminars in Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling may include: RC 740 Administration, Supervision, & Program Evaluation in Rehabilitation Counseling
2. RC 735 Advanced Methods for Teaching and Conducting Research in Rehabilitation Counseling
3. RC 711: Advanced Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling
4. RC 760: Contemporary Practices in Rehabilitation Counseling
5. RC 715: Advanced Seminar in Psychosocial Aspects of Chronic Illness and Disability
6. RC 770: Advanced Seminar in Rehabilitation Counseling Theory, Practice, and Education
7. EDS 701 / RC 701 / IEC 701: Seminar for EDSRC Leadership Personnel (1 credit each, 4 semesters)
8. EDS 712 / RC 712 / IEC 712: Seminar in EDSRC Professional Services (3)
9. EDS 720 / RC 720 / IEC 720: Seminar in EDSRC Personnel Preparation (3)
10. EDS 721 / RC 721 / IEC 721: Practicum in Personnel Preparation (3-9)
11. EDS 767 / RC 767 / IEC 767: Dissertation Residency Credit (≥4). EDS 767 is taken for a minimum of two credits per semester for two semesters (excluding summer terms) after successful completion of the qualifying examination.

**Rehabilitation Counseling Area of Emphasis (15 credits)**

**Thematic Support Area (15 credits)**

**Research Tools (21 credits)**

**Required Practicum Experiences**

Clinical practicum experiences are required of all doctoral students. As with the didactic portion of the curriculum, practica experiences are planned according to the individual backgrounds and needs of each student. Students are required to complete a 200-hour clinical practicum (40% of which must be direct client contact hours).

**Required Internship Experience**

In the course of their program plan, students will complete 600-clock hours of supervised internship, addressing three of the five following areas: Counseling, Supervision, Teaching, Research and Scholarship, Leadership and Advocacy. The internships are designed to ensure doctoral-level experience in counselor education areas including: campus and distance-based teaching, supervision, and clinical counseling. The nature and focus of the internship will be determined in consultation with each student individually.

*A separate rotating sequence of courses is offered for students enrolled in the program through Distance Learning.*
Professional Involvement
We encourage and support student's professional development, with an emphasis on participation in the rehabilitation counseling profession at the national level through research, publication, and participation in national conferences and leadership opportunities in our national and regional rehabilitation counseling professional associations. We provide support to our students through research grants and teaching assistantships, and a number of funding opportunities that are available to our doctoral students through our graduate school.

Graduate Courses
RC 515  Medical And Psychosocial Aspects Of Disabilities I (Same As SW 515)         (3)
RC 516  Medical And Psychosocial Aspects Of Disabilities II (Same As SW 516)         (3)
RC 520  Principles Of Rehabilitation Counseling                                      (3)
RC 530  Cultural Diversity In Rehabilitation Counseling                             (2)
RC 540  Chemical Dependency In Rehabilitation Counseling                             (3)
RC 546  Transdisciplinary Services For Students With Multiple Disabilities           (Same As EDS 546)         (3)
RC 547  Collaboration And Inclusion In School And Community Settings                (Same As EDS 547)         (3)
RC 558  Special Topics In Rehabilitation (Same As EDS 558)                          (1-3)
RC 570  Crisis, Disaster & Trauma Response For Persons With Disability              (3)
RC 610  Case Management In Rehabilitation Counseling                                (3)
RC 613  Legal And Parental Issues In School Administration                          (3)
RC 620  Vocational Evaluation And Work Adjustment For The Severely Disabled           (3)
RC 630  Placement Services And Techniques In Rehabilitation Counseling              (3)
RC 640  Rehabilitation In Business And Industry                                   (3)
RC 650  Rehabilitation Counseling Theory And Practice I                            (3)
RC 660  Rehabilitation Counseling Theory And Practice II                           (3)
RC 670  Group And Family Rehabilitation Counseling                                   (3)
RC 680  Mental Health Diagnosis And Treatment Planning                              (3)
RC 701  Seminar For Edsrc Leadership Personnel                                      (1)
RC 710  Clinical Practicum In Rehabilitation Mental Health Counseling               (3)
RC 711  Seminar In Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling                                (3)
RC 712  Seminar In Edsrc Professional Services                                      (3)
RC 715  Advanced Seminar In Psychosocial Aspects Of Chronic Illness And Disability (1-3)
RC 720  Seminar In Edsrc Personnel Preparation                                      (3)
RC 721  Practicum In Edsrc Personnel Preparation                                     (3)
RC 730  Internship In Rehabilitation Counseling                                      (3-9)
RC 735  Advanced Methods For Teaching And Conducting Research In Rehabilitation Counseling: From Theory To Practice (3)
RC 740  Administration, Supervision And Program Evaluation In Rehabilitation Counseling (3)
RC 750  Rehabilitation Research                                                     (3)
RC 760  Contemporary Issues In Rehabilitation                                       (3)
RC 770  Advanced Seminar In Rehabilitation Theory, Practice And Education           (3)
RC 782  Directed Independent Study                                                  (3)
RC 789  Independent Study In Early Childhood/Special Education/Rehabilitation Counseling Research (3-6)